



2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Photo on reverse: Año Nuevo Island from the mainland

CHAPTER 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.1 REGIONAL LAND USE

Land use patterns in the Santa Cruz Mountains and along the San Mateo and Santa Cruz county coasts have not changed dramatically in the recent past. Agriculture, parks and natural lands, public and private campgrounds and resorts, and private homes are the major land uses in the region. The general character of land use surrounding Año Nuevo SP is a mixture of natural lands, state parks, coastal terrace agriculture, and scattered low density rural residential properties. This region is relatively unpopulated and undeveloped in contrast to the dense urban areas to the east and north of the parks.

Larger properties in the region are owned by corporations and religious institutions and are used as private retreats. There are private timber-producing properties on the north side of Butano SP and Big Basin Redwoods SP, north of Año Nuevo SP.

Año Nuevo SP shares borders with Big Basin Redwoods SP, Butano SP, and the Peninsula Open Space Trust's Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, undeveloped natural lands property to the west. To the north are Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park (SHP), Portola Redwoods SP and Pescadero Creek County Park along with several other recreational and natural areas. Between Año Nuevo SP and Big Basin Redwoods SP there are private rural residential properties and lands used for agriculture. On Año Nuevo SP's west side, the private Costanoa recreational resort development offers overnight lodging and trails that connect to parks and natural lands in the area.

The coastal area of Año Nuevo SP is located west of Highway 1. Between its northern and southern ends, as well as east of the highway, are several large properties in agricultural production. In 2004 Swanton Berry Farm signed a long-term lease with the owners of Coastways Ranch, a large agricultural property east of Highway 1, and has planted organic U-pick berries and kiwis along with other organic produce. The coastal agricultural property just north of the Visitor Center area produces flowers for commercial distribution. North of the coastal agricultural property is a



Cloverdale Coastal Ranches

parcel of land owned by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) intended as habitat mitigation land. North of the BART parcel is another parcel of agricultural land owned and actively farmed by Cascade Ranch Historic Farm. See **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** for the types of land use and land ownership in the region.

The park shares boundaries and has similar land uses in an area where many surrounding properties have natural land characteristics.

2.2 REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

A variety of recreational activities are available within a ten-mile radius of Año Nuevo SP from a diversity of providers, both public and private. See **Figures 1 and 2** for the location of regional recreation facilities. See **Appendix B, Publicly-Owned Recreational Facilities in the Vicinity of Año Nuevo State Park**, for a list of recreational facilities and activities offered by federal, state and local agencies, briefly summarized below.

PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES

Federal Parks

In late 2005, Congress voted to add over 4,000 acres to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in northern San Mateo County, 6 miles north of Half Moon Bay. This land rises from Highway 1 along the coast to the nearly 2,000-foot peak of Montara Mountain. The National Park Service plans to open the park to public access and is gathering public suggestions for the use of the land.

The largest concentration of federal natural areas in the region other than in the GGNRA is to the northeast along the southern shores of San Francisco Bay where there are several national wildlife refuges and the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM) along the coastline. The CCNM consists of all unappropriated or unreserved islands, rocks and outcroppings along the coast of California that are above the mean high tide line and not contiguous to the shore in a distance of 12 nautical miles offshore. See Section 2.6, Planning Influences—Regional Planning, Regional Plans and Programs—for a description of the California Coastal National Monument.

State Parks

Eight state parks are located relatively close to Año Nuevo SP. Big Basin Redwoods SP and Butano SP are well established and have camping and picnic facilities. North along the coast is Pigeon Point Light Station SHP, which has a hostel facility, and a series of state beach units that includes Bean Hollow SB, Pescadero SB, Pomponio SB, and San Gregorio SB. Castle Rock SP, on a ridge northeast of Big Basin Redwoods SP, is largely undeveloped except for primitive backpacking camps, unusual rock formations popular with rock climbers, and trails that are part of a more extensive trail system linking the Santa Clara and San Lorenzo valleys with Castle Rock SP, Big Basin Redwoods SP, and the coast. Trails link Año Nuevo SP with Big Basin Redwoods, Butano, Portolá Redwoods and Castle Rock SPs, as well as with other parks and preserves through those parks.

California State Parks has recently acquired two properties along the Santa Cruz County coast that are currently managed with Wilder Ranch SP. State Parks acquired approximately 407 acres from a total of some 6,831 acres of the Coast Dairies property, located between Waddell Beach and Wilder Ranch SP. This ranch property includes agricultural lands, redwood forest, beaches, and other natural and cultural resources. The entire Coast Dairies property was purchased from Coast Dairies and Land Company by The Trust for Public Land (TPL) using grants from the State Coastal Conservancy. In August 2006, TPL transferred over 400 acres of Coast Dairies property on the coastal side of Highway 1 near the town of Davenport (approximately five miles of coastal bluff property) and seven acres on the inland side of Highway 1 to California State Parks. The balance of the inland portion of the property is to be transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and a nonprofit group, Agri-Culture, in 2008.

Acquisition of this Coast Dairies property allows California State Parks to conserve and enhance the biological natural land values of the property, provides the Department with a substantial area of coastal frontage to use for public access, trails, and scenic observation, creates new and diverse recreational and educational opportunities by making available to the public an additional 4.2 miles of coastline property, and allows the state to maintain and enhance sustainable agriculture by the continuation of the row crop farming that has existed for decades.

In 2005 several local, state and federal agencies partnered with TPL to permanently protect a 154-acre coastal property



Pigeon Point Light Station



Sand Hill Bluff

called Sand Hill Bluff, between the Coast Dairies property and Wilder Ranch SP. This property is also managed out of Wilder Ranch SP. California State Parks has acquired over 70 acres closest to the shoreline to manage for public access and recreation, resource protection, and agricultural leasing.

County Parks

San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara counties all contain parks near Año Nuevo SP. Three large San Mateo County parks nearby are Pescadero Creek Park, Memorial Park, and Sam McDonald Park, which offer camping, interpretive, and trail opportunities on a scale similar to some of the nearby state parks.

Santa Cruz County's nearby parks are the smallest and most locally-oriented of the county parks, emphasizing formal recreational facilities such as playgrounds. The exception is Quail Hollow Ranch, which provides trails and interpretation.

The three Santa Clara County parks near Año Nuevo SP provide a variety of experiences. Sanborn Skyline Park offers camping, hiking and interpretive experiences similar to those in the San Mateo County parks. Upper Stevens Creek Park offers hiking and bicycling trails and wilderness experiences. Stevens Creek Park focuses on activities similar to an urban day use park, including picnicking, trails for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians, and boating, fishing, and archery.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) was first created in 1972 to preserve natural lands along the spine of the coastal range running the length of the San Francisco Peninsula and along the boundary line separating Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. The MROSD protects viewsheds, provides recreation opportunities in an ecologically-sensitive way, and educates the public about these lands. The MROSD has an active acquisition program to obtain natural land preserves.

The primary recreation facilities on MROSD preserves are hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. Some are loop trails, while others give access to destinations within the preserves. Others are parts of trail networks that connect to other preserves or nearby parks. Generally, trailheads and support facilities are located on land in other ownerships. However, several of the preserves provide a variety of public uses. Self-guided interpretive and docent-led tours are also priorities of the MROSD.

MROSD was expanded to include coastal San Mateo County in 2004. The MROSD Coastside Protection Program provides natural lands and agricultural preservation and management services on the coast. The new MROSD boundary extends from the southern border of Pacifica to the San Mateo/Santa Cruz County line. Any future projects, including purchase of easements or property from willing sellers, land management services, resource restoration, and community programs will be evaluated by the elected Board, with full public participation.

Please see **Appendix B** for more information on public recreation facilities in the region.

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

The west side of the Santa Cruz Mountains is primarily a natural setting just over a prominent ridge from a large metropolitan area. The urban population supports a number of retreats and conference centers in the region near Año Nuevo SP, mostly in the Boulder Creek-Felton area, about an hour's drive from Año Nuevo.

Privately-owned overnight facilities help supplement the camping provided by state and county parks in the area. The Costanoa recreation resort development on Highway 1 adjacent to Año Nuevo SP provides a variety of overnight accommodations ranging from indoor lodging to outdoor individual campsites including some sites with full RV hookups. Hostelling International maintains a hostel at Pigeon Point Lighthouse SHP, with both private and shared rooms. The Felton-Boulder Creek area has a number of campgrounds, two of which serve RVs. In addition, several motels, lodges, bed and breakfasts, and an outdoor environmental education facility for children are located in the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains region. The Peninsula Open Space Trust has been working with State Parks and other partners to develop trails and interpretation and education programs at its Cloverdale Ranches.

Año Nuevo SP is close to services in nearby communities, including restaurants and stores. Additionally, a variety of private recreational opportunities are available in the vicinity, including golf courses, horseback riding, fishing, vineyards, theaters, galleries, and museums.

Appendix C contains further information about private recreational facilities in the region.



Costanoa Resort offers a variety of lodging options, including tent cabins and RV hookups.

2.3 EXISTING PARK LAND USE AND FACILITIES

PARKWIDE LAND USE

Following the original acquisition of Año Nuevo SNR in 1958, facilities were developed to support day use activities and seal watching, including an entrance and day use picnic area, a Visitor Center in an historic building, several informal parking areas along Highway 1, and a system of trails over the marine terrace and dunes to the coastal cliffs and beaches (see **Figure 3**). These coastal facilities and programs continue to offer a variety of ways for visitors to enjoy and appreciate the natural and cultural resources of the park, including picnicking, hiking on a guided nature walk to see the elephant seals, and spending time in the Visitor Center.

Año Nuevo SP is used for education, day-use recreation, resource preservation and research, watershed conservation, and as a wildlife sanctuary.

In addition to educational and day use recreation activities, the land at Año Nuevo SP is used for resource preservation and research, watershed conservation, and as a wildlife sanctuary. Sensitive resources and government regulations have limited land developed for public use to a small percentage of the park's acreage. The locations of prime natural and cultural resources have contributed to the current land use patterns within the park.

Año Nuevo SP's main public entrance area contains the majority of the developed facilities in the park, including public contact, parking, picnicking, hiking, nature study, staff housing and administrative, interpretive and maintenance facilities.

A Wildlife Protection Area was designated at Año Nuevo Point to minimize disturbance to the animals in their natural habitat as well as provide public viewing opportunities. This was a specific park management designation for the former Año Nuevo SNR and not a park unit or subunit classification designation. Visitor access into the Wildlife Protection Area is controlled year-round. Docent-led tours are conducted during the winter elephant seal breeding season when visitors most want to see the seals, and when it's best to have a guide to ensure that visitors don't get too close to the seals. The public is allowed access with easily-obtained permits for most of the rest of the year. The dunes and beaches in the Wildlife Protection Area are minimally developed with trails leading out to the coast from the public entrance area. Existing land uses within the former Wildlife Protection Area include hiking, nature study, and interpretive programs,

primarily guided walking tours. Over 40,000 visitors participate in formal guided walks during a typical December through March seal breeding season.

To the north of the former Wildlife Protection Area, six more public parking areas along Highway 1 provide access to trails that extend across the park’s coastal terrace and dunes to the coast-side bluffs above rocky beaches. The northernmost parking area is owned by the California Department of Fish and Game and operated by State Parks.

Año Nuevo Island served as a shipping navigational aid station for decades. The lighthouse no longer exists but the lighthouse keepers’ house remains, in a deteriorated condition. There is no general public access to the island. Currently, researchers are studying the animals and plants on the island and are implementing projects to benefit habitat, promote biodiversity, and understand the ecology of recovering native ecosystems. Several species of seabirds that use the island are also being studied in relation to global climate change.

The inland portion of Año Nuevo SP currently receives some use by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians on existing regional access roads, trails, and former logging roads. The entrance to Año Nuevo SP’s upland area is east of Highway 1 on unpaved Whitehouse Road. There are no developed facilities in this area of the park. There is a small informal parking area that is used as a trailhead located on the east side of the park in the uplands along Whitehouse Road. The historic Cascade Ranch buildings at the south end of the park can be accessed from Highway 1, and are divided into two ownerships: State Parks and Cascade Ranch Historic Farm. The buildings in park ownership serve as staff residences and are not currently open to the public. Año Nuevo SP’s land is currently used for resource preservation, wildlife sanctuary, watershed conservation, and water collection (by an acquisition agreement) for private agricultural use.

PARK ATTENDANCE LEVELS

The peak period of visitor use in Año Nuevo SP is December 15 through March 31, the primary elephant seal viewing season. During the rest of the year, visitation is usually greatest on weekends.

Table 2-1 depicts visitor use levels at coastal Año Nuevo SP (formerly SNR) from 1997-2007.

Table 2-1 Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve	
Fiscal Year Attendance	
2006/2007	139,237
2005/2006	129,783
2004/2005	126,816
2003/2004	158,188
2002/2003	163,748
2001/2002	140,332
2000/2001	134,228
1999/2000	134,778
1998/1999	135,100
1997/1998	106,816

Source: California State Parks, 2007



Año Nuevo SP is not officially open to the public, so there are no existing visitor use statistics for this park.

DAY USE FACILITIES

After entering the coastal portion of Año Nuevo SP, visitors stop at the park entrance kiosk to obtain information, pay user fees, and park in an adjacent paved parking area. A day use picnic area and restroom building are located adjacent to the parking area. The park's Visitor Center in the historic Dickerman Barn, a short walk from the parking area, features natural history exhibits and a bookstore. Cultural history exhibits are located outside the Barn. Restrooms and drinking water are available near the Visitor Center.



The Dickerman Dairy Barn has been adapted for use as a visitor center. Two other nearby historic ranch buildings are being adapted to serve, with the Visitor Center, as an expanded interpretation and education space called the Marine Education Center.

California State Parks, the California State Parks Foundation, and the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association are partners in developing a new interpretive center to be known as the Marine Education Center in the current Visitor Center building and nearby historic structures. Scheduled for completion in 2007/08, it will provide space for interpretive exhibits and presentations, educational facilities for school programs, and administrative offices.

The coastal area contains a park maintenance/disabled-accessible road, a boardwalk for ADA access to seal observation areas, and interpretive signage. Small parking areas that provide trail access across the marine terrace to the bluffs and rocky beaches are adjacent to the highway.

There is a large parking facility, formerly used for fishing access, at the Gazos Beach Day Use Area. It is owned by the California Department of Fish and Game and managed through an operating agreement by State Parks. The facility consists of a large paved parking lot adjacent to Highway 1 with chemical toilets and a public access trail to the beach. As a part of implementation of the 2007 Marine Life Protection Act, offshore areas, including the Año Nuevo coast, were established as a part a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA). This designation significantly increases the protection of marine life within an MPA. As a result, surf fishing south of Gazos Creek is no longer permitted. The Gazos Beach parking area continues to serve as a day use coastal access facility.

The inland portion of the park does not have existing developed recreation facilities. There is a trailhead and an undeveloped parking area for the Whitehouse Ridge Trail on the east side of the park off Whitehouse Road. The historic Cascade Ranch area is currently not open to the public.

Table 2.2 provides a summary of existing day use facilities at coastal Año Nuevo SP:

Table 2-2 Año Nuevo Coastal Day Use Facilities				
Facility	Description	# Parking Spaces	# Restrooms	Comments
Entrance Kiosk	Visitor Services	6	0	
Main Visitor Parking Lot	Parking/trailhead	125	1	7 restroom stalls and 2 chemical toilets
Main visitor area	Picnic sites	0	0	8 individual sites
Visitor Center (Dickerman Barn)	Visitor Services, Interpretation	0	0	
Exhibit Building (Staging Area)	Visitor Services	0	2	
Latta Gate Trailhead	Parking/Trailhead	1	1	
Franklin Point Trailhead	Parking/Trailhead	8	0	
Whitehouse Creek Trailhead South	Parking/Trailhead	4	0	
Whitehouse Creek Trailhead North	Parking/Trailhead	5	0	
Cascade Creek Trailhead	Parking/Trailhead	5	0	
Gazos Fishing Access	Parking/Fishing Access/Beach	27	2	Chemical toilets

CIRCULATION

The park is located approximately 30 miles north of Santa Cruz and 25 miles south of Half Moon Bay on Highway 1. Visitors accessing Año Nuevo SP's main entrance and Visitor Center area turn onto an entrance road west of the highway and travel a short distance to a kiosk and parking area with an adjacent restroom and picnic facilities. The Visitor Center and trailheads for guided hikes are a short walk south from the parking area. North of Año Nuevo SP's main entrance are several parking areas west of the highway. These parking areas provide public access to trails that extend across the marine terrace to the steep cliffs and beaches along the coast (see **Figure 3**).

There is access to inland Año Nuevo SP in the historic Cascade Ranch area and another access at Whitehouse

Road. The park is bisected by two unpaved roads in addition to Chalk Mountain Road on the south end of the park. Old Womans Creek Road, which extends from Gazos Creek Road between Año Nuevo SP and Butano SP has an access easement for private properties located east of the park. The main access road into the park, Whitehouse Road, has a similar easement (see **Figure 3**). **Tables 2-3 and 2-4** show existing roads within the park.

According to the California Department of Transportation, over 5 million people in 2.2 million vehicles per year drive past the Santa Cruz/San Mateo County line on Highway 1, situated between Big Basin Redwoods SP's Waddell Beach and Año Nuevo SP. Tourists visiting the elephant seals at Año Nuevo SP and the beaches along the shore make up a large percentage of these travelers.

Table 2-3 Año Nuevo Coastal Roads	
Name	Miles
Park Entrance Road	0.4
Service Road to Beach	0.5

Table 2-4 Año Nuevo Inland Roads	
Name	Miles
Chalk Mountain Road	0.78
Whitehouse Road	1.4
Old Womans Creek Road	1.6

San Mateo County's SamTrans bus system serves the community of Pescadero north of the park with one round trip in the morning and one round trip in the afternoon from Half Moon Bay north on Highway 1. The SamTrans system connects with the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system on the west side of San Francisco Bay at Millbrae. At the Millbrae transit hub, the CalTrain commuter system runs from San Francisco south to Gilroy. Bicycles are allowed on all three public transportation systems.

The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD) provides bus service on Highway 1 at Waddell Creek, approximately 2.5 miles south of Año Nuevo SP's Cascade Ranch entrance, twice a day and on weekends, connecting to downtown Santa Cruz and to the Monterey Salinas Transit system south of Santa Cruz. Bicycle transport accommodations are currently available on SCMTD buses.

Trails

The coastal trail system in Año Nuevo SP is limited to trails along the park's southern boundary and the trail spurs to the coastal bluffs on the north side of the Wildlife Protection Area. The 1.3-mile Año Nuevo Point Trail extends from the Visitor Center area to Año Nuevo Point. Disabled visitors have access by park vehicle to a boardwalk on Año Nuevo Point that extends to the elephant seal breeding area. A short loop trail extends around a small pond near the Visitor Center, and there is also a trail to the beach along Año Nuevo Bay, just south of the Visitor Center area.

An opportunity to access nearby state parks on the inland side of Highway 1 is available at the Whitehouse Trail parking



area at Whitehouse Road and Highway 1. This allows access into Año Nuevo SP, Butano SP, Big Basin Redwoods SP, and other natural areas and parks, and to the privately-owned Costanoa recreation development.

Inland Año Nuevo SP does not have formally designated system trails, but there is some public use of the park's existing roads and backcountry trails (such as the Whitehouse Ridge Trail) by hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians (see **Figure 4**). Trail use to the north and east boundaries of the park takes visitors beyond the park into Butano SP, Big Basin Redwoods SP, and beyond. There currently is no direct public trail or road access into Año Nuevo SP's Lake Elizabeth area from Highway 1, but the Cascade Creek Trail parking lot is located on the coastal side of the highway across from the Lake Elizabeth area.

Tables 2-5 and 2-6 provide a summary of existing trails within the park. (Trail numbers refer to the trail listing on **Appendix D: Existing Trails**.)

Table 2-5 Año Nuevo Coastal Trails	
Name	Miles
New Years Creek Trail	0.25
Cove Beach Trail	0.04
Pond Loop Trail	0.4
Año Nuevo Point Trail	1.3
Cascade Creek Trail	0.5
Whitehouse Creek Trail	0.19
Atkinson Bluff Trail	1.8
Franklin Point Trail	0.6
Unmaintained trails	1.8

Table 2-6 Año Nuevo Inland Trail	
Name	Miles
Whitehouse Ridge Trail	1.5

ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

Administrative facilities for Año Nuevo SP are currently located in a small modular building near the Visitor Center. Maintenance facilities for Año Nuevo SP are located in Butano SP and at the Rancho del Oso area of Big Basin Redwoods SP.

There are staff housing facilities but no park administration or maintenance facilities currently in Año Nuevo SP. Park staff use maintenance facilities located in Butano SP and at the Rancho del Oso area of Big Basin Redwoods SP, if necessary.

UTILITIES

Park utilities along the coast are primarily in the main entrance area. Propane tanks provide gas for heat and heated water at the Visitor Center, the Docent Roost (a small interpretive program building along the Año Nuevo Point Trail), and two staff residences. AT&T provides telephone service through overhead lines. There are septic systems serving the main visitor parking lot restroom, the temporary staff office, and the two staff residence buildings. Septic systems are often used where a municipal sewer system is not available. In 2004 the sewer system's leach field (effluent is distributed through a series of shallow rock-filled trenches and "purified" by percolation through the soil) was converted to a sewer pit system (effluent is directed into a larger and deeper rock-filled hole and is "purified" by percolation through the soil). The



exhibit building has two chemical toilets, and the Staging Area and Gazos Creek Fishing Access are served by two chemical toilets each. The Equal Access Trailhead has one chemical toilet. Water is provided from on-site wells. The Pacific Gas and Electric Company provides electric service to park facilities through overhead and buried lines. Any additional development of Año Nuevo SP would be significantly limited by the lack of adequate supplies of potable water.

Utilities in inland Año Nuevo SP are located in the Cascade Ranch area, which has two septic systems supporting the Main and Cook Houses, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company provides overhead electric service to these structures and the historic barn. Water is supplied by Cascade Creek and passed through a water treatment facility. Propane tanks provide gas to all facilities requiring heat or heated water. Pacific Bell provides telephone service through overhead lines. The private Costanoa recreation development uses water from wells located on Año Nuevo SP property in the Quiroste Valley, where piping and other well infrastructure facilities are located.

EMPLOYEE HOUSING



The Dickerman-Steele home is used as an employee residence

Año Nuevo SP is located within and managed by the Santa Cruz District of California State Parks. The high cost of living in the area necessitates the provision of park housing opportunities for employees. Park staff housing also serves park management by providing security and surveillance for certain areas of a park unit. Employee housing is allocated at the district level.

There are two employee residences in the coastal portion of Año Nuevo SP: the Dickerman-Steele House adjacent to the Visitor Center area, and the Steele beach residence north of Año Nuevo Point. There are two park employee residences in the inland area of Año Nuevo SP, both located in the Cascade Ranch area: the Steele House and the Rensselaer Steele/Humphrey House.

CONCESSIONS

Currently there are no concession operations in Año Nuevo SP.

ACCESSIBILITY OF PARK FACILITIES

ADA-compliant facilities within Año Nuevo SP include restrooms at the day use picnic area, the temporary staff office, and the Dickerman-Steele House employee residence. Designated accessible parking is available in the main parking lot. The Visitor Center is generally accessible with occasional short sloped areas of historic flooring. Assistance may be needed with the side ramp or entry. Exhibits are mostly accessibly designed. The introductory video has been open captioned, and a transcript is available. The updated Marine Education Center displays have been designed with accessibility in mind. Nearby restrooms are generally accessible.

Persons with a mobility disability may reserve a tour of the seal breeding area on weekends during the breeding season by arranging with park staff for transportation to the beach. A wheelchair accessible van transports visitors to the staging area to an accessible trail. The Boardwalk Trail/Equal Access Trail is a 0.27-mile boardwalk over dunes and coastal scrub along the beach that allows users to observe the northern elephant seals. Beach wheelchairs are available for access to the beach. Additional information on the accessibility of the former Año Nuevo SNR can be found in the June 2000 Santa Cruz District, Mountain Sector, *Año Nuevo State Park Accessibility Survey* and the California State Parks Accessibility website.

As Año Nuevo SP is developed, universal access for park visitors will be integrated into all program areas. This will include facilities and accessible routes to facilities areas. Accessible interpretive techniques will be used in the development of interpretive displays and interpretive programs, both guided and self-guided. Accessibility will not be limited to public use areas, but also employee areas and park housing areas as they are developed. The Department is continually improving existing facilities throughout the state park system to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. As of July 2007, the Department's ADA improvement project priority schedule has identified an Año Nuevo SP project for the year 2009 to improve accessibility to existing exhibits, picnic sites, and restrooms.

2.4 SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE VALUES

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

The information in this section was compiled from existing documents and field research. For more detailed information on the park's physical resources, please refer to the Reference section of this document and the Department's unit data files.

Topography

The topography along the coast is dominated by a gently sloping marine terrace bordered by a rocky shoreline. The westerly portion of the marine terrace is covered by sand dunes that migrate from north to south, driven by the prevailing northwesterly winds. About a half mile offshore is rocky Año Nuevo Island, which was part of the mainland as recently as 400 years ago.

Elevations range from sea level to a 145-foot benchmark at a location adjacent to Highway 1. Five permanent creeks flow into the ocean within the boundaries of the Reserve. From north to south they are: Gazos, Whitehouse, Cascade, Green Oaks, and Año Nuevo creeks.

The dominant landforms are marine terraces with level to gently sloping tops and gently to moderately sloping sides. These terraces are dissected by several permanent and intermittent streams, including Old Womans, Whitehouse, and Cascade creeks. Gazos Creek forms the northern boundary of the park. Marine terraces are older, higher, steeper, and more dissected in the central portion of the park.

The northeastern inland portion consists of moderate to steeply sloped uplands that rise to more gently sloped and rounded ridgetops. These ridgetops extend eastward beyond park boundaries into adjacent public and private lands. Steep-sided canyons separate the ridges of this portion of the park.

Elevations range from approximately 60 feet to 1280 feet above sea level. The lowest elevation in the unit occurs along Highway 1 near the highway bridge over Whitehouse Creek. The highest elevation is reached along the eastern boundary of the park on a ridgetop south of Whitehouse Creek.

Climate

Año Nuevo SP is located within the Mediterranean Climate Zone, moderated by marine influence. The year round climate along the California coast is mild and not subject to severe seasonal change. This is due primarily to the moderating influence of the Pacific Ocean. Cool temperatures and moderate to strong west and northwest winds dominate offshore waters and lower inland elevations during the summer. Occasionally, offshore circulation patterns permit hotter, continental temperature regimes to become established in the park, usually lasting only one to two days. Temperatures ranges can be greater in the upper elevations of the park and farther away from the moderating marine influence.

A primary influence on the climate is the eastern North Pacific High, a semi-permanent high pressure area that intensifies and migrates northward during the summer months, keeping storm tracks well to the north. During this time of the year California receives little or no precipitation from Pacific storms. In winter, the North Pacific High decreases in intensity and retreats southward, allowing north Pacific storms (i.e. low pressure centers) to move into and across the state. The El Niño phenomenon of cyclical ocean warming increases the severity and frequency of winter storms and increases the amount of precipitation. During El Niño events, coastal erosion accelerates, with loss of beach sand and coastal bluff failures.

Storms originating in the Gulf of Alaska are the major precipitation sources for the state. However, in winter, some precipitation arrives from the subtropics. Infrequent tropical storms (monsoonal moisture) may reach central California from northern Mexico during the summer and early fall.

Temperature

The average annual temperature for the Santa Cruz Mountains area ranges from 55° to 59° Fahrenheit (F). The overall range of temperature is about 25° F to 102° F, with extremes occurring rarely. The warmest months are July, August, and September, with the coldest months in December, January, and February.

No park-specific data exists for Año Nuevo SP. The closest monitoring station is at San Gregorio, located approximately 15 miles to the north. The annual mean average temperature is 55.1° F, based on data from 1971 to 2000. The mean average daily maximum and minimum temperatures are



65.2° and 44.8° F, respectively. Daily extremes on record are 99° F in October 1987 and 20° F in December 1998. The average temperatures for adjacent Big Basin Redwoods SP may be more indicative of temperatures in Año Nuevo SP. At Big Basin Redwoods SP, temperatures range from 30° to 40° F in the winter and 80° to 90° F in the summer.

Precipitation

Site specific precipitation data is not available for Año Nuevo SP. The closest monitoring station is at San Gregorio. The mean average annual rainfall, based on data from 1971-2000, is 29.52 inches. Rain was recorded in all months of the year, but the wet season is primarily from October through April. The highest recorded monthly rainfall was 17.15 inches in February 1998 (El Niño year). The highest recorded daily rainfall, based on records from 1954-2001, was 6.37 inches on October 13, 1962. Snow is a rare occurrence on the California coast, but trace amounts have been recorded in 1972, 1974, and 1976, and 4 inches was recorded in January 1962.

Precipitation at Año Nuevo SP is more variable than on the coast, due to the orographic effects of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Inland, higher elevations will have higher rainfall amounts (orographic precipitation) as the warm, moist air rises up over the mountains. Four miles farther inland, the average annual precipitation at the Big Basin Redwoods SP headquarters is 47.99 inches. The average annual precipitation in Año Nuevo SP probably falls somewhere between the values for San Gregorio (29.52 inches) and Big Basin Redwoods SP.

Wind

During the summer and fall in the Año Nuevo SP area, the dominant air movements are those associated with differential heating and cooling of the ocean and adjacent land. The sea breeze generally begins in the morning and blows strongly during daylight hours as cooler and denser sea air moves inland to displace heated, less dense air over the interior. At night, greater radiational cooling over the land causes the air over the interior to become cooler and denser than the air over the ocean. Winter winds are predominantly from a southwesterly direction during storms, but typically shift to a northwesterly direction after passage of the cold front. In the spring winds usually blow from the northwest.

Potential Effects of Global Climate Change on the Park

Climate change refers to change in the Earth's weather patterns including the rise in the Earth's temperature due to an increase in heat-trapping or greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and sulfur hexafluoride, among others. Human activities are adding large amounts of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Combustion of fossil fuels for heat, electricity, and transportation is the main source of these gases.

Heat-trapping emissions in the world's atmosphere have greatly increased since industrialization, causing a rise in average temperatures world-wide and other climate changes. How great this climate change is in the future will depend on the actions taken to limit future releases of heat-trapping emissions, and new technologies developed to address the problem. At least some additional warming is inevitable in the next decade, even in the unlikely scenario that the most stringent measures to reduce heat-trapping gases are immediately put in place.

Some potential effects of climate change on Año Nuevo SP may include:

- Sea level rise: Based on current climate and greenhouse gas emission projections, it is expected that sea level will rise at a greater rate than it has over the past 100 years. Major consequences of sea level rise include:
 - Increased salt water intrusion into coastal aquifers.
 - More beach areas and coastal wetlands areas will be inundated. Saltwater/freshwater interface and zone of brackish water will migrate inland.
 - Tidal prism will increase - potentially greater coastline scour and removal of sediment. A tidal prism is the change in the volume of water covering an area, such as a wetland, between a low tide and the subsequent high tide.
 - Coastal bluffs will be more exposed to wave energy and increased bluff erosion including scour and undercutting.
- Habitat loss and shifts: Some climate change computer models predict decreased rainfall on the California coast, while others predict no change or greater rainfall. If coastal rainfall increases, most of the

increase will be lost as runoff, and the dry summer/wet winter current climate pattern will persist. Warmer temperatures in summer will cause increased drying from evaporation. The combination of warmer temperatures and drier summer conditions may eliminate some plant communities and animal habitat, greatly fragment other habitat, and cause some habitats to shift. The moisture-dependent wetland, riparian, and redwood forest plant communities could be especially affected at Año Nuevo SP. Gains or losses in wetland areas will depend on the ability of a wetland to migrate inland, the ability of a wetland to migrate to higher elevation inland areas with greater trappings of sediment and overall change in tidal range. Since the parks are in the southern end of the coast redwood's range, these trees are especially vulnerable to the effects of warming.

- Fire danger: As the climate warms and possibly dries, wildfires may become more frequent in some areas of California. The San Mateo coast may see a small increase in fires. Both knobcone pine forest and chaparral plant communities located on the higher park ridges are very prone to fire. The plant species in these communities are adapted to fire and can usually regenerate, but increased fires could cause wildlife losses, threaten public safety and structures, and contribute to poor air quality in the park.
- Severe storms and flooding: Climate change may alter the frequency and intensity of winter storms. While this would not directly affect visitors during the usual winter season visitor use at the coastal part of the park and probable summer season of visitor use in the inland park areas, storms and resultant flooding and mudslides could damage park infrastructure and access roads.
- Fishery habitat change: Over the next century, spawning streams may warm above temperatures suitable for cold water fish such as salmon and steelhead. Reduced summer stream flow due to evaporation will also cause a loss of fish habitat.
- Possible visitor use increase and changes in recreation use patterns and access: California central coast parks have historically been used in the summer by many Central Valley residents escaping the heat. As the Central Valley summer temperatures climb even higher, the number of visitors from these hotter areas could also climb. Potential changes in recreation use patterns and access resulting from a rise in sea level

elevation may involve loss of existing broad sandy beach areas and safe coastal access locations. Depending on the magnitude of sea level rise, Año Nuevo Island might become smaller in size.

Air Quality

Año Nuevo SP is located within the San Francisco Bay Air Basin (SFBAB). The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the local agency that regulates air quality in the SFBAB. In addition to regulating air quality standards, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has established a climate protection program to reduce pollutants that contribute to global climate change and affect air quality (see also Regulatory Influences). The California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulates emission sources and oversees the activities of the local Air Pollution Control Districts and Air Quality Management Districts. CARB regulates local air quality by establishing state ambient air quality standards and vehicle emission standards.

Existing Air Quality

The main factors that determine air quality are the locations of pollutant sources (such as urban or industrial areas) and the influence of topographic and climatic/meteorological conditions. Wind direction, wind speed, and air temperature gradients interact with the physical features of the landscape to determine the movement and dispersal of air pollutants.

Año Nuevo SP is located within the southwestern portion of the SFBAB which includes Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin, Napa, southern Sonoma, and western Solano counties. Emission sources in the SFBAB are industrial facilities, several airports, and a dense freeway and surface street network. Though separated by the Coast Range (Santa Cruz Mountains) to the northeast, wind can move air pollution from the metropolitan San Francisco Bay area south through small gaps in the mountains; however, most pollutants from the urbanized Bay Area are transported inland to the Central Valley. The SFBAB is a non-attainment zone for ozone and PM₁₀.

Ozone

Ozone, a colorless gas that is odorless at ambient levels, is the chief component of urban smog. Ozone is a secondary air pollutant that is produced in the atmosphere when hydrocarbons (Reactive Organic Gas) and nitrous oxide (NO_x) precursors react in the presence of sunlight. Motor vehicle emissions are generally the primary source of ozone

precursors. Low wind speeds or stagnant air coupled with warm temperatures and clear skies provide the optimum meteorological conditions for ozone formation; therefore, summer is generally the peak ozone season. Wind then disperses the ozone, creating a regional problem.

The SFBAB continues to violate the State ozone air quality standards, posing a challenge to State and local air pollution control agencies. However, the emission levels for ozone precursors NO_x (Nitrous Oxides) and ROG (Reactive Organic Gas, or non-methane hydrocarbons such as aldehydes, ketones and ethers), have been trending downward since 1975 due to stricter motor vehicle controls and oil refinery and other industrial emission standards. Ozone concentrations have declined 21% during the last 20 years.

Particulate Matter (PM)

PM_{10} consists of a mixture of particles and droplets 10 microns or less in diameter ("coarse" particles) that have varied chemical composition. PM contains a subgroup of smaller particles ("fine" particles) less than 2.5 microns designated as $\text{PM}_{2.5}$. These particles pose a greater health risk because their small size allows them to deposit deep in the lung and they contain substances that are particularly harmful to human health.

Sources of ambient PM include: combustion sources such as trucks and passenger vehicles, off-road equipment, industrial processes, residential wood burning, and forest/agricultural burning; fugitive dust from paved and unpaved roads, construction, mining, and agricultural activities; and ammonia sources such as livestock operations, fertilizer application, and motor vehicles. In general, combustion processes emit and form fine particles ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) whereas particles from dust sources tend to fall into the coarse (PM_{10}) range.

Most of the State, including the SFBAB, is designated as non-attainment for PM_{10} standards. Due to the variety of sources and the size and chemical composition of the particles, the PM_{10} concentration can vary widely from one area to another. PM_{10} concentration also varies with the seasons. Wildfires, agricultural practices, and dust storms are potential spring and summer season sources, while wood burning is a fall and winter season source. Dry weather and windy conditions cause higher coarse PM emissions, resulting in elevated PM_{10} concentrations.

Direct emissions of PM_{10} increased in the SFBAB between 1975 and 2000 and are projected to continue increasing due to

the growth in emissions from area-wide sources, primarily fugitive dust.

Table 2-7 Air Pollution Summary ^a						
Pollutant	Standard ^b	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003
Ozone						
Highest 1 hour average, ppm ^c	0.09	0.16	0.13	0.16	0.15	0.13
Number of standard violations ^d		45	14	28	12	19
Particulate Matter PM₁₀						
Highest 24-hour average, µg/m ^{3c}	50	ND ^e	165	74	80	60
Number of standard violations ^d		ND	93	42	42	30

- a. Data from the California Air Resources Board, (California Air Resources Board 2005b)
- b. State standard, not to be exceeded. Exceedances shown in **bold** type.
- c. ppm – parts per million; µg/m³ – micrograms per cubic meter
- d. Number of days in a given year that violations of the applicable standard were measured.
- e. ND – No Data

Geology

Año Nuevo SP is located in the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province, a northwest-trending chain of hills and mountains that formed primarily due to movement along the San Andreas Fault and associated faults. The Jurassic to Cretaceous aged igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary basement rocks are part of the Salinian Block, a tectonic block bounded to the east by the San Andreas Fault. These rocks originated some 350 miles to the south and began moving north during the Miocene (26 to 7 million years ago) as the San Andreas Fault was activated. The Salinian Block continues to move in a relative northwesterly direction “riding” along the northwest-trending San Andreas Fault Zone.



Coastal bluffs, Año Nuevo SP

Coastal Año Nuevo SP is located on uplifted marine sand dune and terrace deposits which are underlain by the Miocene aged (13-20 million year old) Monterey Formation (Brabb, et al. 1998). Rocks of the Monterey Formation consist of siliceous sandstones and shales, mudstone, shale, and diatomite. These rocks can be seen along the coastal bluffs and beaches. The Monterey Formation contains few large fossils, but foraminifera, fish scales, and diatoms (diatomite rocks) are common (Department of Parks and Recreation 1979). In the northern portion of the coast near Whitehouse Creek are outcrops of the Upper Cretaceous (66-98 million years old) Pigeon Point Formation, consisting of gray to greenish gray sandstone, and conglomerate with interbedded gray to black to buff siltstone and mudstone, locally containing mollusk and foraminifera fossils (Brabb, et al. 1998). Pigeon Point Formation rocks are exposed at Franklin Point and vicinity.

Younger alluvial deposits are found along Año Nuevo, Green Oaks, Cascade, Whitehouse, and Gazos creeks. The lithologic log for the active well at the park Visitor Center shows alternating sand and clay to a depth of 42 feet below ground surface (bgs), followed by interbedded shale and sandstone bedrock to the total depth of the well (105 feet bgs).

Along Highway 1, inland Año Nuevo SP contains uplifted Quaternary-age marine sand dune and terrace deposits (Brabb, et al. 1998). In the northern portion of Año Nuevo SP near Whitehouse Creek are outcrops of the Upper Cretaceous (66-98 million years old) Pigeon Point Formation described above. This formation is not susceptible to slope instabilities (ESA/Madrone 1982).

Moving inland into steeper terrain, the predominant rock formation is the Pliocene-upper Miocene aged Purisima Formation. The Purisima Formation consists of gray to greenish-gray to buff fine-grained sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone, with some porcelaneous shale and mudstone, chert and volcanic ash (Brabb, et al. 1998). The Purisima Formation is easily eroded and susceptible to slope failures.

The northeast section of Año Nuevo SP is underlain by the lower Pliocene Santa Cruz Mudstone, separated from the Purisima Formation to the west by a trace of the San Gregorio Fault. The Santa Cruz Mudstone is a brown and gray to light gray, buff, and light yellow siliceous mudstone with non-siliceous mudstone and siltstone and minor amounts of sandstone (Brabb, et al. 1998). Weathering reduces the strength of the Santa Cruz Mudstone and makes it very susceptible to slope instabilities (ESA/Madrone 1982). Younger

Holocene-age stream channel deposits (alluvium) consisting of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and larger materials are found along Cascade, Whitehouse, Gazos creeks, and their tributaries.

Soils

Information on soils at Año Nuevo SP are taken from three U.S. Department of Agriculture publications (USDA 1961, 1973, and 2002). Soils present along the coast include the Lockwood, Lobitos, Watsonville, and Dublin series, as well as active dune sand, stabilized dune land, coastal beaches, and terrace escarpments. Soils present within inland areas of the park include: Botella, Butano, Colma, Corralitos, Dublin, Gazos, Lobitos, Lockwood, Pomponio, Santa Lucia, Tierra, Tunitas, and Watsonville series, as well as Mixed Alluvial Land and Rough Broken Land classifications.

Park soils have variable erosion hazard, with the erosion hazard increasing with increasing slope. The Butano, Colma, Dublin, Lobitos, Pomponio, Santa Lucia, and Tierra soils are all rated severe for septic systems (leach fields) and therefore are not suitable. Additional information on soil types and soil properties are provided in **Appendix F**.

Geologic Hazards

The following potential geologic hazards must be considered when planning new buildings, campsites, roads, or trails within the parks.

Seismic Hazards

Año Nuevo SP is located in the seismically active central California coast region. The closest major active (Holocene to Recent) fault, which trends through the park, is the San Gregorio, considered a segment of the San Andreas Fault. The San Gregorio Fault, a right lateral strike slip fault, is broken into numerous splays (branches) along the coast of Año Nuevo SP: the Año Nuevo Creek Fault along the Año Nuevo Creek drainage and the Frijoles Fault just west of the large pond. These faults are delineated on the official Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Map, Point Año Nuevo and Franklin Point quadrangles (California Geological Survey 1982)(see **Figure 5**). Therefore, the possibility of ground surface rupture within Año Nuevo SP should be considered when planning future development. The events that led to the formation of Año Nuevo Island, once part of the mainland, are attributed to movement and subsequent erosion along segments of the San Gregorio Fault.



The San Gregorio is capable of generating an earthquake with a Maximum Moment Magnitude of 7.3 (Petersen, et al. 1996). The Seismic Shaking Hazard Map (California Geological Survey 2003) shows that Año Nuevo SP lies within a zone that has a 10% probability of experiencing moderate to strong shaking on the order of 0.5g to 0.7g peak ground acceleration within 50 years. In addition, the San Andreas Fault, located 15 miles to the east is capable of generating an earthquake of magnitude 7.0 (Santa Cruz Mountain segment). Secondary seismic hazards, such as liquefaction and landsliding, may occur during an earthquake. Strong seismic shaking may trigger movement on any existing landslides. Any new structures must be built according to the specifications in the most current accepted edition of the Uniform Building Code or California Building Code. Rehabilitation or improvements on any historic structures must be in compliance with the California Historic Building Code.

Secondary seismic hazards, such as liquefaction, landsliding, and tsunamis may occur during an earthquake. Strong seismic shaking may trigger movement on any existing landslides or slumps along the coastal bluff. Tsunamis may occur due to earthquakes on offshore portions of the San Gregorio Fault. Tsunami hazard zones are discussed in more detail in the Hydrology section.

Liquefaction

Liquefaction could occur in loose, granular materials (alluvium) below the water table, such as along stream channels and in unconsolidated, disturbed materials. According to the liquefaction hazard maps from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the liquefaction susceptibility ranges from low to high for various portions of the Año Nuevo SP coast, and very low to low in inland areas of the park. The southeast portion of the coast, including the Visitor Center area, is ranked low with the exception of the alluvial materials within the Año Nuevo Creek drainage, which are ranked as moderate. Most of Año Nuevo Point is ranked as moderate. The portion of Año Nuevo SP north of Green Oaks Creek to Gazos Creek is ranked low or moderate. The majority of the drainages of Green Oaks, Cascade, and Gazos creeks are ranked as high with some areas ranked moderate. The Whitehouse Creek drainage is rated as moderate (ABAG 2005).

Landslide Hazards

No known active landslides exist within the interior portions of Año Nuevo SP, mostly due to the relatively gentle

topography. However, coastal bluff erosion is a potential issue. Some areas with old landslides are visible in the aerial photos from the California Coastal Records Project (Adelman and Adelman 2002) and indicated on the landslide hazard maps available from the ABAG (2003) website.

The upper drainages of Whitehouse Creek and Old Womans Creek in Año Nuevo SP, as well as most of the Gazos Creek drainage are mapped as "mostly landslides" (USGS 1998, ABAG 2003). Landslide and sediment sources have been mapped in portions of Año Nuevo SP along Gazos Creek and Old Womans Creek (Balance Hydrologics, Inc. 2003) as part of the Gazos Creek watershed study. Additional landslides have been mapped in the Whitehouse and Cascade Creek drainages by ESA/Madrone (1982).

Coastal Erosion

Segments of the San Mateo County coast are classified stable or unstable based on the inherent resistance of the exposed rocks to wave erosion and slope failure. The area of Año Nuevo Point and the area north of Franklin Point have been designated as unstable. During the 1982-83 El Niño storm season, numerous block falls and some landslides and debris flows occurred along the beach from Año Nuevo Creek northwest to Año Nuevo Point. From Año Nuevo Point north to Franklin Point, coastal erosion is minor, but severe beach erosion due to waves occurs north of Franklin Point (USGS 1998).

Año Nuevo Island shows the dramatic results of coastal erosion. Erosion was rapid as the waves cut into the soft, unconsolidated terrace deposits and dune sands. Since about 1970, the rate of erosion has slowed, as the now exposed hard Monterey Formation bedrock is more resistant (Wright, et al. 1990).

Hydrology and Water Resources

Watersheds

Año Nuevo SP is located within the Big Basin Hydrologic Unit, as designated by Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB). Coastal Año Nuevo SP contains the lower portions of the Año Nuevo Creek, Green Oaks Creek, Cascade Creek, Whitehouse Creek, and Gazos Creek watersheds. Additional upper portions of the Green Oaks Creek, Cascade Creek, Whitehouse Creek, and Gazos Creek watersheds are located in the adjacent Año Nuevo SP. Año Nuevo SP contains portions of Cascade Creek and its

unnamed tributaries, Whitehouse Creek, and Gazos Creek and its tributary Old Womans Creek. Gazos and Old Womans creeks are in the northern portion of Año Nuevo SP (see **Figure 6**).

Gazos Creek

The Watershed Enhancement Plan (Conrad and Chartrand 2003) for Gazos Creek identifies it as a priority watershed for restoration of habitat and recovery for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Gazos Creek originates partly within the southern portion of Butano SP, flows through privately owned land, forms the northern boundary of Año Nuevo SP, again passes through private lands, and then flows out to sea at Año Nuevo SP. The overall watershed area is approximately 16 square miles; the major tributaries are Old Womans Creek and Slate Creek. In the upper watershed, the three tributaries (North, Middle, and South Forks) flow through steep narrow canyons. In the lower 2.5-3 miles, the topography is less steep with rolling hills surrounding the riparian zone. A lagoon is present at the mouth of Gazos Creek, west of Highway 1 (Coastal Watershed Council 2005).

Año Nuevo Creek

The Año Nuevo Creek watershed covers approximately 10 square miles, with the headwaters in Santa Cruz County and the lower portion in San Mateo County. The upper portions are characterized by a wide, steep-sided arroyo that is heavily forested. Año Nuevo Creek has been designated as a Least Disturbed Watershed in the Santa Cruz County General Plan (1994). These watersheds are relatively undisturbed by development. They are worthy of recognition for their importance, and are designated for continued protection. Least Disturbed Watershed areas serve water supply, recreation and wildlife habitat functions, as well as provide a scenic backdrop. They have clear running streams, a high percentage of old growth redwoods, few roads and almost no residential development.

Green Oaks Creek

The Green Oaks Creek watershed originates in Big Basin Redwoods SP, with a small portion in the southern part of the Año Nuevo SP coast. The creek flows through land owned by private entities and also a segment recently purchased by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). The lower portion of the watershed is on the Año Nuevo SP coast and includes Green Oaks Creek estuary. Green Oaks Creek has several reservoirs that impound water for irrigation on the agricultural lands

adjacent to the Año Nuevo SP coast. Green Oaks Creek is also designated as a Least Disturbed Waterway.

Cascade Creek and Whitehouse Creek

Whitehouse Creek flows through the central portion of Año Nuevo SP. Cascade Creek and its tributaries flow through the southern portion of the park and the main branch is adjacent to the Cascade Ranch area. Five water storage reservoirs are present in the Whitehouse Creek and Cascade Creek drainages. The largest is Lake Elizabeth with 49 acre-feet of storage. The water input to Lake Elizabeth is from stormwater runoff and a diversion line from Whitehouse Creek via Chandler Reservoir. Chandler Reservoir holds 36 acre-feet and is fed from Chandler Creek and Whitehouse Creek. Lake Elizabeth stock pond, fed by Cascade Creek, and Whitehouse Road stock pond, fed by springs, are each about 5 acre-feet in size (ESA/Madrone 1982). These reservoirs and stock ponds supply water for agricultural use (see Water Supply section below).

A large pond with an earthen dam is located west of the Visitor Center area. This pond appears to be developed along the trace of the Frijoles Fault, a branch of the San Gregorio Fault. This pond may have been a natural sag pond developed in the depression caused by fault movement. An earthen dam was constructed to raise the water level and increase the available storage for irrigation purposes. Currently, no water is taken from the pond since it is within an area designated as critical habitat for the San Francisco garter snake.

Groundwater Resources

The Department of Water Resources defines the area for groundwater purposes south of Whitehouse Creek as the Año Nuevo Groundwater Basin (ANGB) within the Central Coast Hydrologic Region (DWR 2003). Three creeks drain the 3.2 - square-mile ANGB: Año Nuevo, Green Oaks, and Cascade creeks, with Whitehouse Creek forming the northern boundary. In Año Nuevo SP, this area includes the drainages of Cascade Creek and Whitehouse Creek. The area north of Whitehouse Creek to Gazos Creek has not been designated as a groundwater basin.

The water-bearing aquifers in ANGB are Quaternary in age, primarily Pleistocene marine formations, including terrace deposits, consisting of medium- to fine-grained, unconsolidated sands, silts, and clays with some gravels. Groundwater is derived from precipitation and surface water

runoff that percolates into the marine deposits (DWR 2003). The large pond/reservoir most likely receives some of its input from groundwater and springs. Some groundwater resources may occur in the underlying Miocene Monterey Formation, as indicated by the lithologic log of the existing supply well at the Visitor Center. At the inland portion of Año Nuevo SP, some groundwater resources may also occur in the bedrock units. Whitehouse Road stock pond is fed by springs originating in the Purisima Formation.

Water Quality

The CCRWQCB regulates water quality in the region and provides water quality standards and management criteria as required by the Clean Water Act. These standards and criteria are presented in the 1994 Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Central Coast Basin (California Environmental Protection Agency 1994). The Basin Plan identifies the beneficial uses and water quality objectives for the Central Coast region.

Año Nuevo Point and Año Nuevo Island have been identified by the Department of Fish and Game as an Area of Special Biological Significance. This designation further limits discharges of point and non-point source pollutants to the ocean or to the streams that flow into this area.

In general, surface water quality is good within the park, with none of the creeks listed as impaired. Water quality parameters (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, and conductivity) measured at monitoring sites within the Gazos Creek watershed are all within acceptable parameters. A macroinvertebrate survey showed that the creek condition is good (Coastal Watershed Council 2005). However, a geomorphic assessment conducted in 2003 (Balance Hydrologics, Inc.) indicates that some landslides and failed roads are potential sources of sediment that can degrade water quality and habitat for aquatic organisms. The Old Womans Creek tributary to Gazos Creek contributes a high amount of suspended sediment compared to the rest of the watershed (Balance Hydrologics, Inc. 2003).

Groundwater quality is highly dependent on the composition of the water-bearing strata. Wells and springs located near each other can have large variations in water quality and mineral content. The groundwater quality and yield can change dramatically after earthquake events. For example, after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, Brown House Spring at Big Basin Redwoods SP increased in volume and then went dry for two years.

Flooding

The flood hazard maps from the ESRI/Federal Emergency Management Agency website (2004) show a 100-year flood zone (Zone A) on Año Nuevo Creek upstream of Highway 1 and on Cascade Creek that extends from the coast to approximately 1.5 miles inland. This designated flood zone is most likely due to flooding associated with Highway 1 and the culverts where Año Nuevo and Cascade creeks are channeled under the highway. Zone A 100-year floodplains are also defined along Green Oaks Creek from the mouth to east of Highway 1. A similar flood zone exists on Gazos Creek. The 100-year floodplain for Gazos Creek does not extend into Año Nuevo SP. The Zone A designation means that base flood elevations and flood hazard factors have not been determined.

Tsunami Inundation

The beach areas of Año Nuevo SP may be subject to inundation from a tsunami. A major earthquake on an offshore segment of the San Gregorio Fault could generate a tsunami that would arrive in minutes, leaving little time for a warning. Tsunamis generated by earthquakes in more distant fault zones may also impact the coastline. With these distantly-generated tsunamis, there would be time to issue a warning.

Water Supply

Water supply for the Año Nuevo SP coastal area is from an on-site well with associated water treatment system and storage tanks. The well is 105 feet deep and screened from 45 to 105 feet within shale and sandstone bedrock (possibly weathered), according to the Department of Water Resources well log. The upper zone is described as interbedded clay and sand. Two other holes were drilled, but were not developed into wells; no reasons were given on the well log sheets. Water supply has been an issue at the park, as the well does not produce sufficient water to supply all needs. During peak use times, additional water must be trucked in to provide sufficient water.

Water supply for inland Año Nuevo SP is from the existing water system established at Cascade Ranch. This system uses water diverted from a dam on Cascade Creek above the falls. The water is treated using a slow sand filtration system and is then piped to the various buildings at Cascade Ranch, the park, and private property. Whitehouse Creek Road and Lake Elizabeth stock ponds were used for stock watering. Lake Elizabeth is used for irrigation at the privately-owned Cascade

Ranch Historic Farm. This reservoir is on park property, but California State Parks does not own the water rights except for 15 acre-feet for fire suppression purposes (Strachan 2006).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Evolutionary Processes

The Año Nuevo SP coast is part of an “evolutionary hotspot” in the Central Coast region. An evolutionary hotspot is a geographical area of rapid diversification of mammals. In these areas, evolutionary processes are guiding unusually high rates of speciation and morphological change in certain animals and plants. These hotspots occur in selected areas of California’s landscape and seem to include areas with topographical and soil gradients, certain geologic conditions (including active fault zones), and an overlap of extremes of species ranges. Attention to evolutionary hotspots and their expanded protection is one step that can be taken to protect species from the impacts of global warming. The location of Año Nuevo in proximity to other protected areas spanning a steep environmental gradient (a gradual and continuous change in communities and environmental condition) provides some defense against the effects of climate change.

Año Nuevo SP is part of an “evolutionary hotspot.”

Año Nuevo State Park Coastal Plant Life

Vegetation Types

The Año Nuevo SP coast supports vegetation types that reflect the proximity of the ocean and lack of topographical relief. Based on the U.S. National Vegetation Classification system (Grossman et al. 1998), there are nine different vegetation types in the coastal area of the park, consisting of six alliances, two stands, and one association (the most specific level of classification). The most comprehensive list of vegetation types for California is maintained by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB 2003), which is based on *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995) and conforms to Grossman et al. (1998). This list incorporates elements of the earlier CNDDDB vegetation system described in Holland (1986).

Following is a list of the vegetation types found at the coastal portion of Año Nuevo SP. Three of the nine vegetation types are considered by the CNDDDB to be rare natural communities of high inventory priority, and are identified by bold type. Refer to **Figure 8** for distribution of vegetation communities, and **Figure 10** for natural resource sensitivities.

- Arroyo Willow Alliance
- California Annual Grassland Alliance/California Oatgrass Alliance
- Coyote Brush Alliance
- Eucalyptus Alliance
- European Beachgrass Alliance
- Monterey Cypress Stand
- Monterey Pine Stand
- Sand-Verbena–Beach Bursage Association

The Arroyo Willow Alliance is found along and adjacent to perennial streams in the park. It is dense, closed-canopy vegetation dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), with scattered wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*) in the canopy, but mostly lacking developed shrub and herbaceous layers.

Areas identified as California Annual Grassland Alliance and California Oatgrass Alliance comprises two vegetation types that are essentially equivalent in function and structure, but are quite different in species composition. They are so intermingled that distinct boundaries are difficult to determine, hence they have been mapped as a single type. Non-native species dominate locations of California Annual Grassland, including slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*) and soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*). Native California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*) is the dominant species in the California Oatgrass vegetation type. Other commonly encountered species include bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and non-native sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*).

The Coyote Brush Alliance is the most prevalent vegetation type in the park. It is shrub-dominated vegetation composed of coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and other species such as poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*), and non-native poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

Both the Eucalyptus Alliance and European Beachgrass Alliance are non-native vegetation types. Blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is typically the only species present in the former series, while European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*) dominates the latter type, with few other species present.

Stands of Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) are limited in the unit and consist of planted individuals and their

Coyote Brush Alliance is the dominant plant alliance in Año Nuevo coast.



descendants. This vegetation is not indigenous to this area, since the only natural occurrences are restricted to the Monterey Peninsula.

Stands of Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) in this park are the result of plantings, although native occurrences are less than a mile east of the unit. Some scientists, however, believe that the natural successional occurrences of the pines on the coastal terrace at Año Nuevo are from the indigenous stands in the Año Nuevo Creek watershed. Soil dating relative to pines show that pines probably grew to the beach before humans started annual burning about 3,000 years ago. Natural occurrences are considered a rare natural community by the CNDDDB.

The Sand-Verbena–Beach Bursage Association occurs on sand dunes and sandy locations immediately adjacent to the coastal strand. It is herbaceous vegetation dominated by yellow sand verbena (*Abronia latifolia*) and beach bursage (*Ambrosia chamissonis*).

Special Status Species

Special status plant species are those listed on CDFG's *Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List*. Species officially listed or candidates for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the CDFG, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare, threatened, or endangered are included in this list. Plant species that are proposed for special status species listing by the federal government and state candidates for special status species listing are legally protected as if they were listed, and species listed by CNPS on their lists 1A and 1B (see below) meet the criteria for listing and are protected as such. Other species locally sensitive and important to the management of park units are also considered as special status species by California State Parks.

The CNPS has established five list categories to describe the state's rare, threatened, and endangered vascular plants. List 1A is composed of plant species presumed to be extinct in California because they have not been seen or collected in the wild for many years. Plant species listed as 1B are considered as rare, threatened, or endangered throughout their range, and with few exceptions are endemic to California. Species on this list are eligible for listing under provisions of the California Endangered Species Act. Species appearing on List 2 are considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but are more common elsewhere. CNPS List 3 is composed of plant taxa that lack the necessary information to assign them to other lists or to reject them.

Plants on List 4 comprise a watch list of plant taxa that are of limited distribution in California.

Of the 73 special status plant species for San Mateo County reported by CNPS (2001), one species, coast wallflower (*Erysimum ammophilum*), is known to occur within the coastal area of the park. Of the other 72 special status species, suitable to marginally suitable habitat exists within the park for 26 of the species, which are identified in **Appendix G**. Fourteen of these species are CNPS List 1B plants, one is List 2, one is List 3, and ten are List 4. One species, Hickman's cinquefoil (*Potentilla hickmanii*), is listed as State and Federal Endangered. The Sacramento Office of the USFWS lists another three species as Species of Local Concern, although they do not have official state or federal listing status and do not appear on the CNPS lists. These species are pink sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata* ssp. *umbellata*), California saltbush (*Atriplex californica*), and purple owl's-clover (*Castilleja exserta* ssp. *latifolia*).

Please see **Appendix G** for a list of special status plant species for which suitable habitat exists within the coastal Año Nuevo SP.

Exotic Species

Past activities such as agricultural production and cattle grazing have contributed to the introduction of invasive exotic plants into the park. Species of concern that are invasive and/or difficult to eradicate in the park include European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), jubata grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), and Canary Island hypericum (*Hypericum canariense*).

Año Nuevo State Park Coastal Animal Life

The coastal habitat of Año Nuevo SP is extremely important for wildlife. The marine-land interface of coastal Año Nuevo SP is characterized by long stretches of sandy beaches and dunes, broken by rocky intertidal habitat. Above the beach zone, steep bluffs rise up to the coastal terrace, that is vegetated with coastal scrub. This is a habitat of low to moderate-sized shrubs with aromatic species such as coastal sage scrub (*Artemisia californica*). Within the relatively dry coastal scrub and surrounding annual grasslands characteristic of much of the Año Nuevo SP coast, a number



of ponds provide contrasting aquatic habitat. Freshwater emergent wetland rings the edges of the ponds, providing dense cover for aquatic wildlife. Among the most productive habitats in California, wetlands provide food, cover, and water for more than 160 species of birds, and numerous mammals, reptiles, and amphibians (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). Additionally, five creeks running through the Año Nuevo SP coast to the ocean contain riparian habitat, an extremely important wildlife habitat type. Small patches of closed-cone pine-cypress are also present, providing arboreal cover for wildlife. Refer to **Figure 9**, Wildlife Habitats Map, for the distribution of these habitats, which are classified using CDFG's Wildlife Habitat Relationships System.

Año Nuevo Island

Only a half mile off the point of Año Nuevo, Año Nuevo Island is a sanctuary for marine mammals and seabirds. Photographs of the island from the 1800s to the 1960s show that most of the island surface was grassland. The relatively recent loss of vegetation on the island is the result of a combination of erosion, the increase in sea lion activity, and the increase in roosting pelicans and gulls. The central marine terrace is home to a nesting colony of rhinoceros auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*), an unusual seabird that nests in burrows. Though the rhinoceros auklet once was widespread, Año Nuevo Island is now one of only three main colonies of this species in California. In recent years, researchers have implemented habitat restoration projects on the island in an attempt to establish native vegetation, such as saltgrass, in some of the barren areas. Año Nuevo Island's beaches also provide important resting and breeding areas for a variety of other marine birds and mammals.

Amphibians

Coastal Año Nuevo SP contains aquatic habitats that support amphibians. The ponds and freshwater emergent wetlands are home to the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and an abundance of Pacific tree frogs (*Hyla regilla*). Western toads (*Bufo boreas*) can also be found in a variety of habitats, including riparian and upland areas. At least four species of salamanders have been observed in the coastal portion of Año Nuevo SP.

Reptiles

A variety of species of lizards and snakes can be found in the coastal area of the park. Western fence lizards (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) and western skinks (*Eumeces skiltonianus*) are

common inhabitants of a number of the habitats, including coastal scrub. Freshwater emergent wetlands support aquatic garter snakes (*Thamnophis atratus*), including the San Francisco garter snake (*T. sirtalis tetrataenia*) and Southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*). The adjacent upland habitats such as annual grasslands are home to coast horned lizards (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) and western rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*), which may be seen warming themselves in exposed areas on sunny days.

Birds

Coastal Año Nuevo SP supports a notably high diversity of avian life. The sandy beach and tidepool habitats along the coast provide important feeding and resting areas for multiple species of shorebirds and gulls. During winter and migration, western whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) western sandpipers (*Calidris mauri*), willets (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), and rare long-billed curlews (*Numenius americanus*) are just a few of the shorebirds that feed on the invertebrates living in the sand along the beach. At least seven species of gulls migrate through the area in spring, some of them resting and feeding on the beach. The coastal scrub blanketing the coastal bluffs is home to resident species such as the wrenit (*Chamaea fasciata*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*). Annual grasslands provide valuable hunting grounds for raptors such as American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*), red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and American peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). Waterbirds such as mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), cinnamon teals (*Anas cyanoptera*), and California brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) can be seen on the freshwater ponds. Great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) and barn owls (*Tyto alba*) are two of the more common of seven species of owls that have been recorded breeding in the coastal area of the park (Strachan 2003).

From the coastline out to Año Nuevo Island, seabirds can be found in abundance. Año Nuevo Island is the largest and most diverse seabird breeding colony in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, hosting breeding populations of rhinoceros auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*), Cassin's auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), Brandt's cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*), pelagic cormorants (*P. pelagicus*), western gulls (*Larus occidentalis*), pigeon guillemots (*Cepphus columba*), and black oystercatchers (*Haematopus bachmani*). The island also provides important roosting areas for other seabird species.

The Año Nuevo coast is notable for its diversity of bird species.



Mammals

Mammals are present in all the habitat types in the coastal areas of Año Nuevo SP, although they are seen less frequently than other wildlife due to their often elusive and/or nocturnal habits. Botta's pocket gophers (*Thomomys bottae*) and brush rabbits (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) are some of the smaller mammals present in the grasslands and early successional stages of other habitats onsite. Bats forage over the ponds at night and roost in buildings and crevices in trees during the day. Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) can occasionally be seen hunting in all of the terrestrial habitats. At least five species of marine mammals can be found at Año Nuevo SP coastal areas, Año Nuevo Island, and the water in between. More common species include northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*), harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*). The Steller (northern) sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) can be found on Año Nuevo Island. In spring, gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) are sometimes visible offshore as they migrate past Año Nuevo Point.

Invertebrates

Invertebrates form the most diverse and abundant taxonomic group, but are the least studied. They are present in all the habitats of Año Nuevo SP. More than 300 species of invertebrates have been recorded at Año Nuevo SP, including an unusual number of rare species. Dragonflies and damselflies can be seen circling over water on warmer days, and butterflies, like the western tiger swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus arizonensis*) and west coast lady (*Vanessa annabella*), are common. Insects are a critical component of a healthy ecosystem, as they are important pollinators for native plants, and an important food source for many species of wildlife.

Special Status Animals

The Año Nuevo SP coast contains an unusually high number of special animals, those that are listed as threatened or endangered by the state and/or federal government, California fully protected, California Species of Special Concern, or are of local concern. See **Figure 10** for natural resource sensitivity areas.

Special Status Amphibians

The California red-legged frog, a federally threatened species, is present in the pond and riparian habitats of the Año Nuevo SP coast. This species inhabits quiet pools of streams, marshes, and ponds, and requires permanent or nearly permanent pools for larval development (Zeiner, et al.

1988). Red-legged frogs have been recorded in the pond next to the Visitor Center (CDFG 2005).

Special Status Reptiles

The state and federally endangered San Francisco garter snake is the rarest and most colorful of the reptiles found in this region. The species is highly aquatic, and can be found along creeks and in the freshwater emergent wetland habitats in the ponds of Año Nuevo SP's coastal areas, where it feeds on tadpoles, frogs, and small fish. Southwestern pond turtles are residents of the ponds as well, and also depend on adjacent annual grasslands as egg-laying sites. In the drier coastal scrub habitat, the coast horned lizard, a California Species of Special Concern, may be found.

Special Status Birds

The coastline of Año Nuevo SP is home to a number of listed bird species. Endangered California brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) feed in the coastal waters, and can be seen bathing in the freshwater ponds in the park. Bank swallows (*Riparia riparia*), a state threatened species, nest along the sandy cliffs of Año Nuevo Point, and can be seen in spring and summer, flying low over the dunes and ponds. The state threatened American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) hunts along the coast, and can be seen diving over coastal scrub in fast pursuit of prey. Federally threatened western snowy plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) have been documented breeding on Año Nuevo Beach in the past (CDFG 2005), and winter on the beaches as well. The rhinoceros auklets that nest on Año Nuevo Island are a California Species of Special Concern. These seabirds nest in both natural burrows, and artificial burrows installed by researchers to restore and enhance the population.

Special Status Mammals

Numerous bat species that are recognized as California Species of Special Concern are present in the Año Nuevo SP coast. Sensitive marine mammals include the federally threatened Steller (northern) sea lion, which breeds on some of the more isolated rocks of Año Nuevo Island. This is one of the southern-most rookeries for this species in California.

Special Status Invertebrates

The coastal dunes of Año Nuevo Point provide suitable habitat for the globose dune beetle (*Coelus globosus*), a species considered by the Sacramento U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office as a Species of Concern. This beetle lives in foredunes

bordering the sea, and burrows in loose sandy areas where common dune plants such as sand verbena and beach bursage grow (Arnold 2003). Other rare invertebrate species are also likely present in Año Nuevo SP's coastal areas; however more studies are needed to determine their presence and distribution.

Please see **Appendix H** for a list of sensitive wildlife species for which habitat may exist in Año Nuevo SP.

Aquatic Life

The ponds and creeks of Año Nuevo SP coast support aquatic wildlife, including rare and endangered species. Aquatic amphibians and reptiles are present in addition to fish. Federally threatened steelhead migrate from the ocean inland, to spawn in the streams found in Año Nuevo SP, including Whitehouse and Gazos creeks (CDFG 2005). The steelhead spawning in the streams of the reserve are part of the Central California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU).

Marine Life

The main attraction at Año Nuevo SP's coast is the marine life. This area is home to one of the major breeding populations of northern elephant seals in the state, and supports sea lions and seals as well. Año Nuevo Island is an important Steller sea lion rookery and an important breeding and resting place for multiple species of marine birds. The coastal waters and inhabitants are protected as part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which is home to some of the most biologically productive waters in California. The coastal waters and tidepools are inhabited by invertebrates such as clams, abalone, limpets, chitons, hermit crabs, and flower-like anemones.

Northern Elephant Seal

The most well known mammal at Año Nuevo SP is the northern elephant seal. The former Reserve was originally established for the protection of this species. There are elephant seal rookeries on both Año Nuevo Island and beaches at Año Nuevo Point. The seals can be found in these areas in great abundance during the December to March breeding season and in smaller numbers at several other times during the year. Tens of thousands of visitors come to Año Nuevo each year to view these large marine mammals, especially during the winter breeding season.

The northern elephant seal was hunted to near-extinction in the early nineteenth century, mainly for the oil which could be rendered from its thick layer of blubber. It was originally presumed extinct by the late 1870s. Through the late nineteenth century and into the first decade of the twentieth century, several small populations were found on the coast and islands of Baja California, and in each instance the seals were summarily hunted and killed, either for blubber or for museum specimens. After each of these small populations was eliminated, the species was again thought extinct. The population has been estimated at somewhere between 20 and 100 individuals at its nadir; but the sporadic sightings and shortage of accurate accounts make exact accounting impossible (LeBoeuf et al.: 31-33).



From this small population, the northern elephant seal made a remarkable comeback after it was protected in both Mexico and the United States in the early twentieth century. As the population rebounded, the seals recolonized—and in some cases colonized for the first time—in areas farther and farther north. They were first seen on Año Nuevo Island in 1956, and the first pups were born there in 1961. By 1975, an elephant seal rookery was established on Año Nuevo Point. The Año Nuevo population has increased both through

breeding and immigration. It now appears to have stabilized at its maximum size. The overall population increased by 6.3% annually between 1965 and 1991 (Hildebrandt et al.: 55). It is now estimated at over 150,000 individuals.

Historic records of the northern elephant seal's range before 1840, when it was already severely reduced, are absent. Archaeological evidence turns up no sign of the animals at either Año Nuevo Point or Año Nuevo Island in prehistoric times, when other marine mammals provided a major food source. In fact, from the archaeological record, they do not appear to have been found (except for the occasional vagrant) north of the Channel Islands (Hildebrandt et al.: 55).

The northern elephant seal has been highlighted as a remarkable wildlife population rebound success story, although there is still concern that the "genetic bottleneck" created by the severely reduced breeding population in the early 1900s could have negative implications for the species long term survival.

Northern elephant seals are fascinating because of their massive size (males can reach up to 14 feet in length and 1500 pounds), specialized adaptations to both deep-sea diving and prolonged fasting when on land, and the bulls' violent battles for dominance during mating season, among other reasons. This, along with their previously endangered status, makes them the large visitor attraction that they are.

It should be noted that there are adverse environmental impacts associated with the elephant seals' imposing presence at Año Nuevo. These large powerful animals have damaged and fouled historic structures at the island light station. On the mainland, they have trampled and dug into fragile dune habitats, and are destroying important archaeological sites (Hildebrandt et al.: 8).

Exotic Animals

A small number of non-native, introduced animal species are found in the Año Nuevo SP coast. Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) and Norway or black rats (*Rattus norvegicus* or *R. rattus*) are present. Native to the eastern United States, bullfrogs are opportunistic feeders that have contributed to declining populations of native amphibians and other native species statewide.

Año Nuevo State Park Inland Plant Life

Vegetation Types

Año Nuevo SP inland areas contain vegetation types represented in the adjacent coastal area as well as others occupying more inland locations with moderate to steep mountain slopes. Based on the U.S. National Vegetation Classification system (Grossman, et al. 1998), there are

fourteen different vegetation types in inland park areas, consisting of twelve alliances and two stands. Refer to **Figure 8** for distribution of vegetation communities.

- Arroyo Willow Alliance
- California Annual Grassland Alliance; California Oatgrass Alliance
- Canyon Live Oak Alliance; Interior Live Oak Alliance
- Chamise Alliance
- Coyote Brush Alliance
- Douglas Fir Alliance
- Eucalyptus Alliance
- Knobcone Pine Alliance
- Monterey Cypress Stand
- Monterey Pine Stand
- Red Alder Alliance
- Redwood Alliance

Arroyo Willow Alliance and California Annual Grassland Alliance/California Oatgrass Alliance have the same composition as described in the “Año Nuevo State Park Coastal Plant Life” section.

The Arroyo Willow Alliance is found adjacent to perennial streams and reservoirs, as it is along the Año Nuevo SP coast.

Canyon Live Oak Alliance and Interior Live Oak Alliance vegetation types are limited to the northwest portion of the park. Canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*) are dominant in the canopy of the former vegetation type, while interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) is the dominant species in the canopy of the latter type. The understory for both vegetation series is usually sparse and open, but can include poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), bush monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), mountain iris (*Iris douglasiana*), brittle-leaved manzanita (*Arctostaphylos tomentosa*), and various ferns.

The Chamise Alliance is shrub-dominated vegetation that occupies dry, upland locations in the park, supplanted by coniferous forests in more moist areas. Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and wartleaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus papillosus* var. *papillosus*) are the dominant species. Other commonly encountered species include brittle-leaved manzanita, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), bush monkey flower, bush poppy

The fourteen different vegetation types in Año Nuevo SP’s inland area range from the Coyote Brush Alliance that dominates the lowest coastal terraces, to the Redwood Alliance found in the moist shaded slopes of the upper Santa Cruz Mountains.



(*Dendromecon rigida*), and California huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*).

The Coyote Brush Alliance is one of the most prevalent vegetation types in the park where it is dominated by coyote brush, and to a lesser extent poison oak and California coffeeberry. Like the preceding vegetation, the herbaceous layer is sparse or lacking.

There are extensive areas in the park that are vegetated with the Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) Alliance. Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and tan oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) are common constituents of the canopy, but in fewer numbers than the dominant Douglas-fir. Commonly encountered plants in the shrub and herbaceous layers include sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregano*), hedge nettle (*Stachys bullata*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*).

The Eucalyptus Alliance, Monterey Cypress Stand, and Monterey Pine Stand vegetation types are limited in extent. As at the coastal area of Año Nuevo SP, stands of Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) in the park are the result of plantings of unknown genetic origin, although there are native occurrences less than a mile southeast of the park. Natural occurrences are considered a rare natural community by the CNDDDB.

The Knobcone Pine Alliance occupies dry ridge top locations in the eastern portion of the park. Knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*) is the sole tree in a very open canopy. Common understory species include brittle-leaved manzanita, chamise, giant chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla* var. *minor*), yerba santa, and bush monkey flower.

The Red Alder Alliance is limited to locations along Gazos Creek and Old Womans Creek. Dominant species in the upper canopy are red alder (*Alnus rubra*), big leaf maple, box elder (*Acer negundo* var. *californicum*), and black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*). The mid-canopy is dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and red willow (*Salix laevigata*). Shrubs commonly found in the understory include California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), coastal red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa* var. *racemosa*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*), canyon gooseberry (*Ribes menziesii*), and straggly gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum*). Plants comprising the herbaceous layer include mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), yarrow (*Achillea*

millefolium), poison hemlock, elk clover (*Aralia californica*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), periwinkle (*Vinca major*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), shining chickweed (*Stellaria nitens*), coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus* var. *palmatus*), common scouring rush (*Equisetum hyemale* ssp. *affine*), and giant horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia* ssp. *braunii*).

The Redwood Alliance occupies upland locations of the park sufficiently moist to support this coniferous forest type. Redwood is the dominant tree, with lesser numbers of Douglas-fir, tan oak, and Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*). Common shrub and herbaceous species include California huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), chain fern, western sword fern, creeping snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*), redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), hedge nettle (*Stachys bullata*), slinkpod (*Scoliopus bigelovii*), red clintonia (*Clintonia andrewsiana*), redwood violet (*Viola sempervirens*), trail plant (*Adenocaulon bicolor*), western wake-robin (*Trillium ovatum*), false Solomon's seal (*Smilacina racemosa*), fairy bells (*Disporum hookeri*), striped coral root (*Corallorhiza striata*), spotted coral root (*Corallorhiza maculata*), and yerba de selva (*Whipplea modesta*).

Special Status Species

Of the 73 special plant species for San Mateo County reported by CNPS (2001), suitable to marginally suitable habitat exists within the park for 29 of these species, which are identified in **Appendix I**. One of these species, Choris's popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*), is reported to occur north of Cascade Creek, but the exact location was not described. Eleven of the 29 species are CNPS List 1B plants, one is List 2, one is List 3, and sixteen are List 4. In addition to their CNPS status, four of the species are listed by the Sacramento Office of the USFWS as Species of Local Concern. These are bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), coast rock cress (*Arabis blepharophylla*), stinkbells (*Fritillaria agrestis*), and Choris's popcorn-flower.

One species, Dudley's lousewort (*Pedicularis dudleyi*), is listed as rare by the State of California. CDFG's California Natural Diversity Data Base reports the occurrence of San Francisco popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys diffusus*) in San Mateo County and Año Nuevo SP. This CNPS List 1B plant is listed as endangered by the State of California.

Please see **Appendix I** for a list of sensitive plant species for which suitable habitat exists within Año Nuevo SP.



Exotic Species

Past activities such as agricultural production and cattle grazing have contributed to the introduction of invasive exotic plants into the park. Species of concern are those that are invasive and/or difficult to eradicate, including Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), *Hypericum canariensis*, Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*). In addition, Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*) of unknown genetic origin have been planted just south of Gazos Creek Road and north of Whitehouse Creek, posing a threat of genetic contamination to the native stands in the area.

Año Nuevo State Park Inland Animal Life

In the Santa Cruz Mountains past and ongoing land use practices especially logging have created a mosaic of wildlife habitats: pristine native habitats, habitats in various stages of succession, and other lands that provide little or no wildlife habitat value, such as areas converted for agriculture, road development, and home sites/businesses. The once pristine and fairly extensive redwood forest habitat has undergone the most change from pre-Euroamerican conditions. The varied habitats represented in Año Nuevo SP, combined with the strategic connection at locations along its boundary with Big Basin Redwoods SP, Butano SP, and other public open-space lands, make this park very important for wildlife. The park's connectivity to other California State Park units, including the extensive system of regional and county parks, provides important movement corridors for wildlife between the San Mateo coast and native habitat areas within the Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion.

The lower elevations of Año Nuevo SP's inland areas are predominantly coastal scrub and annual grassland, with patches of coastal oak woodland. The coastal oak woodland found in Año Nuevo SP offers wildlife dense evergreen tree cover and an abundance of food sources, in particular acorns. Acorns are critical for many native wildlife species in fall and early winter, when many other plants are finished seeding for the year. Moving up into the more protected canyons, redwood and Douglas-fir forests become the dominant habitat types. A variety of wildlife species that depend on these forested habitats can be found in the redwood and Douglas-fir forests. At a few locations on the higher ridges of the park, closed-cone pine-cypress habitat can be found. Flowing down the canyons and through the forest, a number of creeks pass through the park on their way

Año Nuevo SP's location makes it an important link in San Mateo Coast wildlife corridors.

to the ocean, providing riverine and montane riparian habitat for wildlife. These stream corridors provide important movement corridors for animals, as well as critical food and water. Refer to **Figure 9** for the distribution of habitats in Año Nuevo SP, which are classified using CDFG's California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System.

Amphibians

The redwood and Douglas-fir forests of Año Nuevo SP provide rich, moist habitat for amphibians. Rough-skinned and California newts (*Taricha granulosa* and *T. torosa*) can be found moving through the forest understory and in creeks and ponds, which they depend on during their larval stages. Salamanders can also be found in this habitat, including arboreal salamanders (*Aneides lugubris*) and California slender salamanders (*Batrachoseps attenuatus*), as well as ensatinas (*Ensatina eschscholtzi*) which thrive under fallen and rotting logs in the moist forest duff. Ponds in the park are home to Pacific tree frogs (*Hyla regilla*) and California red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora draytonii*).

Reptiles

A variety of species of lizards and snakes can be found in Año Nuevo SP. Western fence lizards (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) are common inhabitants of a number of the habitats including coastal scrub and coastal oak woodland, and northern alligator lizards (*Gerrhonotus coeruleus*) can be found at the forest margins in the park. Ponds and creeks support aquatic garter snakes (*Thamnophis atratus*), the San Francisco garter snake (*T. sirtalis tetrataenia*), and the Southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*). The adjacent upland habitats such as annual grassland are home to ringneck snakes (*Diadophis punctatus*) and gopher snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus*).

Birds

The Douglas-fir and redwood forests of Año Nuevo SP are home to birds such as the Steller's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), brown creeper (*Certhia americana*) and winter wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), a tiny bird with a bursting, musical song that echoes through the forest. Along the streams of the park, migrants such as Wilson's warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla*), Swainson's thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*), and black-headed grosbeaks (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) nest in the montane riparian habitat. In the more open coastal scrub and grasslands of the park, a number of species are present, including wrentits (*Chamaea fasciata*), white-crowned



California newt on Cascade Falls Trail

sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), and Bewick's wrens (*Thryomanes bewickii*). Annual grasslands provide good hunting grounds for numerous species of raptors, including red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

Mammals

Mammals are present in every habitat type in Año Nuevo SP. Historic buildings onsite, such as the Cascade Ranch horse barn, provide roosting habitat for bats such as the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) and myotis bats (*Myotis* spp.). California gray squirrels (*Sciurus griseus*) are present in the forested habitats of the park, and are closely associated with oaks (Zeiner, et al. 1990b). Larger species such as coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), and black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) can also be seen throughout Año Nuevo SP in annual grasslands, closed-cone pine-cypress, and other habitats.

Invertebrates

Invertebrates form the most diverse and abundant taxonomic group, and are present in all the habitats of Año Nuevo SP. Bright yellow banana slugs (*Ariolimax columbianus*) are present in and characteristic of the redwood forest of the park. Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*), with their striking orange and black wing patterns, can be seen in the park. Planted eucalyptus and other trees in the vicinity of the historic Cascade Ranch buildings have provided a fall roost site for these migratory butterflies (CDFG 2005).

Special Status Animals

Año Nuevo SP is home to a number of special animals that are listed as threatened or endangered by the state and/or federal government, California fully protected, California Species of Special Concern, or are of local concern.

Special Status Amphibians

The California red-legged frog, a federally threatened species, is present in pond and riparian habitats of Año Nuevo SP. This species lives in dense, shrubby riparian vegetation associated with deep, still or slow-moving water (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Ensatinas are a type of salamander found under logs and in the leaf litter of redwood and Douglas-fir forests, and are a California Species of Special Concern.

Special Status Reptiles

The federally endangered San Francisco garter snake is the rarest and most colorful of the reptiles found in the park. The species is highly aquatic, and can be found in the park's freshwater emergent wetland habitats, ponds, and the Whitehouse Creek system. Southwestern pond turtles, a California Species of Special Concern, also live in the aquatic habitats onsite, and lay their eggs in adjacent annual grasslands.

Special Status Birds

A number of sensitive bird species occur in Año Nuevo SP. The combination of open and forested habitats makes for prime raptor hunting and nesting habitat. Species such as the northern harrier, white-tailed kite, and Cooper's hawk can all be found in Año Nuevo SP. Northern harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) and white-tailed kites (*Elanus caeruleus*) can be seen hunting over the open grasslands, and Cooper's hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) hunt small birds and mammals in the coastal oak woodland and montane riparian habitats. Although Año Nuevo SP does not contain old growth redwood nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), it is likely that this endangered seabird uses corridors through the park to reach nesting areas further inland (CDPR 1998). Purple martins (*Progne subis*), a California Species of Special Concern that nests in cavities, are present in the park. Other bird Species of Special Concern that may be seen in Año Nuevo SP include Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*).

Of particular concern is the federally threatened and state endangered marbled murrelet. It has been listed because of population declines throughout its range in California, Oregon, and Washington primarily due to habitat loss (USFWS1997, Pacific Seabird Group 2003). Current major threats include logging or modification of habitat, oil spills and predation of eggs by Steller's jays and common ravens. Egg predation is particularly evident in the Santa Cruz Mountains population. Marbled murrelet surveys in the Santa Cruz Mountains have shown a drastic reduction in detections of murrelets in the past 10 years. At Big Basin Redwoods SP the average number of detections has gone from 55 in 1995 to less than five in 2005. The numbers from other nearby parks also show a similar decline (Suddjian 2005).



Special Status Mammals

Numerous bat species that are recognized as California Species of Special Concern and/or High Priority by the Western Bat Working Group are potentially present in Año Nuevo SP, including the pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*), fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), and western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*). The Santa Cruz Mountains region is home to a population of mountain lions, and Año Nuevo SP is an important component of a network of protected lands that lions range through. Large predators like these are critical components of healthy ecosystems.

Please see **Appendix J** for a list of sensitive wildlife species for which suitable habitat exists within Año Nuevo SP.

Aquatic Life

The ponds and creeks of Año Nuevo SP support aquatic wildlife, including rare and endangered species. Aquatic amphibians and reptiles are present in addition to fish. Federally threatened steelhead migrate from the ocean inland to spawn in the streams found in Año Nuevo SP, including Whitehouse Creek (California Department of Fish and Game 2005). The steelhead spawning in the streams of the reserve are part of the Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU). State endangered and federally threatened central California coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) are present in Gazos Creek (California State Parks 2001). Additionally, some of the creeks within the park could contain resident species such as prickly sculpin (*Cottus asper*) and coast range sculpin (*Cottus aleuticus*).

Exotic Animals

A number of non-native, introduced animal species are found in Año Nuevo SP. Wild (feral) pigs (*Sus scrofa*) have been documented in the park. Pigs can cause significant damage to natural resources, disturbing soil, uprooting native plants, and harming ground-nesting birds and other native wildlife. Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) may be present in the ponds onsite. Native to the eastern United States, bullfrogs are opportunistic feeders that have contributed to declining populations of native amphibians and other native species statewide. The introduced European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is also found in Año Nuevo SP. This bird species is detrimental to native bird populations because it aggressively competes with native cavity-nesting birds for limited nesting sites.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The study area encompassing Año Nuevo SP, Butano SP, and Big Basin Redwoods SP contains a great variety of landscapes and habitats. The ecological productivity of this area has been shaped by past geologic, climatic and cultural events. Of principal interest to planning are the relationships of past human societies to the landscape and the archaeological evidence of their developments.

In addition to the historic structures and associated archaeological features contained within the boundaries of the study area, approximately 40 prehistoric archaeological sites are currently recorded within Año Nuevo SP, a dozen more at Butano SP and another dozen or so at Big Basin Redwoods SP. See **Figure 11** for general distribution of cultural resources. The latter two parks have not been as thoroughly surveyed as Año Nuevo and it is likely that many more sites will be discovered.

The archaeological record is one of the only places where we can obtain data on the earliest history of the people, landscape, and ecology of the study area. Archaeological sites scattered along the upland ridges within Butano SP and Big Basin Redwoods SP have been impacted by historic logging activities, road grading, and trail construction. There is a rich record of both prehistoric and historic land use represented within the study area and these resources can greatly enhance the public experience in the parks through appropriate interpretation and site stewardship.

Año Nuevo SP provides a good example of what can be learned about the prehistoric groups who inhabited coastal California. Past archaeological investigations in the coastal portion of Año Nuevo SP have uncovered evidence of a long history of human interaction with the local ecology. The magnitude of the sites and the nature of their contents have provided clear evidence of the importance of this area to prehistoric Native California Indian societies. The fragile archaeological resources along the coastal edge are threatened, and many have been destroyed. In addition to examining the archaeological record, it is important to understand what we know from the written record through ethnographical studies.

Ohlone Lifeways

Ethnohistoric observations, written at the time of first European contact in 1769 and during the subsequent colonization, document that several different tribelets controlled territory

Archeological studies have uncovered extensive evidence of a long history of human presence at Año Nuevo, and revealed the importance of the Año Nuevo SP area to prehistoric Native California Indian societies.



along the peninsula coast and in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Populations seasonally relocated from the coastal edge to locations in the nearby Santa Cruz Mountains (Palou, Vol. 3 in Bolton 1926:3:293-303; Crespi in Stanger and Brown 1969:88). Spanish Mission records show that coastal communities ultimately joined with a larger Bay Shore alliance network (King 1994:203-228; Milliken 1983; 1991). The study area was controlled by a single independent Native California Indian political entity recorded by the Spanish missionaries as the "Quiroste" (pronounced *Keer-osh-tee*) nation. The Quiroste were one of fifty politically independent tribelets that comprised the larger Ohlone group. The Ohlone's cultural sphere existed within the San Francisco and Monterey Bay regions. Information about the Quiroste can be found in historic accounts and, more importantly, from the archaeological sites scattered throughout the landscape.

The Quiroste were a prominent and wealthy tribe who lived in the Año Nuevo area at the time of Spanish contact.

The Quiroste were a significant and wealthy tribe in the central California coast region. This wealth was based on the bountiful resources and location of their territory. The location that the Quiroste tribe called home was situated between the rocky coast and forested coastal mountains. Their wealth was derived from the materials for tool-making and currency found on their territory. The preferred material for stone tool making in the region was Monterey chert. The main quarry for Monterey chert was located on a seldom exposed reef off of Año Nuevo Point. The Quiroste became the sole suppliers of this highly prized lithic material to the surrounding regional tribes. Another source of their wealth were olive snail, or *Olivella*, shells which were used as currency in prehistoric California. As the *Olivella* shell bead currency trade began to expand throughout prehistoric California in the mid to late Archaic Era, the Quiroste gathered the shells from their coastal environs and monopolized the developing prehistoric economy. In essence, they became the treasury of these shells and could control the export of this highly valued resource. These assets and wealth, along with their natural territorial fortifications of mountains and sea, allowed the Quiroste to establish their strength and prominence as a tribe.

The prominence of the Quiroste tribe was heightened by their role in a significant European contact event in history. In October 1769, an ailing expedition led by Gaspar de Portola of Spain entered the Quiroste village on Whitehouse Creek. The Quiroste welcomed the foreign visitors and nursed them back to health. After a few days they offered guides to the expedition and led them out of their territory. The Portola Expedition went on to "discover" the great bay of San Francisco. If the Quiroste had not welcomed and cared for

the explorers, the expedition might not have gone on to San Francisco Bay.

The strength and prominence of the Quiroste was challenged as Spanish Missionaries sought to subjugate the native peoples of the area. In response to the Spanish challenge, the Quiroste committed the only armed resistance against the northern Franciscan Missions of California when they attacked Mission Santa Cruz in 1791. This unsuccessful resistance resulted in the Quiroste becoming one of the last tribes of the area to be incorporated into the Mission system.



Quiroste winter village.

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When the Spanish missionaries first arrived, the native people lived in groups that included extended families or clans that formed villages. Feuds between members of some villages were not uncommon, but relatives sought to avoid conflicts through payments made in shell beads. Within the villages, clan members belonged to different clubs or societies. Membership usually involved initiation where novices learned the customs of the organization, and used shell beads to pay dues. Different membership-driven organizations sponsored ceremonial events, each having their own distinctive costumes and regalia. Abalone (*Haliotis*) shell pendants were frequently used as badges of membership and rank. Together the various organizations formed the fabric of society and directed the storage and redistribution of surplus food resources, aided in the construction of village buildings, planned hunting strategies and followed the seasonal cycles of nature that would determine where and when they should relocate the villages and clans.

Both men and women could be members of various societies; and an elite group of women, called *Mayen*, directed the construction of large circular dance houses that were excavated several feet below the surrounding ground level. The *Mayen* selected the most virtuous individuals to represent various spiritual forces that were personified in dances and ceremonies. This practice was called *Kuksui*. *Kuksu* dancers wore woven feather bandoleers made from woodpecker quills placed edge to edge that draped over their foreheads and down their shoulders. Young children were initiated into the various societies and were taught proper manners and customs acceptable to their community by their elders. Once membership was invoked, they earned status and rank over the term of their lives.

Men typically governed the political structure of the village and did the hunting while women handled the gathering and processing of vegetal foods. Each village had a "head man" and the many villages throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains and coast each had its head man. Men wore little or no clothing, a trait common among hunting people who must avoid retaining the human scent so that they can better blend in with their natural surroundings. Women wore a braided tule reed skirt with a rear apron made from finely tanned deerskin.

During the historic period, the Spanish arrival resulted in dramatic environmental changes. These changes led to the subduing of the local coastal people. Those who were not relocated to missions suffered from poor nutrition and repeated exposure to introduced diseases that decimated their population. Nonetheless some survived and their descendants continue to live in the region (Milliken et al. 1993). Today the descendants of the mission people use the designation of *Ohlone* to encompass the families from as far south as Soledad and Monterey, northward to Livermore and San Francisco. Some of the Ohlone have further subdivided into discrete family groups such as the Carmel Band of Rumsen, the Pajaro Valley Indian Association of Watsonville, the Mutsun of San Juan Bautista, the Amah Band of Gilroy, and the Muwekma Tribe of Santa Clara Valley. The descendants of the Ohlone continue to visit Año Nuevo, Butano and Big Basin Redwoods State Parks, and participate in the archaeological research.

Prehistory

Archaeological findings from Año Nuevo SP and other peninsula coastal sites reveal a succession of several cultural periods spanning the Early, Middle and Late Holocene ages.

These sites have provided interesting insights into the local cultural prehistory and their adaptive responses to episodes of significant environmental change.

The study area overlays a larger fabric of dynamic cultural transformations that began sometime over 12,000 years ago when people first arrived along the west coast of North America. Legacies of dramatic (even cataclysmic) episodes of environmental changes have led to the recognition of four major climatic shifts that have transpired during the time of human occupation. These changes define the Late Pleistocene, Early, Middle and Late Holocene epochs.

Approximately 10,000 years ago, during the Early Holocene period, the progressively rising sea began to encroach up the level coastal terrace terrain that once extended considerably farther offshore. The sea reached its present height by Middle Holocene times, some 6,000 years ago (Bickel 1978). With the stabilization of sea level, marine and terrestrial plants and animals developed distinctive behaviors and territorial distributions that allowed for predictable, patterned resources important to human societies. Cyclical patterns of seasonal food availability, and repetitive use of these resources by the early people, have resulted in the distribution of extensive archaeological deposits at locations where residential and/or task specific activities became established.

During the Middle Holocene (6700 to 3400 BC), stone mortars and pestles appear in the archaeological record. These artifacts were used for acorn processing, indicating that acorns had increased in importance as a dietary staple. This addition augmented an earlier reliance on hard seeds (tarweed, clarkia, and others) that were milled through the use of handstones and milling slabs. With the increasing reliance on acorns as a food staple, access to productive oak woodlands became a primary factor in the subsistence economy.

Coastal sites contain a greater frequency and diversity of large side-notched chert projectile points and knives that are identical to Early period south coast forms (Hildebrandt and Mikkelsen 1991; Hylkema 1993:99-119; Hylkema 2002; Jones 1993; Jones and Hylkema 1988; Olson and Payen 1969). Regionally, the Monterey chert outcrop at Año Nuevo SP came to function as the principal source for chipped stone tool material, including projectile points, for coastal people. These robust point forms suggest that there was an emphasis on hunting large game, most likely tule elk.



Within the study area, a specific site in Quiroste Valley (Whitehouse Creek) (SMA-196) dates to this time. By the end of the Middle Holocene the overall artifact assemblage along with a combined dietary focus on ocean mussels, marine mammals and deer or elk, became the precursors to a consistent reliance on coastal resources that persisted on through most of the Late Holocene. The ancestral Ohlone Indian people of the study area lived in a landscape of great ecological diversity. Their environment brought them in close proximity to marine, sandy beach, rocky shore, tidal and freshwater marsh, grassland prairie, oak grassland savanna, riparian, chaparral, mixed hardwood, and evergreen forest habitats.

Archaeological evidence from sites in the study area shows that productive ecological zones, in terms of native subsistence needs, involved littoral and grassland habitats concentrated along the narrow coastal terraces and upland meadows in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Within the upland meadows interspersed along Ben Lomond ridge above Big Basin, archaeological deposits do not reveal any reliance on interior San Francisco Bay resources, but do indicate a close dependence on coastal resources. It is likely that the meadows concentrated game into narrow resource patches and repetitive seasonal use of the uplands accounts for the substantial depth of archaeological deposits in these areas. The types of bones found in these sites suggest that this seasonal foraging occurred in the summer. In contrast, a contemporaneous site at Año Nuevo contained abundant adult and juvenile northern fur seal bones that point to a winter occupation of the coastal terrace.

The ancestral Ohlone used a large number of plants for food, medicine and tools. Acorns were a staple although the rugged terrain and dispersal of oak forest within the coastal zone effectively constrained access to acorns (Hylkema 1991:40-46). Sporadic distributions of bedrock mortar milling stations along the upper ridgelines and slopes on the interior Santa Cruz Mountains and within Big Basin Redwoods SP reveal the laborious extremes that coastal people experienced to add acorns to their diet.

Although the ancestral Ohlone did not develop a maritime tradition, offshore marine resources were actively pursued. Most open coastal sites contain the remains of mollusks, fish, a variety of sea mammals, and ocean-going sea birds such as cormorant, pelican, tufted puffin, marbled murrelet, and others (Hylkema 1991; Hylkema with Hall 1985). While the total volume of shell represented at open coastal sites within the study area varied in accordance with the depth of

archaeological deposits and the duration of site occupation, the range of species present was found to be remarkably consistent through time. Most notably, the overall contribution of mollusks to the diet remained consistent.

In addition to the shellfish, the hunting patterns along the peninsula coast changed to include different mammals from both land and sea. Marine mammals were hunted with clubs, harpoons, spears and darts. Elephant seal bones are absent from the regional archaeological record although many other marine mammal species are represented at sites spanning the past 5000 years (Hylkema 2002). Of particular interest are the remains from the northern fur seal (*Calorhinus ursinus*); one of the most important discoveries of northern fur seal bones occurred at Año Nuevo (Hylkema 1991).

Sea otter remains at Late period coastal sites increased in frequency over Middle period Año Nuevo Phase sites. The range of bone elements indicated that they were most likely hunted more for their furs than their meat (Hylkema with Hall 1985). It is likely that they were harpooned among the kelp beds from tule reed boats. Although this watercraft was unsuitable for open sea, at least one historic account mentions that they were used offshore below the sheltered reach of Point Año Nuevo (Fages 1937:70).

The local coastal economy remained constant until AD 1100. Shortly after that date the coastal way of life began to change. Other Native California Indian groups from the interior areas of the state created a higher demand for various shells that were used as markers for wealth and status. The shells gave the coastal groups a valuable trade item. Evidence of this trade was discovered in an archaeological site at Big Basin Redwoods SP with the discovery of five projectile points that were made from obsidian that came from Napa. This stone tool source supplemented local Monterey chert, some of which was quarried from a partially submerged Monterey chert outcrop at the coastal portion of Año Nuevo SP.

Summary of Peninsula Coast Prehistory

Archaeological data from sites throughout Central California have shown a steady progression to a specialized, collector adaptive mode that emphasized reliance upon storable vegetal food resources, acorns in particular. This trait is often cited as the principal reason for demographic patterns associated with the cultural development of the region (Baumhoff 1963:155-236; Basgall 1987:21-52; Mayer 1976:30; and others). By the terminal phase of the Middle Holocene



many archaeological sites began to exhibit greater social organization in tandem with increased use of mortars and pestles. Hildebrandt (in Elsasser 1986: 97) has demonstrated that an increased reliance on an acorn economy emerged as early as 2500 BC. Starting at that time, human burial patterns changed when various communities began burying deceased members of their groups within their villages. Social distinctions also appeared in the form of unique grave associated artifacts distributed among a few individuals. This pattern continued throughout the subsequent Late Holocene.

With the advent of the Late Holocene, relatively small, mobile communities perpetuated an older generalized subsistence economy that emphasized a meat diet supplemented with processed hard seeds, acorns, fish and mollusks. Storage of food resources was not a critical aspect of the coastal lifeway, and a foraging economy was the optimal strategy (Hylkema 1991). However, after a period of prolonged drought between the years of AD 800 to 1100 (Jones and Kennett 1999), a transformation in the regional socio-political structure occurred and hierarchically ranked societies emerged. Logistically organized labor groups extended out from residential bases and returned with resources that were frequently stored for longer periods of time, forming what has come to be known as a collector economy. An increasing emphasis on wealth resulted in an increasing demand for abalone (*Haliotis*) and *Olivella* shells. These materials were used as markers of wealth and status by people throughout the interior of central California, and this put the coastal people in a unique position as providers (Hylkema 2002). By ca. AD 1100 to the 1770s an elaborate social hierarchy had emerged, consistent with the ethnographic record.

Historical Overview

Spanish Period

The land encompassing what is now California remained largely un-exploited during its control by Spain. During the 1540s, Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, acting on behalf of the Spanish Crown, led the first naval expedition to explore the coast of what is now California, and claim the land for Spain. While some scholars claim he made no note of Año Nuevo Point, others claim he called it "Cabo de Nieve" (Snowy Cape). Cabrillo and other early explorers did, however, note the extensive populations of seals and other marine mammals during their journeys. Years later, Sebastian Vizcaíno was sent to explore the coast of California in 1602. Reaching Año Nuevo Point on New Years day, 1603. Father Antonio de la Ascension, chaplain and diarist on the

expedition, labeled the place on his map, "Punta de Año Nuevo" (Le Boeuf 1975:1; Holland 1963:149). Following Vizcaíno's expedition, there was virtually no Spanish exploration of Alta California for over a century and a half.

In 1768, Don Gaspar de Portolá was placed in charge of an expedition to establish settlements in Alta California. After months of extremely difficult travel, the party reached Monterey Bay. From there they continued north, eventually sighting Año Nuevo Point, which they believed to be the northernmost point on the Monterey Bay. The expedition camped at Whitehouse Creek, trading beads with the Indians, whom they termed "Costaños," though the Indians identified themselves as the Quiroste. On Monday, October 23, the expedition encountered a large Indian village in what is now Año Nuevo SP. A member of the expedition, Miguel Costansó, provided a description of the village:

We moved the camp a distance of two leagues from the Cañada de la Salud [Waddell Creek], and camped near an Indian village, discovered by the scouts, situated in a pleasant and attractive spot at the foot of a mountain range and in front of a ravine covered with pine and savin (redwood), among which descended a stream from which the natives obtained water. The land appeared pleasant; it was covered with pasture, and was not without fire wood... The Indians, advised by the scouts of our coming to their lands, received us with great affability and kindness, and, furthermore, presented us with seeds kneaded into thick pats... In the middle of the village there was a large house, spherical in form and very roomy; the other small houses, built in the form of a pyramid, had very little room, and were built of split pine wood. As the large house so much surpassed the others, the village was named after it (Costansó 1911).

The Spanish called this camp Casa Grande because of the large lodge house there. The expedition continued north, led by guides from the village. Over the next few days they encountered several more villages, on their way to San Francisco Bay. Upon their return, the expedition retraced much of their original route south, again passing through the Año Nuevo region beginning on November 18. Instead of camping at Casa Grande (which they found abandoned), they camped at Año Nuevo Creek on November 19.

Later, an inland route from San Francisco Bay to southern California was blazed by Spanish soldier Pedro Fages, effectively isolating the Año Nuevo region for many years



thereafter. Because the area was now off the beaten track, a mission in what is now Santa Cruz was established relatively late, in 1791.

Missions



The models for Ludwig Choris's 1816 "Portrait heads of Indians" were residents of either Mission San Francisco de Asís or Mission San Carlos Boromeo.

Reproduced with permission of Bancroft Library, University of California.

To counter encroachment by foreign powers, the Spanish used three separate institutions in their attempts to settle and control California. These included missions, presidios (military forts), and pueblos (secular towns). A mission was generally established near a concentration of native peoples, and its main purpose was to convert them to Christianity and teach them farming, ranching, and other "civilized" practices. Mission San Francisco de Asis, also commonly known as Mission Dolores (founded in 1776), and Mission Santa Clara (1777) attracted some of the Quiroste, while Mission Santa Cruz contained 553 Native California Indians soon after its founding. Unfortunately, European diseases took their toll upon native California Indians, decimating their numbers.

The Año Nuevo region was used for the grazing of livestock from the Santa Cruz mission, which reportedly owned over 2,900 head of cattle. Native California Indians tended many of these mission herds in what were termed the ranchos, or outlying grazing areas. By 1825, 16 men and one woman were stationed somewhere in the Año Nuevo region to attend to these herds, which extended as far north as Pescadero. The cattle produced not only beef but hides and tallow, which were the main exports for the area.

Quiroste Attack on Mission Santa Cruz

A little more than twenty years after greeting the Portola Expedition, the Quiroste again enter into the historical account. This time it is due to their aggressive behavior towards Mission Santa Cruz.

By 1791 members of the Quiroste were entering into the missions for conversion, either voluntarily or not. One man, an elder tribal leader named Charquin, fled Mission San Francisco de Asis's outpost of San Pedro, near present day Pacifica just days after his reported baptism. He led a small band of renegade Quiroste in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was eventually captured and sent to the Presidio of Santa Barbara. Despite his capture, the Quiroste continued their resistance. Spanish soldiers, sent out by the missionaries, raided the Indians camp and returned the ones they have caught to the missions. The Quiroste quietly gathered their remaining forces and attacked Mission Santa Cruz on the evening of the 14th of December 1793. Padre Fermín Lasuén,

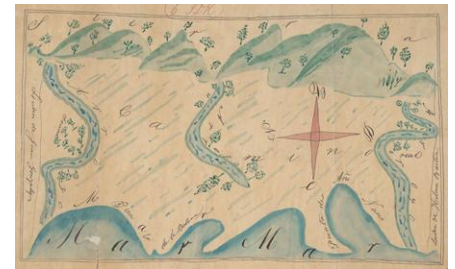
Serra's successor as president of the missions in Alta California, wrote of the assault: "I have found out for certain that on the night of the fourteenth of last December the pagan, Indian, and some Christian Indians, from rancherías to the northwest of that mission made an assault on the guard, wounded the corporal in the hand, and another soldier in the shoulder, and set fire to the roof of the corral for the lambs, and the old guard house. The corporal fired a few shots, and with that they withdrew without serious injury to either side." (Lasuén [1785-1803] 1965: 299).

This was the only time one of the Franciscan missions was attacked in Northern California. The attackers are eventually caught and imprisoned. The Quiroste resistance was soundly defeated. Charquin died in the stockade of the Presidio in San Diego, and what was left of the once prominent Quiroste tribe was forced to work and die in the Mission system (Milliken 1995).

Mexican Independence

Following the successful separation of Mexico from Spain in 1821, several major changes occurred in California. Foremost among these changes was the opening up of the area to outside trade. Both British and American companies became dominant in the profitable hide and tallow trade during this period. The mission system also declined in power and importance following independence. In 1834, the entire system was dismantled, and all land holdings were secularized and subdivided. The mission lands were granted to the government to be deeded to private citizens.

Mission Santa Cruz was included in the secularization, and mission lands were divided and parceled out to prominent Mexican citizens. In the San Mateo coast area, several rancho parcels were granted, including Rincon de la Ballena (between Bean Hollow and Gazos Creek), and Rancho Butano to its north. Soon thereafter, however, a grant of land was given to Simeon Castro, which included both of the above ranchos. The resulting legal dispute was not resolved until many years later. Castro's Rancho Punta del Año Nuevo consisted of over 17,000 acres, including much of what is now Año Nuevo SP, as well as Butano SP. By 1842, Castro took possession of the rancho, although he continued to live in Monterey. Largely through caretakers, he ran large herds of cattle on the land, as well as grew wheat, corn, melons, and potatoes (Stanger 1966:35).



The diseño, or land grant map, for Rancho Punta del Año Nuevo. Reproduced with permission of Bancroft Library, University of California.

Early Anglo Settlement

Following the Gold Rush, large numbers of Americans began arriving in California. In 1850, California became a state, and thousands of acres of rancho property began to be acquired by American citizens. In 1851, Isaac Graham of Santa Cruz acquired the Rancho Punta del Año Nuevo from the Castro heirs. Graham leased much of the land out for cattle ranching. Some reports claim that he constructed one of the first houses in the area, known thereafter as the Isaac Graham House (or the White House) on Whitehouse Creek. It is more likely that the house was built by one of his lessees, a man named Van Houghton, in 1851. Because of financial troubles, Graham was unable to hold on to the property, and it was sold at public auction in 1862 to John H. Baird, for \$20,000. Baird quickly turned the property around to Loren Coburn for \$30,000. Coburn purchased both the Rancho Butano and Rancho Punta del Año Nuevo with his brother-in-law Jeremiah Clark. After buying out Clark, Coburn became the sole owner of both these immense ranches. Coburn was a shrewd businessman, and soon leased much of the land to a northern California family dairy enterprise by the name of Steele.

Steele Ranch

Frederick Steele was the first in the family to come to California. He was stationed in California with the U.S. Army following the end of the Mexican War, and described the state in glowing terms to his brothers in Ohio. George Steele and his cousin, Rensselaer, were the next to come west in 1855, settling in Sonoma County. Next came Rensselaer's wife and two children, together with Edgar Willis Steele and his parents in 1856. Isaac Chapman Steele arrived in 1857 with his wife and son. Rensselaer and his wife, Clarissa began to make cheese, shipping it to San Francisco, where it was eagerly awaited. The demand for more cheese caused the Steeles to expand their herd. Beginning in 1857, George, Isaac, Edgar, and Rensselaer leased land in Marin County. The dairying operations continued to be profitable, and the Steeles sought out new country in which to expand their herds. In 1861, Isaac surveyed the coast south of Point Reyes, and found ideal grazing lands at the Rancho Punta del Año Nuevo.

In 1862, the Steeles leased 17,763 acres from Coburn for \$6,000 per year for ten years plus all taxes. A stipulation allowed for the Steeles to buy 7,000 acres of the ranch south of Gazos Creek when the lease expired, at \$6 per acre. The Steele brothers established a firm consisting of Isaac, Edgar W. and George Rensselaer, along with Horace Gushee and Charles Wilson. Wilson never took an active part in the dairy

operations, and Gushee served as the exclusive distributor for the dairy's cheese.

Isaac built a small shack at Green Oaks Creek in December. Soon thereafter, his cousin Rensselaer built a house on his portion of the ranch. By the fall of 1862, E.W. Steele and Gushee were busy buying and branding cattle in order to populate the new ranch. An additional 1,100 head of cattle were eventually purchased. In order to improve their herd, the Steeles purchased Holstein-Fresian animals to breed with the native stock. While George and Edgar remained in Marin County with part of the herd, the rest was shipped on the steamer *Petaluma* and schooner *Cochief* to the mouth of Gazos Creek at the end of December 1862. After the Indian laborers returned to Marin County in 1864, the Steeles hired many Chinese laborers from San Francisco (Stammerjohan 1997:10).

The Steele Dairies initially consisted of five distinct ranches: Green Oaks Ranch (Isaac Chapman), Pocket Dairy, Cascade Ranch (Rensselaer), White House Ranch, and the Cloverdale Ranch (Edgar Willis).

Soon after arriving, the Steeles gave William W. Waddell (who was living in the canyon south of Año Nuevo) a right-of-way across their land in order to build a landing and wharf. He chose a spot approximately 500 yards west of Año Nuevo Creek, where the water was deep and there were no dangerous reefs. By 1864, Waddell had completed his 700-foot pier with a swinging chute at the end to serve deep water schooners. By 1867, the wharf was handling two million feet of lumber per year (Stanger 1963). By the 1870s, the Steeles had constructed a saw mill on Año Nuevo Creek, hauling the lumber to Waddell's wharf. Rensselaer also built a saw mill in the canyon above his home at Cascade Ranch. Another mill was run by the Chandler and Herrington Company on Whitehouse Creek, which produced shingles and lumber.

Waddell extended a railroad from his mill to the landing and wharf. This right-of-way eventually served as the route for the county road, which evolved into Ocean Shore Highway (State Highway 1). For the next 13 years, this wharf served Waddell's mill, together with other mills in the region. The presence of the wharf helped to create a small community which became known as Waddell's Landing. It contained a lumber yard, warehouse, and store, as well as other buildings. Rensselaer's brother, Horace Samuel Steele, became the postmaster and store owner. The store itself remained in place



until the early 1950s, though portions of it were used in other structures on the Dickerman ranch (Arena 1978:2).

Although 1863 was a disastrous year for most cattlemen across the state, the Steeles appeared to have been protected from the calamity. The drought that struck so severely in southern California was not readily felt in the relatively moist San Mateo coast. In addition, the demand for cheese was high in California, and it could generally be sold for \$.25 per pound. The Steeles gained fame for their creation of a huge 3,850-pound block of cheese (produced at the Cascade Ranch), which was displayed at the Mechanic's Fair in San Francisco in 1864. The block was sold for \$2,820, and the proceeds donated to the Sanitary Fund of the Union Army. The Steeles prospered, selling both cheese and butter, with Waddell's wharf serving as a point of embarkation.

The Steele Ranches extended from Gazos Creek on the north to the Santa Cruz County line on the south. By 1867, it was reported that these ranches consisted of 15,000 acres and 750 cows. There were also 2,000 head of steers, calves, and young cattle, as well as hogs. Wild grasses and oats generally provided enough food for the animals, although they were supplemented with grain, hay, and straw during periods of extreme drought.

Because their lease to the ranch in Marin County expired in 1866, Edgar and George Steele decided to purchase 45,000 acres in San Luis Obispo County. The purchase ended up costing the Steele family considerably, as title to the land soon became tied up in litigation. Meanwhile, the Steeles exercised the option to buy 7,000 acres of the Año Nuevo ranch, while the northern portion of the land reverted to Clark and Coburn (Steele 1948:10). By the early 1870s, the Steele Brothers were reportedly the second largest owners of milk cows in the state (Reese 1964:4). In 1872, the Steele Brothers dissolved their partnership, although each of the members continued in the dairying business.

The 1880s saw bright prospects for the growth of coastal San Mateo County. In large part, this hope was driven by expectations for completion of the Ocean Shore Railroad (Alley 1883). The railroad was never completed, however, and fortunes declined. By the early 1880s, Waddell's Wharf had been destroyed (Davidson 1889:152), and was never rebuilt.

While George and Edgar settled in San Luis Obispo, Isaac and Rensselaer remained in the Año Nuevo area. The dairy operations continued into the 1880s, at which time the holdings were subdivided among their descendants. Isaac

and his wife Hulda Emeline had three children (the fourth died in infancy): Frederick, Effie, and George. In 1878, Effie Steele married Edwin Dickerman, who was working at Waddell's Wharf. They received that portion of Isaac's ranch that now encompasses the reserve headquarters area. Their ranch was referred to by many names, including the La Punta Ranch, Cypress Point Ranch, as well as the Dickerman Ranch. Over the ensuing years, they constructed multiple buildings on their property. Timbers from the destroyed Waddell Wharf were used in the construction of a large dairy barn (see below—Dickerman Barn), and several buildings at the landing (about ¼ mile away) were moved to the ranch, including a residence and general store.

Irrigation

Following World War I, an economic depression struck the dairying business in the United States, and many small dairies went out of business. The Steele ranches were not immune, and an eventual conversion to row crops was begun. The Steele Family were pioneers in irrigation and farm conservation, and had already begun planting row crops in the early 1900s. Their irrigation system was one of the largest and earliest in the area. Agreements between the various area ranches resulted in the creation of several water supply projects. One of the first was a dam constructed to increase the capacity of Lake Elizabeth, which stored water from Whitehouse Creek and Cascade Creek. The dam was later enlarged, increasing the lake's capacity further. In 1926, William Steele entered into an agreement with Theodore Hoover, the owner of Rancho del Oso to the south, and brother of the future president, to bring water from Waddell Creek to Green Oaks Ranch. Water was also provided to other nearby ranches as a result of this project, and used to irrigate crops such as artichokes, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, strawberries, lettuce, and cabbage. Though the ranches continued to produce cheese up to the 1920s, the Steele family had shifted from dairy to field crops by the 1930s. A sprinkler irrigation system, one of the first on the coast, was put in place during this period.

The adopted daughter of Edwin Dickerman and Effie Steele, Flora, eventually married Jay Steele. Upon Flora's death, portions of the ranch were granted to the state. Their daughter Mildred married George Elliott, and they lived on the remaining property, completing some improvements to the buildings there. The remainder of the ranch was sold to the state in 1968. Isaac Chapman Steele's original ranch headquarters at Green Oaks remained in the family until 1965,

when it was sold to wholesale florists. It was later purchased by the county, then sold again to private parties.

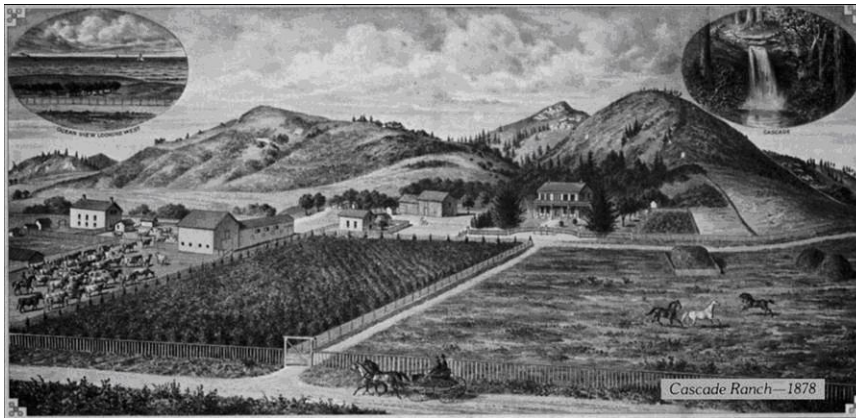
Cascade Ranch

Upon moving to the San Mateo coast, Rensselaer built a house on what would become known as Cascade Ranch as early as 1862. His wife, Clarissa Jameson, assisted greatly in the development of the dairy at Cascade Ranch. Their first child, Ella Steele, was born in Ohio, and came with the family to their new home in California. Their only son and second child, Ebenezer Steele, who was also born in Ohio (in 1847), passed away at the ranch in 1863. As a result a cemetery was established behind the ranch. Unfortunately, Clarissa also passed away, on May 31, 1866, at 42 years old. Rensselaer remarried Hattie Younglove, and together they had Rensselaer E. Steele, Jr. on November 14, 1869.

The dairy building at Cascade Ranch is where the Steeles produced much of their butter and cheese. Clarissa Steele, the driving force behind the dairy's move into cheesemaking, has even been called the "Mother of the California Cheese Industry."

The Steele ranches were well-known, and described in marked contrast to others on the coast: "[they were] . . . elegantly furnished, surrounded with shade trees and gardens, and provided with all the comforts of life" (Evans 1873:52). The Cascade Ranch was reportedly the center and coordinating ranch of the Steele Brothers partnership. The dairy building there produced much of the cheese and butter. It is not surprising that Cascade would be the focus, as Rensselaer's wife Clarissa has often been cited as the driving force behind the Steeles' move into cheese making. It was her attempts while they were living in Sonoma County that gave the Steele Brothers their entry into the cheese making industry. She has even been called the "Mother of the California Cheese Industry" (California Milk Advisory Board nd).

By the late 1860s, Rensselaer owned 1,500 head of cattle that subsisted on wild oats. During winter, Steele milked between 600 and 700 cows, though that number declined as the dry season approached. The cattle were then driven up to higher country where they remained until rains returned in November. Rensselaer also maintained a large garden behind a line of willow and other trees that included grapes, pumpkins, squash, melon, peanuts, and others. None of these crops were irrigated, but grew well with only spading and hoeing (Evans 1873). Apple, pear, fig, plum, apricot, peach, and almond trees were also grown in this garden area.



Cascade Ranch, as pictured in the book Moore & DePue's *Illustrated History of San Mateo County, California, 1878*. (San Francisco: G.T. Brown & Co, 1878.)

Rensselaer's nephew Frank Steele operated a portion of the ranch by late 1868, known as the "back ranch," consisting of 2,000 acres and 200 cows. He also began operating the main portion of the ranch during Rensselaer's failing health beginning in the mid 1870s (Lewis Publishing Company 1889; Cassiday 1889). Rensselaer passed away at his ranch on November 14, 1886, at age 78. Following his father's death, Rensselaer, Jr. acquired title to the Cascade Ranch. His daughter Ella acquired the Whitehouse Ranch.

By the 1880s, many saw bright prospects for the growth of the coastal sections of the county. In large part, this hope was driven by expectations for the completion of the Ocean Shore Railroad (Alley 1883). Rensselaer Jr. was not immune from speculation related to the hoped-for railroad. In the early 1900s, he mortgaged his ranch for \$60,000 in order to subdivide a section of the land for the proposed development named *Torquay*. He also invested heavily in the railroad, which was connected to the proposed development. The 1906 earthquake, however, put the railroad out of business, and ended the hopes of the subdivision. Rensselaer Jr. lost his investment, and was forced to sell his land in 1919 to his San Francisco attorney, Charles F. Humphrey (Steele 1948:20).

Charles Humphrey purchased two other ranches at roughly the same time, bringing his acreage to 5,200. He put roughly half of this acreage under cultivation, growing artichokes, vetch seed, tomatoes, rice, corn, and tobacco. Humphrey's son, James, managed the property and continued to operate the dairy there. The ranch, in fact, was last of the old Steele ranches to produce cheese, ending that practice sometime in the 1930s.

Following the turn-of-the century, crops including peas and oats began to be planted across much of what is now the Cascade Ranch. Nationwide, a severe economic depression struck the dairy industry following World War I. Many small dairies went out of business, and many of the Steele ranches were converted to crops. To provide reliable irrigation water, a dam was constructed to increase the capacity of Lake Elizabeth, which stored water from Whitehouse and Cascade Creeks. In the flatlands the Humphreys and the Rossi family grew artichokes, cauliflower, peas, Brussels sprouts, and cabbage. In the hilly portions they grew grain crops. In 1923, the elder Rossi, an immigrant from Italy, began leasing farmland at the ranch. His son, Rudy grew up on and farmed the ranch from the time he was a young man until his death at age 74 in 1987. He also planted a eucalyptus grove on the 90 acres that he leased. By this time (1930s), Humphrey limited his cattle to roughly 70 head of cattle a year, as they were not found to be marketable (personal communication Charles Humphrey 2003).

James Humphrey and his son Charles operated the ranch together with the Rossi's along with hired labor. Most of these laborers lived in the original dairy building (built in 1862), which had been converted into a bunkhouse. In 1956, Rudy married his second wife, Bea Tirio, who moved to the ranch. The Cascade ranch was growing fava beans, peas, flax (for linseed oil), artichokes, and Brussels sprouts. The ranch was also used for processing Brussels sprouts, as well as a labor camp for artichoke pickers. The field in front of the main Steele house was planted in artichokes during much of this period.

In 1943, a fire engulfed much of the Cascade Ranch (although not in the area currently owned by California State Parks). The fire destroyed a large barn, and several other smaller buildings, although the original 1862 dairy building was spared (as were several others). Soon thereafter, new buildings were constructed to replace those burned. For the most part, these buildings remain today, and consist of the large packing shed, smaller barn, and various small outbuildings.

Humphrey owned the property until 1962, when it was sold to Theodore Char, a resident of Hawaii, representing a group of Chinese investors. During the Charr period, the Rossi family continued to operate the ranch, as managers-in-residence. Subsequently, several potential buyers considered purchasing the property for various reasons. Many of these potential buyers, including Leynse and Associates, planned to develop the land with houses. In the mid-1980s, the State of California

became interested in acquiring the property. Although the state legislature approved funding for the purchase of the ranch by State Parks, local opposition formed for fear of the loss of important agricultural land. As a part of the legislation for acquisition of the land, the California Coastal Conservancy agreed to purchase the agricultural portion of the land, and improve its water storage and delivery system. In 1986, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) purchased 4,088 acres of the Cascade Ranch, then sold 2,914 acres to State Parks, 694 acres to the Coastal Conservancy, and 480 acres to a private enterprise. The portion of the land sold to the Coastal Conservancy was leased to individual farmers. State Parks' acquisition contained roughly half of the built environment of the original Cascade Ranch headquarters.

Año Nuevo Island Light Station

Año Nuevo Point, Pigeon Point, and Franklin Point all presented hazards to passing ships, resulting in numerous shipwrecks. One of the earliest recorded wrecks was the *Carrier Pigeon*, running aground on June 6, 1853, and led to the changing of the name of Whale to Pigeon Point. Although no lives were lost, the entire cargo was. In 1865, another clipper, the *Sir John Franklin* broke apart on the rocks on a point between Pigeon and Año Nuevo. The crew attempted to reach shore through the treacherous surf, but only three made it. As a result, the site was named Franklin Point thereafter. One of the most infamous wrecks was the *Coya*, on November 24, 1866, which hit a hidden reef in deep fog and sank quickly. Only three people out of the 30 on board survived. It was perhaps this wreck more than any other that prompted the call for a lighthouse at Año Nuevo.

In 1870, the federal government purchased Año Nuevo Island and Pigeon Point from Loren Coburn in order to build aids to navigation. A coal-oil light was constructed at Pigeon Point in 1872 and a steam fog-whistle was installed on Año Nuevo Island. The combination of the whistle and light were deemed the best way to warn the ships of danger along this stretch of coast. Two keepers were initially installed on the island, living in a small residence (Davidson 1889:152). Unfortunately, wrecks continued to occur. In 1890, a light was constructed on the island in order to add to the warning system. It consisted of an oil lens lantern mounted on top of a water tank. Maintenance of the buildings on the island was a constant problem as a result of the sea air. Fences were built to prevent the sea lions from coming into the gardens and the houses. The fast-growing herds of seals however, often overran the house. In 1914, a larger lens was installed on a steel tower, 73 feet above the water. Other improvements to the



Año Nuevo Island. Lighthouse keeper's house in the foreground, refurbished fog signal and fuel storage buildings in the rear.

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island consisted of a water catchment basin, together with a cistern and a tank.

In 1939, a fog signal diaphone replaced the earlier fog whistle on the island. By this time, the station was manned by four Coast Guard personnel, all of whom lived onsite. In 1948, the Coast Guard ordered the station discontinued, as a marker buoy with automatic light, sound, and radar reflector had replaced the lighthouse. The expense of maintaining the island was also too great, and the station was abandoned.

In 1958, the island was sold to the state for \$52,000. The state classified the island as a scientific preserve, eventually restricting public access and use in order to protect the seal breeding colonies. The northern elephant seal was hunted almost to extinction by the turn-of-the-century. The animals made a remarkable comeback. A seal was first reported on Año Nuevo Island in 1955, and the first birth was recorded in 1961. Eventually its designation was changed to a State Natural Reserve. In 1962, Stanford Research Institute was granted a temporary use permit for the island. The Institute wanted to study the seals and sea lions on the island, and planned to improve the facilities located there. Several buildings and structures were demolished during this period.

The University of California, Santa Cruz also used the island through a 10 year permit. The scientists lived in the former fuel storage building, refurbishing it to make it habitable. The fog signal building was cleaned-out and storm screens were installed to fit the building as a storage facility and bunkhouse.

Built Features Within the Park

Año Nuevo State Park Coastal Historic Structures

Dickerman Dairy Barn

In approximately 1880, the Dickermans built a dairy barn that soon became known as the Dickerman Dairy Barn. Apparently, the barn was constructed at least in part from timbers salvaged from Waddell's Wharf (including 18" planking and large piers). This 90' x 38,' three-story barn was used for milking and hay storage. It was built on a foundation of wood piers and plank flooring. Framing consisted of hand-hewn 12" x 12" squared logs with mortise and tenon joints. In the 1920s, the barn was modified in order to comply with stricter sanitation requirements. A cement floor replaced the wooden floor in the eastern portion of the building at that time. In addition, pipes and electricity were installed for automatic milking machines. The upper stories of the building were used to store equipment and feed. The barn was completely rehabilitated in the mid 1980s to serve as a Visitor Center. Currently, the building is again being modified to serve the expanded needs of interpretation at the reserve. The Dickerman Barn was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1982, as structure #82002259. Its period of significance was established as 1875-1899.

Creamery

Horace Steele, a cousin of the Steele brothers built a general store at Waddell's Landing, as well as a house. With the destruction of the wharf in 1880, Horace moved both of these buildings approximately ¼ mile away. When Effie and Edwin Dickerman acquired the ranch, they lived in the house while a newer one was being built. At that point, the old house was converted to a creamery. The first floor housed the churn and cream separator, while the upper story housed two hired hands. Several changes were made to the building over the ensuing years, including the construction of shed additions (primarily in the 1920s and 1930). The building was later used for housing ranch employees. The building gradually fell into an advanced state of disrepair. The structure is currently being rehabilitated and adapted for park operations use as a



Dickerman creamery

part of the Dickerman Dairy Barn rehabilitation project. This building appears to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.



Dickerman dairy barn, left, and rear of Dickerman-Steele-Elliott house, right.

Flora Dickerman-Steele-Elliott House

This was the house that the Dickermans had built while they were living in the old house from the landing. Built sometime after 1884, this two-story house measures 54' x 25', with a 12' x 22' addition on the southwest corner, and an 8' porch on the south front. The building rests on a concrete pier foundation, contains numerous sash windows, and a gable roof. The roof and foundation were apparently replaced in 1960. It currently serves as residence for the Supervising State Park Ranger. This building appears to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Garage

Horace Steele's store mentioned above was initially converted to a barn by the Dickermans before being dismantled in 1951. The remaining lumber was used to construct a garage northwest of the Flora Dickerman house. Today the structure measures 20' x 40' with a 4' x 8' addition. The eligibility of this building has not been evaluated.

Horse Barn

Constructed in approximately 1880, this two-story, wood-frame building rests on a wood pier foundation, and measures 55' x 27'. Several large piers from Waddell's Wharf were used in the construction of the barn. The first story housed horses, while the second story consists of a loft that was originally used for the storage of feed. Exterior siding is board and batten. Many timbers used in the interior framing are hand-hewn, 12' x 12' logs, with mortise and tenon joints. Other framing members measure 8" x 8," and 4" x 4". Flooring consists of 12" x 3" planks. A shed measuring 10' x 26' was constructed on the east end of the barn at some point. A few other modifications were made, including the construction of interior partitions and modifications of front entrance doors following state ownership. The barn was initially used to house dairy artifacts and maintenance materials. The building was recorded in 1970, 1977, and 1984. The exterior of the south side of the building was largely replaced at some point, and a new roof was put on soon thereafter. The barn is currently being rehabilitated and it will serve as an interpretive space. This building appears to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Milk Room

This small shed was built near the horse barn, approximately 100 yards from the Flora Dickerman Steele House. It is a frame

structure resting on a concrete foundation. It was referred to by many names, as its functions changed over the years. Some referred to it as the AC Delco shed. It was rebuilt recently. This building does not appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Año Nuevo State Park Inland Historic Structures

The bulk of inland historic structures remaining on Año Nuevo SP are found at the headquarters of the Cascade Ranch. This ranch contains several historically significant buildings, structures, and features. Originally, the main access road to the Cascade Ranch ran directly to the Steele House, instead of the current road. This road split the ranch between the main house and the other buildings.

The Cascade Ranch is part of California State Historic Landmark #906, registered on February 8, 1977. California State Historic Landmarks are buildings, structures, sites, or places that have been determined to have statewide historical significance. Those numbered 770 and above are automatically listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, a listing of the state's significant historical and archaeological resources. Within Año Nuevo SP is California Historic Landmark #23, the campsite of the Portolá expedition near the mouth of Gazos Creek.

Steele House

The original house built by Rensselaer Steele shortly after his arrival in 1862, this saltbox-style building has been added onto several times. The Rossi family constructed a small, two-story gable roof addition on the southeast portion of the building that served as a dining room for their hired help. Following the construction of Rensselaer's larger house, this smaller house was reportedly used as a cookhouse. This house currently serves as a park staff residence.

Rensselaer Steele/Humphrey House

This two-story house has Greek-revival elements, and also retains some New England stylistic characteristics. The front porch and second-story balcony with balustrade and pillars add to this feel. The house was reportedly built from redwood lumber milled in the Steele mill on Cascade Creek. Some reports indicate it was constructed as early as 1862, with an addition built on the rear sometime in the early 1870s, or as late as the 1880s. Others claim that it was built in 1863, following the completion of the smaller house. Still others claim it was constructed in 1872, following Rensselaer's second marriage. The house was clearly built before 1878, as



Original Rensselaer Steele house



Rensselaer Steele/Humphrey house

it appears on a lithograph by Moore and Depew of that year. Rensselaer upgraded the house several times, and in 1884, he was in the process of renovating it. During the Humphrey ownership several alterations were made, including the construction of another wing, alterations to the rear façade, removal of balconies, window changes, and addition of new siding. Charles Humphrey's son and his wife Bonnie were the next to occupy the house, with further alterations made (Steele 1974).

The house is listed as San Mateo County Historic Landmark H-97 which recognizes its historical importance. It is currently being used as a park staff residence.

Humphrey Cottage

This house has also been referred to by several names. What appears to be the original portion contains board and batten siding, similar to the first Steele house on the property. An addition contains a lower-pitch roof, clapboard siding, and newer windows. Charles Humphrey reportedly used it as an office during his ownership of the ranch. It has not been evaluated for eligibility for listing on the NRHP. This structure is currently being used for storage.



Horse barn

Horse Barn

This building was constructed c. 1900. It contains two stories, with horse stables and a carriage room on the first floor, and a hay loft on the second. The gable roof contains two shed dormers on the west side, built for decorative purposes only. The building shares some stylistic attributes with the Steele/Humphrey House, such as gable roof, return cornices, and clapboard siding. The Rossi family completed some limited upgrades to the building, including installing new electrical lines, new flooring, and a new hay lift on the south side of the building, for ease in loading hay. The original hay lift, located on the north side of the barn was found to be too high to easily load hay from trucks. Originally, hay was hauled into the barn through this lift by man and horsepower, using a pulley system. A dump chute was constructed on the east side of the building sometime during the 1950s. The building retains a remarkable level of historic fabric, including horse stalls, trough, interior and exterior sheathing, etc. A historic structures report was completed on the barn in 2003, and a temporary roof was installed in 2004. The building is eligible for listing in the NRHP. It is in need of stabilization measures, including a new roof, foundation repair, and replacement of several framing members (sill plate, studs, etc.). It is currently being used for storage and horse boarding.

Dairy Building

The dairy building, constructed in 1862, is still standing, although not on State Park property. It was originally three-stories, while it is only two today. The building was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Other Features

Año Nuevo State Park, Coastal Area

Bickford Property

This property includes a one-room building constructed with brick and bridge timbers in the 1960s.

Island and Light Station

Today, only three buildings remain standing from the light station:

Fog Signal Building: This building consists of two parts, one built in 1883, and a later building constructed in 1899 to house newer fog signal equipment. The two buildings were connected by a gallery. The building is in good condition, and has been preserved by U.C. Santa Cruz researchers. Recent recommendations (Bischoff 2005) call for the preservation of this building.

Keepers Dwelling: Constructed in a New England style, the Keeper's Dwelling is a two-story building, consisting of two parts (original section built in 1872, and a 1906 addition). The building is deteriorating rapidly due to neglect, as well as seal activity. It has also been inhabited by several bird species as nesting habitat.

Fuel Storage Building: This reinforced concrete building was constructed in 1908, and contained one iron door entrance and two small windows. It is deteriorating rapidly.

The island also contains numerous ruins from other structures and features, including the light tower, boathouse foundation, cistern, water-shed, and water tank foundations. The entire island was surveyed for prehistoric archaeological resources in 1984, yet none were found.

Franklin Point

This geographic feature north of Año Nuevo Point was named for the clipper *Sir John Franklin*, which was wrecked at the point on January 17, 1865. The captain and 11 sailors

drowned, and were buried at the point. Subsequent shipwreck victims were also buried at Franklin Point (including the Coya in 1866). A small graveyard existed on the point thereafter. Because human remains were periodically unearthed over the ensuing years, in 2004 a project was completed to rebury known burials and a protective material was placed over the area. A boardwalk now directs pedestrian traffic.

Historic Refuse Deposit at Año Nuevo Creek

A large, well-stratified deposit of historic refuse is located adjacent to the park headquarters near Año Nuevo Creek. It was clearly the dump for the ranch for many years. This refuse deposit should be protected.

Mission Outpost Foundation

A stone foundation for an adobe building, likely representing an aspect of the Santa Cruz Mission outpost located near Punta del Año Nuevo, was re-discovered in 2003. Two sections of the foundation were uncovered during this excavation. The foundation was found to extend under the horse barn. Following recordation, the foundation was reburied to protect it from vehicle and pedestrian traffic. This foundation should be preserved in place, and protected from further damage. Further research should be performed on the activities surrounding this structure. It should also be interpreted to the public.

Año Nuevo State Park, Inland Area

Steele Family Cemetery/Chinese Community Burial Site

The cemetery behind the headquarters of the Cascade Ranch was apparently a Steele family burial plot. The 8' x 14' cemetery was enclosed by red brick. From the cemetery, a road continued up the canyon to the Cascade Falls and various water diversion basins and reservoirs.

Cascade Creek Water Works

Water was diverted via wooden pipes from Cascade Creek Falls at a rockwork pond. Later, another dam was constructed on the creek, lower than the original. Water was also diverted from this dam to the ranch.

Lake Elizabeth

This large reservoir (actually expanded from natural size) was created following the construction of a dam in 1918, by owners of the Cascade Ranch. In 1921, the lake was

expanded further. Some sources claim that it was created in 1930, and named for the owner of the ranch at that time, Mrs. Elizabeth Humphrey. In the 1970s, the capacity of the reservoir was reduced following state ownership. A large concrete foundation is located west of the lake, which may represent a large packing shed for artichokes and Brussels sprouts, built sometime in the 1930s or 1940s.

Chandler Reservoir

This lake was constructed in the 1920s for Charles Humphrey, and was fed by a pipeline from Whitehouse Creek. The dam and pipeline were actually constructed by members of the Steele family who were working for Humphrey at that time.

Additional features in the park include the dog run (recent), corral adjacent to the horse barn (recent), sawmill sites in Cascade Canyon, and the swimming pool.

Other Areas of the Cascade Ranch

Back Ranch: Frank Steele leased what was known as the back ranch (as it was inland from the Cascade Ranch) from 1872 to 1880. The Back Ranch included the Old Womans Creek area. By this time, the ranch reportedly consisted of 2,000 acres and 200 dairy cows. For many years, until recently, a house remained on the north side of White House Creek, attributed to Frank Steele. The house was two-stories, and after it was abandoned, portions of it were stripped for use on other buildings on the ranch under the Humphrey ownership.

Whitehouse Ranch: During Graham's ownership of the Año Nuevo rancho, a two-story house was built by his lessee, Van Houghton, in 1852 to replace an earlier one that had burned. The new house was painted white, and became known as the White House, giving the name for the surrounding area. The house was a landmark for years, and mariners apparently used it for reckoning distance to San Francisco prior to the construction of a lighthouse. Following Graham's sale of the property, Steele partner Gushee assumed the responsibility for the dairy established in this location, and lived in the house. Gushee sold his property in 1872 to B. M. Scofield, who immediately sold it to Rensselaer Steele. Rensselaer's brother Horace lived at the ranch, and ran a dairy there. After his death, the ranch passed to Rensselaer's daughter, Ella. In 1880, she married Captain Rutherford H. Brown. The White House was

Whitehouse Creek,
Whitehouse Road, and
Whitehouse Canyon
were named after a
house built during the
time Isaac Graham
owned Año Nuevo
Rancho. The white
house was visible from a
distance, and travelers
by land and sea used it
as a landmark for years.

moved 100 feet to the northeast, and a new house was built for the couple on the site of the old White House. Apparently, at that time eucalyptus trees were planted, thereby obstructing the view of the house from the ocean. The new house was an elaborate structure, built in Victorian Gothic style. Brown constructed another five buildings on the ranch, and leased it to J. H. Pratt at some point. Brown died in 1897, and the land was divided among his heirs. His wife remained at the newer White House until her death in 1919. Brown's Victorian Gothic White House burned in 1961, and Graham's original White House burned in 1976.

Much of the land that was known as Whitehouse Ranch was used extensively for grazing. There is ample evidence for the ranching of this area, as fences and roads remain in several places. A concrete foundation for some type of reservoir is located immediately off of the Whitehouse Road, close to the intersection with Highway 1.

Whitehouse Canyon: This area contains the probable site of "Casa Grande," a large Native California Indian village where a round house large enough to house 200 people stood. The site was described in the journals from the Portolá expedition. This roundhouse was apparently unlike other structures found in Native California Indian villages along the coast of California. It was likely a ceremonial structure, perhaps for dances. In this document, this area is known as Quiroste Valley.

Whitehouse Creek Dam: On Whitehouse Creek itself, a large and elaborate concrete dam was constructed at an unknown date. The dam was reinforced with rebar, and was constructed using numerous forms. A pipeline ran from the dam downstream, and likely ran to Quiroste Valley. A road also led from below the dam up to another road which led to a clearing. Most likely, this dam and pipeline provided water to the Quiroste Valley, which was the home of Frank Steele for many years. It may have been built by Mr. Steele, or for him.

Museum Collections

The museum collections at the park consist of a variety of objects, documents, and photographs related to the park's natural and cultural history. These include taxidermied animal specimens, geological specimens, animal bones and skeletons, and miscellaneous historic objects related to the Steele Ranch. These objects are located in the Visitor Center,

in the park office, and at the Docent Roost (a volunteer interpretive staff facility located between the Visitor Center and the former Wildlife Protection Area). Natural and cultural history reference books are located in the park office and at the Docent Roost.

AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Scenic Resources

Scenic resources often provide a unique sense of place to an individual park, as well as to specific areas within a park unit. Scenery can be defined as the general appearance of a place and the features of its views or landscapes. It consists of both biophysical elements (landforms, water, and vegetation) and cultural, or manmade, elements. Many of the resources called out as "scenery" or "scenic resources" would also be considered cultural landscape features in many instances (viewsheds, landforms, water, vegetation, manmade elements, etc.) and should be surveyed and evaluated as such prior to determining potential impacts to these resources. Scenic quality is an important and valuable resource, especially on public lands. Many people value the quality of the scenery and have high expectations of scenic quality, especially when visiting California State Parks.

The visual quality and rural character of southern coastal San Mateo County are very important not only for visitors to the parks, but also on a local, regional and state level, as indicated in local and regional land use plans (such as the San Mateo County General Plan and Local Coastal Program), and the state scenic highway designation of this segment of Highway 1. The scenic views from the highway are where many people initially experience this spectacular landscape. The area offers a variety of landforms and vegetation, as well as rich contrasts between wide marine terraces and high ridges, and the ocean and dry chaparral areas near lush forests. Highway 1 offers extensive panoramic views of the surrounding landscape and serves as the gateway to the park. The scenic corridor along the roadway provides views of scenic features that are important to the region such as the ocean, bluffs, upland forested areas, natural lands, and Año Nuevo Island.

Año Nuevo State Park, Coastal Areas

The coastal areas of Año Nuevo SP have been recognized for its scenic qualities, natural beauty, and panoramic vistas, especially views of the expansive coastline and ridgelines surrounding the park. The lack of development, sense of

Sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Cruz Mountains can be seen from many points along the Año Nuevo coast.

remoteness and wildness within and surrounding the unit, pinniped population, sand dunes, and creek and wetland areas are considered valuable scenic resources.

The coastal area on the western side of the Santa Cruz Mountains is heavily influenced by marine weather patterns. Summer fog is frequent, producing a cool, misty, and quiet quality to the park. Along with a variety of weather conditions (such as fog, wind, and rain), the changing seasons contribute to a transformation of vegetation in form, texture, and color. The most noticeable are the colorful annual wildflowers and the changing hues of deciduous vegetation and grasses which are especially pronounced in the autumn and spring.

There are a variety of scenic resources to experience at Año Nuevo SP's coastal areas. The landscape is characterized by sandy beaches, sand dunes, rocky shorelines with tidepools, coastal terraces with scattered coyote brush and grasslands, meandering creeks, and freshwater wetlands with abundant wildlife habitat. Panoramic vistas include the Pacific Ocean and Santa Cruz Mountains, windswept beaches and dunes, historic ranch structures, and a variety of wildlife, including the elephant seals, sea lions, and other marine mammals.

Vista points and panoramic views are found throughout the coastal area of the park. There are expansive views of the Pacific Ocean and coastline toward the west, especially from the rocky outcrops. To the east, there are views of the interior of the park, east of Highway 1, as the coastal terrace increases in elevation to merge with the hills and steep slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Water is a dominant feature of the Año Nuevo SP coast. The Pacific Ocean is a primary focal point, along with the perennial streams (Green Oaks Creek, Whitehouse Creek, and Cascade Creek) and a freshwater pond that provides riparian and wetland habitat and calm, open water views.

Windbreaks of Monterey cypress along the Cascade Creek Trail are remnants of the former agricultural uses of the property and, together with the historic Steele Ranch structures (Dickerman Barn, Horse Barn, and Creamery), add to the rural character of the park.

Año Nuevo State Park, Inland Areas

The landscape in the eastern portion of Año Nuevo SP is characterized by a mosaic of vegetation, including grassy marine terraces with scattered coyote brush, meandering

creeks containing lush riparian corridors, grasslands with seasonal wildflowers, shady and cool Douglas-fir and redwood forests, wetlands harboring abundant wildlife habitat with sedges and rushes, and drier sites with knobcone pine.

Vista points and panoramic views are primarily found along the areas of higher elevation and open vegetation along the roads and trails. There are expansive views of the Pacific Ocean toward the west and views of the interior of the park to the east as the landform gains elevation and the vegetation changes from coastal scrub to forest.

Inland Año Nuevo SP contains four perennial streams: Gazos Creek, Old Womans Creek, Whitehouse Creek, and Cascade Creek. These creeks support riparian environments with a mix of vegetation that displays an ever-changing variety of color, form, and texture throughout the seasons. Two reservoirs, Lake Elizabeth and Lake Chandler, provide calm open water views and wetland habitat.

Auditory Resources

The predominant sounds at Año Nuevo SP's coast are natural: the ocean waves and surf, wind, birds, and marine mammals such as the northern elephant seals and sea lions. During breeding season, the dominant presence of the elephant seals and sea lions is marked not only by their sheer numbers but also by their loud collective vocalizations and sounds of the battles amongst the males. Males establish dominance to determine who does the majority of the mating in a harem. The first phase is a distinctive low-frequency, guttural vocalization. The dominance battle can progress to a noisy bloody physical attack between males. Mothers and pups learn to recognize each other by vocalizations and sniffing immediately after birth. Their vocalizations are critical, since territorial disputes and stormy surf conditions can separate a mother and its pup and they may only find each other again by recognizing each other's call. These distinctive sounds are part of the ambience of the Año Nuevo Point area.

There is also some noise produced by traffic from Highway 1 to the east and from various visitor activities, including school groups.

The predominant sounds in the eastern area of Año Nuevo SP are also natural ones: wind in the trees, birds and other wildlife, and moving water. Traffic noise is limited to that occurring on Highway 1.

The riparian areas along Año Nuevo SP's four perennial streams provide ever-changing color, form, and texture, and the peaceful sound of running water.



INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION RESOURCES

Regional Interpretation Conditions

The regional interpretive study area extends from San Gregorio in the north to the city of Santa Cruz in the south, and from the ocean in the west to the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains in the east. This area was chosen to reflect common park visitor access routes along the coast Highway 1 and the interior Highways 17, 92, and 84. The area is rich in interpretation sites, including state parks, county parks, natural land preserves, and a private resort.

Major interpretation topics in the regional interpretive study area are redwood ecology, logging, preservation, and recreation; coastal and sustainable agriculture, including dairying and ranching; maritime exploration and commerce; marine life and its protection, including marine mammals and tidepools; wetlands; Native California Indians; the Santa Cruz Mission; special status species; and geology.

Following is a list of interpretation and education opportunities in the regional study area, with their primary topics, listed roughly north to south:

- Memorial Park, San Mateo County: redwood ecology
- Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, Pescadero State Beach: coastal wetland ecology
- Butano State Park: plant communities, nocturnal animals, and amphibians
- Cloverdale Coastal Ranches (Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)): habitat restoration, land stewardship, sustainable agriculture, and special status species
- Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park: the lighthouse, the keeper's house, the Fresnel lens, the many shipwrecks, other places to visit, and the California Coastal Trail
- Exploring New Horizons Outdoor School (located at Pigeon Point, with field trips to other area parks): marine biology, redwood ecology, botany, zoology, geology, and coastal cultural history
- Blue House Farm (located on Cloverdale Coastal Ranches): "where food comes from" and organic sustainable agriculture
- Costanoa Resort: Native California Indian history, coastal ecology, bird, and plant and animal life
- Pie Ranch (located next to POST's Green Oaks Ranch, with three- year option): "the full cycle of food



Wilder Ranch SP, about a half-hour south of Año Nuevo interprets coastal dairy ranching c. 1900.

production," sustainable agriculture, and programs for inner-city teens

- Big Basin Redwoods State Park: redwood ecology, homesteading, logging, preservation and recreation; geology; plant communities; animal adaptations; and the Civilian Conservation Corps
- Natural Bridges State Beach: coast ecology and geology, and monarch butterflies
- Wilder Ranch State Park: dairy ranching, the Ohlones, Mexican land grant history, plant communities, preservation, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park: Native California Indian experience at the Mission, secularization of the mission, and early American history at Santa Cruz
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: various interpretation, education, and research programs that promote understanding, support and participation in the protection and conservation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Park Interpretation Conditions

Año Nuevo State Park, Coastal Area

Año Nuevo SP's coast is a major mainland rookery for the northern elephant seal, and the interpretive program has attracted increasing interest every winter for the past 19 years. Año Nuevo SP's coast is internationally renowned for its interpretive program. The park has an annual visitation rate of over 139,237 persons per year. Visitors come to this reserve primarily to experience the elephant seals in their natural habitat.

The elephant seals may be seen year-round, but the winter birthing and breeding season attracts the most seals and people by far. During this season, December 15 through March 31, visitor access to the former Wildlife Protection Area is available only by guided walks.

Because of the elephant seals' dramatic size, appearance, and behavior, Año Nuevo SP's coast (formerly the Año Nuevo SNR) is California State Parks' most popular site for naturalist-guided walks and marine education. Up to 48,000 people purchase tickets annually to take the winter seal walks and 15,000-20,000 people are unable to make reservations each year due to demand exceeding current tour capacity.

Advance reservations are recommended for walks, particularly for those who hope to see the seals during the winter breeding season.

Interpretive Facilities

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center and bookstore occupy the former dairy barn of the Dickerman-Steele ranch complex. It underwent a major renovation in 2007/2008, and, along with two other rehabilitated historic buildings, was transformed into the new Marine Education Center.

Restrooms, drinking water, and picnic tables are available near the Visitor Center only.

Marine Education Center

California State Parks, the California State Parks Foundation, and the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association cooperated in developing a Marine Education Center at Año Nuevo SP to expand and enhance the former Visitor Center. Since previous facilities at the park were not adequate to serve increasing numbers of visitors, the Marine Education Center now meets the growing needs for interpretation and docent training. The Center makes adaptive use of three existing historic structures (the Dairy Barn, the Horse Barn, and the Creamery), originally a part of the historic Dickerman-Steele Dairy Ranch. The February 2005 "Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve Marine Education Center Interpretive Plan" details themes and media for the center.

The Marine Education Center provide spaces for interpretive exhibits, educational facilities for school programs and interpretive presentations, as well as an administrative center for the program complete with a meeting room, offices and perhaps a small concession.

Exhibits installed in the Dickerman barn in 2007/2008 focus primarily on the Northern elephant seal. A section also interprets the intertidal zone, including birds, geology, tidepools, and prehistoric use,

Exterior panels provide recreation and orientation information, and interpret the area's cultural history.

Outdoor Interpretive Panels

Outdoor interpretive panels are located at eight places in the Reserve.



- Point Arena Shipwreck display on the Año Nuevo Point Trail - one panel on shipwrecks along the coast
- Pond Interpretive Deck at the Año Pond - three panels on wetland habitat, birds and San Francisco garter snake/red legged frog.
- Año Point Trail ¼ mile from staging area - two panels on night time animals and raptors
- Staging Area Overlook - one panel on Año Nuevo Bay
- Staging Area - one large display on pinnipeds and two panels on Native California Indians and sand movement
- Pole 1 beach overlook - one panel on geology
- Thrust Fault - one panel on grey whales
- The Cascade Creek, South Whitehouse Creek and North Whitehouse Creek trailheads - three panels on coastal terrace prairies

The Docent Roost

The Docent Roost is a small building located halfway along the Año Nuevo Point Trail where docents can rest and prepare for meeting their tour group. The Roost has a small library and a kitchen. It is not in itself a public interpretive facility, but it does provide important support for interpretive programs.

Interpretive Programs

Interpretive School Programs

School-group Guided Tours:

About 18,000 school children participate in organized docent-led seal walks during the winter seal breeding season. School groups are generally 20 students plus two required chaperones. Teachers receive teacher guides with lesson plans on the elephant seals to study with their students before their visit to the coastal area of the park. The school outreach program closely follows the California Educational Standards.

PORTS Distance-Learning Program:

The California State Parks "Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students" (PORTS) program is a collaborative effort between public schools and California State Parks. By using the California's K-12 High-Speed Network (HSN, a high-speed network connecting California's public schools) PORTS is able to deliver live two-way videoconference presentations to classrooms from parks throughout the state. PORTS also provides fully developed units of study that furnish support,



structure, preparation, and follow-up for these live presentations. All PORTS programs are themed-based and address academic content standards in the context of California State Parks.

The Santa Cruz District PORTS program focuses on the northern elephant seal rookery at Año Nuevo Island. It is designed to fulfill 7th grade science content standards on evolution, and can also be adapted for other grades. This live interactive program is given via videoconferencing equipment and connects classrooms throughout the state with the PORTS studio at Seacliff State Beach. Students interact with interpreters and view live video of the elephant seals on Año Nuevo Island as part of the program. PORTS allows students, regardless of their geographic location or economic status, to talk face to face with interpreters about Año Nuevo.

The program is designed to serve 10,000 students a year per each 1500 hours of interpreter time. Overwhelming classroom demand already exists for PORTS programs. It has proven to be a very popular program; the main limitation on the numbers of students served has been due to limited interpreter availability.



Volunteer docent naturalists in bright red jackets lead elephant seal walks or rove in the viewing areas answering questions. The elephant seal costume is used for school groups and special events.

General Public Programs

Over two hundred volunteer docent naturalists conduct guided walks from the Visitor Center to Año Nuevo Point during the elephant seal's winter breeding season, December 15–March 31. During this season, visitors are only allowed in the Año Nuevo Point area on guided walks.

The reserve offers naturalist-guided walks daily during the breeding season. These popular three-mile walks over rolling sand dunes last about two and a half hours and are considered moderately strenuous. “Equal-access Guided Walks” are available by reservation on breeding-season weekends. A wheelchair-accessible bus is used to transport attendees to the viewing area.

During the molting season, April 1–August 31, and the juvenile haul-out season, September 1 to November 30, the Año Nuevo Point area is open for self-guided hiking by visitor permit only. Visitors must obtain a free visitor permit from the entrance station. No reservations are required and no guided walks are offered. The park has a Roving Naturalist Program to offer personal interpretation.

There are several terrestrial, freshwater, and marine species along the coast that need special protection, including the

San Francisco garter snake, the snowy plover, and the sea otter. The park has a long-standing successful program of using the elephant seal tours and other interpretation as a way of educating the public about these and the park's many other resources, and enlisting public support for protecting these resources.

Remote Interpretation

The reach of Año Nuevo SP interpretation and education goes beyond the borders of the park. Besides the PORTS programs for school groups mentioned above, Año Nuevo SP maintains an excellent set of interpretive webpages on the California State Parks website. The webpages have the expected basic park visit logistics and tour booking information, and also go far beyond the basics with well-written interpretive information, illustrated with many good photos, on the northern elephant seals, other park animals, and the plants, geology, and history of the region. Website visitors can play audio tracks of various elephant seal sounds, while reading information on why these sounds are important communication tools, and connect to a live "Seal Cam" on Año Nuevo Island (when available.)

Interpretation Opportunities

- Recent scientific and historical studies have provided new information which can be interpreted:
 - Archeological studies of coastal middens have provided more information on the early park inhabitants, and also on the prehistoric ranges of fur seals and northern elephant seals.
 - Further information on Franklin Point shipwrecks and the sailors and passengers buried at the point has been uncovered in archeological and historical studies the past few years.
 - Steller sea lions and northern elephant seals are being studied intensively, and intriguing new information has been and probably will continue to be found on these marine mammals.
 - The research being done on the Año Nuevo Island Natural Reserve by University of California (UC) scientists provides ongoing information for interpretation, as well as an opportunity to interpret the UC Natural Reserve, and how the scientific research is conducted.
- Important park management messages to interpret include:

- the effects of global climate change on the park and measures to limit climate change;
- historic resource preservation at the Dickerman-Steele Ranch buildings and Franklin Point;
- conservation of species of special concern at the park;
- Public safety messages, especially regarding the elephant seals and hazardous cliff edges.

Interpretation Constraints

- The harsh marine environment of strong winds, sand, winter storms, and corrosive salt air affect both interpretive programs and facilities. Among other effects on interpretation, the environment has limited the use of the Seal Cam, rendering the images indecipherable on stormy days, and causing frequent mechanical problems.
- A Natural Preserve is designated for the Año Nuevo coast to provide wildlife viewing opportunities and minimize disturbance to the animals in their natural habitat. Visitor entry into the Año Nuevo Point area is regulated year-round. The type of public access allowed (guided only, self-guided, or prohibited) is determined by the seasonal activity of the elephant seals.
- Dune and wetland areas are fragile, and some of the important resources to interpret are located in or accessed via these areas; this may limit interpretive walks and self-guided trails in some instances.
- Visitor access to the Año Nuevo Point area is closed during the pre-breeding season, December 1-14, when pregnant female elephant seals and adult males begin to arrive on the beaches and form harems.
- Full tour bookings and the remoteness of the park limit the number of potential school groups and public visitors who are able to participate in guided elephant seal walks.

Año Nuevo State Park, Inland Area

Interpretive Programs and Facilities

There is no existing interpretation at the Año Nuevo SP inland area.

Interpretation Opportunities

- The inland area has not been opened to the public. Its resources and stories will provide many opportunities



for interpretation. Important resources and stories to interpret include:

- Quiroste Valley, site of a large and influential native California Indian village at the time of Portolá's visit, and later the source of an important resistance to the Spanish mission system.
 - Cascade Ranch, with several extant historic dairy-ranch era buildings, site of early cheese making in the Central Coast area, and also early conversion to row crops as the farming economy changed.
 - Cascade Falls, a short hike from Cascade Ranch—a historic site as well as a beautiful natural and aesthetic resource.
 - The recreation opportunities provided by the network of trails linking Año Nuevo SP with other public lands.
 - Lake Elizabeth, which, though man-made, provides habitat for several special status species.
- There will be more sites for trailhead and wayside exhibits as new trails are developed and opened to the public.
 - Important park management messages to interpret include:
 - the effects of global climate change on the park and measures to limit climate change;
 - historic resource preservation and restoration at Cascade Ranch and Quiroste Valley;
 - conservation of species of special status at the park;
 - public safety messages such as bringing adequate water for long hikes on the regional trail system.

Interpretation Constraints

- The historic building area at Cascade Ranch must be used in a manner consistent with department cultural resources policy.
- Quiroste Valley, an important site for Native California Indian interpretation, is a moderate to strenuous hike from the proposed trailhead.
- Quiroste Valley is an important cultural landscape. Preserving the historic context of the valley will limit structures for interpretation in the valley.



Dune trails offer access to wildlife viewing and beach-related recreation activities.

- Interpretation of Quiroste Valley must be planned with input from appropriate Native California Indian groups, to ensure cultural sensitivity.

RECREATION RESOURCES

Since the original acquisition of the land that established the former Año Nuevo SNR, the general pattern and intensity of visitor use in this area has been popular coastal day use tours and hiking to observe the elephant seals at Año Nuevo Point and Island, moderate day use picnicking, coastal hiking, beach-related recreation at Gazos Beach and Año Nuevo Bay, and fishing at Gazos Beach. Although there are no formal trailhead facilities for the inland portion of the park, existing access to the inland backcountry areas is available from adjacent Butano SP and other nearby regional trailheads. Low intensity trail use and trail camping are the primary recreation activities in backcountry areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains region.

For information on statewide and regional recreation needs, see Demographics, Trends and Projections at the end of this chapter.

Visitor Support and Orientation

Visitor support includes facilities such as visitor centers, picnic areas, restrooms, day use parking areas, wildlife viewing areas, coastal vista points, and trailheads. These facilities serve the coastal needs of park visitors and enhance their coastal experience in the park, including the popular elephant seal tours. The park has a well-defined main entrance and arrival point from State Highway 1. Vehicular access to all visitor facilities is located along the seaward side of the highway. The main entrance provides access to the primary park facilities at the southern end of the coastal strip. A secondary road, Gazos Creek Road, forms part of the park's northern boundary between Año Nuevo SP and Butano SP. This provides access to the backcountry areas of the Gazos Creek watershed even though there are no formal existing park facilities for the inland park areas. There is a Cascade Falls trailhead at Cascade Ranch but there are no formal trailhead facilities.

Trail Use

Trail use in Año Nuevo SP is a primary recreation activity and the primary way to explore the various areas of the park. The trail network includes coastal hiking-only trails and inland regional multi-use trails (for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use) providing a variety of experiences in the park's many natural environments. The regional trail network provides connections to the Santa Cruz Mountains and coastal regional natural areas that include other state parks and public natural land properties. Existing hiking and mountain biking access to regional trails is from adjacent Santa Cruz Mountains areas and Butano SP. Equestrian trail access is available from regional Santa Cruz Mountains trailheads. There are several at several locations in Big Basin Redwoods SP. The nearest equestrian trailhead to Año Nuevo SP is about five miles away at the coastal Rancho del Oso area of Big Basin Redwoods SP.

Fishing

The coastal access and parking on the north side of the mouth of Gazos Creek has served popular surf fishing activity along Gazos Beach. The principal fishery in this area is the summertime striped bass run, but redbtail surfperch, silver surfperch, and rockfish have also been caught. Implementation actions of the Marine Life Protection Act established the Año Nuevo coast as a part of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in 2007. The purpose of an MPA, is to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. As a result, shoreline fishing is no longer allowed south of Gazos Creek.

Regionally, the San Mateo County and Santa Cruz shoreline, from Martin's Beach to the Santa Cruz Pier, is made up of small, half-moon-shaped sandy beaches nestled between extensive rocky, tide-pool areas. A majority of fishing in this region is by rock fishermen. Rock fish species include calico surfperch, rainbow surfperch, kelp greenling, walleye surfperch, and cabezon.

Camping

There are no existing camping opportunities at Año Nuevo SP, however, there are existing camping opportunities in the Santa Cruz Mountains region. The nearest state park campgrounds in the region are north on Cloverdale Road at

Año Nuevo SP connects to a regional trail network, including coastal hiking-only trails, and inland multi-use trails. There are currently no formal trailhead facilities on the inland side of Highway 1.



Butano SP (approximately 2.5 miles away), north on Highway 1 at Half Moon Bay SB (approximately 25 miles away), and south on Highway 1 at the Rancho del Oso campground (approximately 5 miles away) in Big Basin Redwoods SP. Additional inland regional forested campgrounds are available at Big Basin Redwoods SP, Portolá Redwoods SP and Henry Cowell Redwoods SP. There are also coastal campgrounds at New Brighton SB, Seacliff SB, and Sunset SB near Santa Cruz. Costanoa, a private resort along Highway 1 adjacent to Año Nuevo SP, offers a variety of overnight accommodations including tent cabins, RV campsites, and equestrian campsites.

There are also hike-in and equestrian ride-in trail camps located in the Santa Cruz Mountains regional natural lands network which offers an alternative remote backcountry experience.

There is growing interest and demand for alternatives to traditional tent camping as the average age of the general population increases. Such alternatives include cabins, tent cabins, and yurts that allow park visitors to enjoy overnight stays without having to set up camps or invest in camping gear. This alternative would also provide additional accommodations for visitors with special needs and accommodations for overnight park visits outside of the traditional summer peak season (especially during variable weather conditions).

As nearby Bay Area and park visitor demographics continue to evolve, recreation in Año Nuevo SP will need to respond to those demographic changes while still preserving the park's vital and character-defining resources. This may include adding group facilities for visitors who prefer recreation with more social interaction. To accommodate demographic changes and recreation preferences, clusters of nearby state parks in a region may also be managed in such a way to identify those parks with greater opportunities or facilities for group or other specialized uses, while other parks are identified for more individual or family use. The coastal portion of the park will remain generally low intensity day use (except for the Visitor Center area) due to the Natural Preserve sub-classification and its sensitive resources as well as the area's high visibility from the highway. Since no formal visitor facilities exist in the inland portion of the park, any new or significant recreation opportunities would be provided there.

Emerging Recreation such as Geocaching

Geocaching is a new and developing sport where participants use global positioning system (GPS) receivers to locate caches hidden in various locations by other GPS users. The GPS coordinates of the caches are posted on the internet (www.geocaching.com) so that other GPS users can find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with various rewards—from trinkets to pointing out an exceptional view seen from that particular location. Participants are urged by geocache advocates to practice the sport in an honorable and non-destructive manner. Laws, policies, and guidelines are in place in both National and State Parks which provide park managers authority to manage activities such as geocaching. As this type of sport gains in popularity and concerns for geocache activity near sensitive resource areas increase, park managers may need additional resources and direction. Geocaching is an activity that occurs at adjacent Butano SP.

As Bay Area and park visitor demographics change, park management will need to respond to changing recreation demands without compromising the park's resources.

2.5 PARK SUPPORT

There are many volunteer groups, nonprofit agencies, advocacy groups, and cooperative associations that assist with operations, maintenance, and interpretation at Año Nuevo SP.

The **California State Parks Foundation** is dedicated to natural and cultural resource preservation throughout California. The foundation works with citizens, lawmakers, and community and business leaders, to acquire adequate funding and protection of park resources.

At Año Nuevo SP, State Parks has a Memorandum of Understanding with **Cascade Ranch Historic Farm (CRHF)**, a nonprofit group which owns over 400 acres of agricultural land adjacent to the park's Cascade Ranch historic property. The CRHF spits ownership of the historic area ranch buildings with California State Parks, with common missions of environmental protection, education, historic preservation, and serving the public. State Parks and CRHF have agreed to coordinate in public outreach and education efforts at Año Nuevo SP and in public access and circulation arrangements at the inland portions of Año Nuevo SP. The CRHF helps perpetuate farming on the coast by growing artichokes and other crops traditionally grown in coastal areas.



The **Horse Patrol Program** consists of equestrian volunteers who assist in interpreting and protecting the north end of the Año Nuevo coast. Volunteers attend training given by State Parks staff and also demonstrate their equestrian skills. The program is serving a need in protecting the coast and providing interpretive information to the public.

The **Pescadero Conservation Alliance** (PCA) is a nonprofit group working to restore the ecological health of the San Mateo coast. Their restoration program includes coastal restoration projects and science education. The PCA has implemented projects to remove non-native plants in Año Nuevo SP.

The **San Mateo Coast Natural History Association** (SMCNHA) supports the interpretive programs at state parks in San Mateo and San Francisco counties. The SMCNHA supports over 300 state park volunteers and staff to offer educational and interpretive activities to park visitors. The association has worked with park staff and the California State Parks Foundation to secure funding for the Año Nuevo Marine Education Center. Some creative annual events the association sponsors include "Sealabration" at Año Nuevo SP. State Parks volunteers and staff are able to offer educational and interpretive activities to the park visitors due to this group's support.

The **Santa Cruz Bird Club** sponsors birding walks in and around Santa Cruz County, boat trips on Monterey Bay, summer picnics and annual dinners, and meetings September through May featuring informative, illustrated talks for birders on wild birds and related topics.

The **Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregional Council** is a nonprofit public benefit corporation whose purpose is to conserve native plant and animal biodiversity in the Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregion. The Bioregional Council works to preserve and restore native biological diversity and processes through the sharing of information, the coordination of activities, the fostering of biological research, the instigation of mutually supported land conservation or habitat enhancement projects, and public education efforts. Members of the Bioregional Council include individuals from state and federal resource management agencies, local governments, land trusts, open space districts, educational institutions, conservation groups, and private properties.

The **Save-the-Redwoods-League** funds environmental restoration, supports research to expand knowledge about the redwood forest, and educates the public about the

redwoods and the redwood forest ecosystem in addition to contributing to the permanent protection of hundreds of thousands of acres of redwood forest. The League supported the acquisition of the redwood forest portion of the Cascade Ranch acquisition.

The **Sempervirens Fund** preserves and protects the natural character of California's Santa Cruz Mountains and encourages appropriate public enjoyment of this environment. The membership of the Sempervirens Fund consists of thousands of individuals worldwide who care about protecting redwood forest lands and making them available for public enjoyment. These members make tax-deductible donations to the Sempervirens Fund, which uses the money to buy threatened redwood forest lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains region. The fund fosters public participation in activities such as reforestation and trail projects.

The **Wildlands Restoration Team** is a volunteer-based organization dedicated to preserving the rich biodiversity of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Volunteers have worked at Año Nuevo SP to eradicate exotic plants such as eucalyptus, pampas grass, and hypericum.

2.6 PLANNING INFLUENCES

Planning for State Parks must be extensive to consider issues that cross statewide, regional, and local boundaries. Federal, state, county, and community agencies are responsible for providing oversight and review of various planning-related policies and laws. Additionally, local planning information is essential in assisting State Parks with relevant information regarding natural, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources, existing land uses, and education and interpretation programs pertinent to the park.

The following systemwide, regional, and regulatory planning influences were considered in developing the general plan guidelines.

SYSTEMWIDE PLANNING

Systemwide planning improves the ability of the Department to fulfill its mission by establishing policies, methods, and

Planning for individual state parks must take into account statewide, systemwide, regional, and local planning.

guidelines for managing state-owned park land. This enables the Department to apply a more consistent approach to implementation of various aspects of park planning, preservation, development, and operation throughout the park system. It is the intent of this general plan to be consistent and current with the Department's systemwide planning and policies. The following are elements of those systemwide planning policies, procedures, and guidelines.

Public Resources Code

In addition to the State Constitution and Statutes, California Law consists of 29 codes covering various subject areas (*California Code of Regulations*). The *California Public Resources Code* (PRC) addresses natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources of the state. PRC sections 5019.50 to 5019.80, Classification of Units of the State Park System, provide guidelines for the designation of state park units and guiding principles for state park improvements. The PRC also classifies different types of improvements of state park units.

California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires state and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project. General Plans require a Programmatic EIR, and park development projects require appropriate environmental review, which may include an EIR.

California Department of Parks and Recreation Administrative Manual

The *Administrative Manual* provides the policies and procedures by which California State Parks function. Departmental manuals are intended to contain general matters of policy and procedure. More detailed materials will be prepared and issued in the form of handbooks, with each handbook devoted to a single topic (such as planning or trail maintenance) when information and specifications are needed that are too lengthy to include in a manual.

California Department of Parks and Recreation Operations Manual

The *Operations Manual* provides the policies and procedures that are pertinent to the operation of the State Park System. It

is intended as a working document for Department personnel.

Section 0300, Natural Resources

The Department Operations Manual Section 0300 is the basic natural resource policy document for the State Park System. The policies, definitions, processes, and procedures contained in this chapter guide the management of the natural resources under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation, including naturally occurring physical and biological resources and associated intangible values, such as natural sounds and scenic qualities. These policies, definitions, processes, and procedures amplify the legal codes in the PRC, the California Code of Regulations, and the California State Park and Recreation Commission's Statement of Policies and Rules of Order as they pertain to the natural resources of the State Park System.

Section 0400, Cultural Resources

The Department Operations Manual (DOM) Section 0400, currently under revision, will be the basic cultural resource policy document for the State Park System. Until it is complete, Section 1832 of the Resource Management Directives (1979) and the Cultural Resources Management Handbook (2001) provide the policies, definitions, processes, and procedures to guide the management of cultural resources under the jurisdiction of the Department, including prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, historic buildings, features and landscapes, and Native California Indian cultural resources. These policies, definitions, processes, and procedures highlight the legal codes in the PRC, the California Code of Regulations, State Historic Building Code, The Secretary of the Interior's Standards, a Memorandum of Understanding between State Parks and the Office of Historic Preservation, Executive Order W-26-92, and the California State Park and Recreation Commission's Statement of Policies and Rules of Order as they pertain to the cultural resources of the State Park System.

The Department recognizes its responsibility as steward of many sites of cultural/spiritual significance to living native California Indians. For general plans or other long range land use planning projects, the goals for consultation with native California Indians are to obtain a mutually respectful understanding of the long-term needs for protection and treatment of heritage sites, objects, or human native California Indian remains; also to determine future consultations that would be required during the subsequent

planning, design and implementation projects. As a result, a Departmental Notice is being prepared which will provide a process to guide consultation with California Native Indians. When that Departmental Notice is completed and issued, it will guide consultation until it is incorporated into DOM section 0400.

State Parks Accessibility Guidelines

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, is applicable to all programs, services, and activities by the state, including the preparation of state park general plans. In compliance with the ADA, the Department published the *State Parks Accessibility Guidelines*, which were first issued in 1994. The *Guidelines* details procedures to make state parks universally accessible while maintaining the quality of park resources. The Department has also published the *All Visitors Welcome: Accessibility in State Park Interpretive Programs and Facilities* (2003), which provides guidance on developing accessible interpretive programs and facilities.

The Department's *Transition and Trail Plans for Accessibility in State Parks* (2001) outlines its commitment to achieve programmatic access throughout state parks. The vision of the Plans is embodied in the Año Nuevo SP General Plan.

California Recreational Trails Plan

The *California Recreational Trails Plan* (Phase One), published in June 2002, addresses the mission and overall role of the California State Parks Statewide Trails Office as well as provides guidelines for future actions of the Statewide Trails Office. The mission and vision of the Statewide Trails Office is to:

Promote the establishment and maintenance of a system of trails and greenways that serves California's diverse population while respecting and protecting the integrity of its equally diverse natural and cultural resources. The system should be accessible to all Californians for improving their physical and mental well-being by presenting opportunities for recreation, transportation, and education, each of which provides enhanced environmental and societal benefits.

This California Recreational Trails Plan serves as a guideline for establishing and maintaining park trails in California and integrates the Department's trail programs with local government agencies and private organizations that operate

and maintain the trails. Furthermore, the plan, the *Trails Policy*, and the *Trails Maintenance Handbook* serve as planning and maintenance guides for trails within the park system.

California State Park Systems Plan

The 2002 *California State Parks Systems Plan* contains both the challenges that face the State Park System as well as the goals, policies, objectives, and proposals for new programs and initiatives needed to guide the State Park System.

California State Park Systemwide Concessions Policies

The Department partners with a variety of businesses, nonprofit organizations, and public agencies through concession contracts, cooperative agreements, and operating agreements to offer the public goods and services. How these opportunities are made available to the public is regulated by the *California Public Resources Code*, Section 5080 et seq.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Consideration of regional planning influences is important for any park planning effort because it enables planners to anticipate and coordinate with regional planning efforts and issues that affect the park. For this general plan, planning considerations include the region around Año Nuevo SP, Big Basin Redwoods SP, Butano SP, Portolá Redwoods SP, and Castle Rock SP, as well as the northern boundary of Henry Cowell Redwoods SP. Año Nuevo SP is integrated within a regional landscape of natural land recreation areas, habitat preservation areas, and recreational trail networks. Consideration is also given to major access routes from areas providing significant visitation to the park as well as connections to other regional recreation destinations.

Año Nuevo SP is part of the region's chain of parks and natural areas, and like many other public and private natural land ownerships, the parks play an important role in preserving natural and cultural resources and providing recreational opportunities and facilities. A number of non-governmental organizations, such as the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the Sempervirens Fund, and The Trust for Public Land, have also been acquiring property along the southern San Mateo and northern Santa Cruz coast with the intent of preserving it in perpetuity as natural lands.

Policies and recommendations of existing regional planning documents that are most pertinent to planning for Año Nuevo SP are summarized below.

Regional Plans and Programs

San Mateo County General Plan and Local Coastal Program

The 1986 San Mateo County General Plan calls for preservation of agricultural lands for agricultural use, protection of native habitats, animals and plants, and protection and enhancement of the natural visual quality of county lands. It proposes the continued provision of recreational lands for the “physical, mental, and spiritual quality of life of San Mateo County residents.” It also defines what the County would like State Parks’ role to be:

- “...to give priority to developing existing facilities.”
- “...to provide park and recreation facilities of statewide significance.”
- “...to be “the principal agency to acquire, develop and maintain Coastal beaches.”

The San Mateo County General Plan lists land use objectives for rural areas as: a) preserve natural resources; b) provide for the managed productive use and monitoring of resources; c) provide outdoor recreation; and d) protect public health and safety.

The 1998 San Mateo County Local Coastal Program (LCP) offers specific policies in support of the general policies of the 1986 San Mateo County General Plan. The LCP is also focused on the Coastal Zone within the county. The LCP describes the Local Coastal Program as “...a comprehensive set of land use policies for the Coastal Zone in order to meet the requirements of the California Coastal Act of 1976. These policies encourage the development of recreation-oriented, visitor-serving facilities and the concentration of new development within rural service centers, while providing the maximum protection of access to beaches, the preservation of scenic values, and the protection of agricultural lands.” All development in the Coastal Zone requires either a Coastal Development Permit or an exemption from coastal permit requirements.

The following are summaries of the San Mateo County LCP policies that most relate to California State Parks’ planning process:

- The marshy area at Gazos Creek is designated as a wetland requiring protection.
- Franklin Point, Año Nuevo Point, and Año Nuevo Island are designated as marine and estuarine habitats requiring protection.
- Franklin Point and Año Nuevo Point are designated as sand dune habitats requiring protection.
- The Coast Highway south of Half Moon Bay, Cloverdale Road, and Gazos Creek Road (from Highway 1 to Cloverdale Road) are designated as Scenic Roads which affords them high levels of scenic protection.
- Priority is given to visitor-serving and commercial recreation facilities on designated Mid-Coast lands and throughout the South Coast over private residential, general industrial or commercial development but not over agriculture or coastal-dependent industry.
- California State Parks is encouraged to give priority to the Mid-Coast (Gray Whale Cove, Montara, and Half Moon Bay State Beaches) for the development of public recreation facilities. Require new development of South Coast recreation facilities to be phased in accordance with a long-range development program that gives priority to development of Mid-Coast facilities.
- Support a trails program that connects recreation facilities along the coast and which connects coastal and inland recreation facilities.
- The Gazos Creek Coastal Access to Butano SP Trail (via Gazos Creek Access Road) is designated as a Local Coastal Program Trail.
- California State Parks is encouraged to specify an alignment for the Pacific Ocean Corridor Trail (also known as the California Coastal Trail).
- State Parks is designated as the primary agency for the acquisition, development and maintenance of public recreation and visitor-serving facilities (including the Pacific Ocean Corridor Trail/California Coastal Trail) in the Coastal Zone.
- California State Parks is encouraged to assume the major responsibility for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of public shoreline access along the coast and to contribute the major portion of funds for the acquisition of access trails and shoreline destinations and to reimburse the county for their maintenance and operation.

- Non-impacting recreational facilities and uses can locate on agricultural land if in compliance with conversion policies from the Agricultural Component of the county General Plan. Non-impacting recreational facilities and uses can exist next to agriculture if separated by a barrier and if structures are visually compatible with the agricultural areas.
- Developments must comply with sensitive habitat policies while not substantially altering the natural environment or interrupting views.
- As feasible, California State Parks is required to remove pampas grass and invasive brooms from its lands.

California Coastal National Monument, Resource Management Plan

The California Coastal National Monument (CCNM) was created by President Clinton in January of 2000 and was proclaimed a biological and geological treasure that is extremely rich in biodiversity and provides essential habitat for many species of scientific interest. The California Coastal National Monument consists of all unappropriated or unreserved islands, rocks and outcroppings along the coast of California that are above the mean high tide line and not contiguous to the shore in a distance of 12 nautical miles offshore. The designation as a National Monument mandates the protection of historic and scientific objects, particularly wildlife species which normally inhabit the monument area.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was originally charged with managing the monument. In June 2000 the BLM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and California State Parks to collaborate in the management of the Monument. Approximately 25% of California's coastline is under State Parks management.

The BLM (with CDFG and State Parks as partners) completed a Resource Management Plan for the Monument in September 2005. The plan is comprehensive in nature and addresses issues in the monument area only. The plan integrates, where possible, the numerous related management issues of the various coastal partners involved in the planning effort. Key implementation priorities for management include protecting CCNM resources and resource values; developing and maintaining partnerships; and CCNM site characterization (specifically identifying and understanding CCNM resources). Key specific actions include establishing CCNM visitor gateways; seabird conservation;

and CCNM connections with tidepools and the intertidal zone.

Central Coast Marine Protected Area

California's landmark Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) became effective from Pigeon Point to Point Conception on September 21, 2007. This action established a Central Coast Region, composed of 29 marine protected areas (MPAs), from San Mateo County to Santa Barbara County. The central coast is the first of five regions that will eventually lead to a network of MPAs along the state's 1,100-mile coastline. The MPA designation significantly increases the protection that marine life living in the area receives. These protections include long-term safe havens for rockfish and other bottom fishes, migration corridors for salmon, and a diverse environment that abalone, kelp and numerous marine mammals and seabirds need to survive.

The Marine Life Protection Act Program was designed to advance the conservation of marine resources for their long-term sustainable use while also enhancing outdoor recreation and ocean research opportunities along the coast. A main goal of the MLPA is to use these MPAs as research sites where scientists can gain a greater understanding of California's marine and coastal environment and how marine animals and plants interact with little or no disturbance by people. The MLPA process was invigorated as a public-private partnership with the Resources Agency, the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, the California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, and the Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and its Commission.

The offshore area along Año Nuevo State Park and Año Nuevo Bay has been included in the Central Coast Marine Protected Area as the "Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area" (see **Figure 2**). As defined by the Public Resources Code a "state marine conservation area" [36700(c) PRC] is a non-terrestrial marine or estuarine area that is designated so the managing agency may achieve one or more of the following:

- Protect or restore rare, threatened or endangered native plants, animals or habitats in marine areas;
- Protect or restore outstanding, representative or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats and ecosystems;
- Protect or restore diverse marine gene pools;

- Contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems;
- Preserve outstanding or unique geological features; or
- Provide for sustainable living marine resource harvest.

Restrictions [36710(c) PRC]: it is unlawful to injure, damage, take or possess any specified living, geological or cultural marine resources for certain commercial, recreational, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes. In general, any commercial and/or recreational uses that would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat or geological features may be restricted by the designating entity or managing agency.

Allowable uses [36710(c) PRC]: research, education and recreational activities, and certain commercial and recreational harvest of marine resources may be permitted.

In addition, a Special Closure Area has been designated for the Año Nuevo coastline, the "Año Nuevo Invertebrate Area", to provide special seasonal protection (Nov. 30 to Apr. 30) for all invertebrates within a marine distance of 100 feet to low tide line.

Among the specific protective regulations now in place is the prohibition on take of marine species except for kelp harvest. CDFG's marine wardens will patrol and enforce the new MPAs and will continue to monitor fishing activities in other open areas of state waters from the shore to three miles out to sea.

In addition, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger formed the California Ocean Protection Council and called for the development of a comprehensive Ocean Action Plan as part of the administration's progressive ocean management efforts, and in response to the Pew and U.S. Ocean Commissions' reports on the health of our oceans.

National Natural Landmarks Program

The National Natural Landmarks Program, established in 1962 and administered by the National Park Service, recognizes and encourages the conservation of outstanding examples of America's natural history. Año Nuevo Point and Año Nuevo

Island were designated in August 1980 as a National Natural Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior in recognition of their significance as the best known breeding ground in the world for the northern elephant seal, as habitat for Steller sea lions, California sea lions, and harbor seals, and for the well-represented processes of wave cutting, geologic uplift, and sea level fluctuation along Año Nuevo Point.

Cloverdale Coastal Ranch Plan

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) acquired the 5,638-acre Cloverdale Coastal Ranches in 1997 when it was the largest undeveloped and unprotected property on California's central coast. It is an important element in the central coast natural lands network. In 1998 POST completed an integrated management plan, the Cloverdale Coastal Ranch Plan (Plan). The vision of the Plan is to provide a new interdependent land stewardship and preservation system as well as demonstrate the integrated and healing relationship of nature and human culture. The elements of this vision include sustainable agricultural practices and communities, restored natural coastal ecosystems and landscapes, and a range of recreational and educational activities that are in harmony with the land. Goals in the Plan include: open space and recreation connectivity with Año Nuevo SP and Butano SP; creation of beach access and trail corridors; protection of scenic views from public roads and trails; prevention of development; continuation of private agriculture; and protection of sensitive habitats and natural areas. POST will seek to accomplish its vision and goals through a variety of partnerships with land owners and managers, funding partners, volunteer partners, and education and research partners. Community involvement is an important part of the Cloverdale Coastal Ranch Plan programs.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Master Plan and Regional Open Space Study

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's master plan (1992) and regional open space study (1998) guide their open space preservation efforts. The master plan sets forth guidelines for MROSD acquisitions and shows the relative desirability of potential open space land acquisitions for the purpose of "preserving a regional greenbelt along the crest of the hills along the San Francisco peninsula." The regional open space study shows the general extent of lands and public access improvements (both existing and under consideration) to complete the MROSD's greenbelt mission. Both documents are subject to periodic review and

modification by the Board of Directors after public hearings. The regional open space study is subject to periodic technical updates. Both documents are submitted to the counties, cities, and other conservation-oriented local, state, and federal agencies and organizations for review and comment in order to encourage coordination with their planning and policies.

The MROSD can provide locally based, long-term stewardship of some lands and offer easement opportunities to willing sellers for agricultural lands. Over the next 15 years, the MROSD anticipates it could purchase or manage approximately 11,800 acres of land within the entire Coastside Protection area. The MROSD promotes watershed protection and is involved in regional recreation planning efforts such as the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, the Ridge Trail, and the Bay Trail.

Coast Dairies Long-Term Resource Protection and Access Plan (February 2004)

The Coast Dairies property, over 6,800 acres of northern Santa Cruz County coastal dairy ranch land, is the centerpiece of a regional network of conservation open space, providing opportunities for regional trail development and other recreational linkages, such as beach access. California State Parks currently owns approximately five miles of coastal bluff property and seven acres of inland property. The remainder of the inland property is expected to be transferred to the BLM and a nonprofit group.

A collaborative effort by California State Parks, BLM, TPL, and the Santa Cruz community, the Coast Dairies Plan is a broad planning document and management plan. All transferred property will be managed in accordance with the Coast Dairies Plan. The plan's vision is to preserve the distinctive character and resources of the area which is marked by the interface of the natural rugged coastline, sandy pocket beaches, coastal marine terraces, grasslands, densely forested upland and riparian corridors, and the developed uses of coastal agriculture, mining, Highway 1, and the town of Davenport. The Coast Dairies Plan provides broad direction and guidance on managing and protecting natural and physical resources, visitor use, and development on the property.

Save the Redwoods League's Master Plan for the Coast Redwoods, Santa Cruz Mountains Redwood Conservation Strategy

The Master Plan for the Redwoods is a document developed by the Save-the-Redwoods-League to provide a science-based conservation strategy for the entire coast redwood ecosystem.

The Master Plan for the Redwoods shapes and guides the League's conservation program. By using geographic information systems (GIS) technology and a series of maps, League staff have created detailed regional conservation strategies, including the Santa Cruz Mountains region, that support the Master Plan. These show the League where to focus its work. The Master Plan also gives the League a solid context in which it evaluates opportunities for conservation, facilitating a nimble, well-informed response. As identified in the League's master plan, the greatest stresses to the redwood forest community are habitat loss and fragmentation, and the loss of old-forest components. In addition, the Master Plan identifies conservation partners and opportunities for collaboration.

Information about the Master Plan is available online at: <http://savetheredwoods.org/protecting/masterplan.shtml>

Wildlife Action Plan

The Wildlife Action Plan is a Department of Fish and Game plan that addresses wildlife and habitat issues in all of California's ecological regions. In 2000, Congress enacted the State Wildlife Grants Program to support state programs that broadly benefit wildlife and habitats but particularly "species of greatest conservation need." In order to receive funding under this program, state wildlife agencies were required to submit a Wildlife Action Plan (comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2005. The California Department of Fish and Game (Fish and Game), working in partnership with the Wildlife Health Center, University of California, Davis, directed the development of this report, *California Wildlife: Conservation Challenges*, the state's Wildlife Action Plan, and associated Web publications. *California Wildlife: Conservation Challenges* is directed at answering three primary questions:

- What are the species and habitats of greatest conservation need?
- What are the major stressors affecting California's native wildlife and habitats?

- What are the actions needed to restore and conserve California's wildlife, thereby reducing the likelihood that more species will approach the condition of threatened or endangered?

The responses to those questions involve recommended statewide conservation actions and the region-specific conservation actions that are necessary to restore and conserve ecosystems and wildlife populations. The threats identified for the Central Coast Region are growth and development; intensive agriculture; excessive livestock grazing; water management conflicts and degradation of aquatic ecosystems; recreational pressures; and invasive species. Recommended region-specific conservation actions that are pertinent to California State Parks and Año Nuevo SP are found in the Central Coast Region chapter. Some of these conservation actions include working to protect large, relatively unfragmented habitat areas and wildlife corridors; protecting sensitive species and important wildlife habitats; working to restore fish passage in aquatic systems important for anadromous and wide-ranging fish populations; and providing resources and coordinating efforts to control existing occurrences of invasive species and prevent new introductions. Access to the Wildlife Action Plan is available at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/WAP/report.html>

Information used from the Wildlife Action Plan that is pertinent to Año Nuevo SP should be consistent with Save the Redwoods League's Master Plan for the Redwoods, Santa Cruz County region, as well as the goals and guidelines of this general plan.

California Coastal Trail

The California Coastal Trail (CCT) is a Coastal Conservancy plan for a network of public trails for walkers, bikers, equestrians, wheelchair riders and others along the entire California coastline. It is currently more than half complete. The CCT is envisioned as a continuous public right-of-way along the California coastline; a trail designed to foster appreciation and stewardship of the scenic and natural resources of the coast through hiking and other complementary modes of non-motorized transportation.

In addition, a broader set of objectives were drawn for the Coastal Trail Project:

1. Provide a continuous trail as close to the ocean as possible, with vertical access connections at

- appropriate intervals and sufficient transportation access to encourage public use.
2. Foster cooperation between State, local and federal public agencies in the planning, design, signing and implementation of the Coastal Trail.
 3. Increase public awareness of the costs and benefits associated with completion of the Coastal Trail.
 4. Assure that the location and design of the Coastal Trail is consistent with the policies of the California Coastal Act and local coastal programs, and is respectful of the rights of private landowners.
 5. Design the California Coastal Trail to provide a valuable experience for the user by protecting the natural environment and cultural resources while providing public access to beaches, scenic vistas, wildlife viewing areas, recreational or interpretive facilities and other points of interest.
 6. Create linkages to other trail systems and to units of the State Park system, and use the Coastal Trail system to increase accessibility to coastal resources from urban population centers.

Policy makers and coastal managers have long planned for a continuous coastal trail in California. The Coastal Act of 1976 required local jurisdictions to identify an alignment for the California Coastal Trail in their Local Coastal Programs. Proposition 20, 1972, provides that "A hiking, bicycle, and equestrian trails system shall be established along or near the coast" and that "ideally the trails system should be continuous and located near the shoreline."

The California Coastal Trail was designated California's Millennium Legacy Trail in 1999 by Governor Davis and the White House Millennium Council, encouraging federal agencies to assist in developing it. State legislation in 2001 aimed at a focused effort to complete the Coastal Trail. Assembly Concurrent Resolution 20 (Pavley) declares the Coastal Trail an official state trail and urges the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy to work collaboratively to complete it. Senate Bill 908 (Chesbro) charges the Coastal Conservancy, in cooperation with the Coastal Commission and State Parks Department, to submit to the Legislature a plan that describes how the Coastal Trail may be completed. In response to legislative direction, Coastal Trail completion objectives, strategies, and outcome measures were prepared

and included in 2007 as a part of the Coastal Conservancy's comprehensive "Strategic Plan" document.

REGULATORY INFLUENCES

There are a number of agencies involved in planning or regulatory authority in the region. Año Nuevo SP is within the coastal zone and are under the jurisdiction of the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program (see **Figure 7**, Coastal Zone). The coastal zone designation regulates development activities and use intensity that could have implications for park development and visitor use. The parks also span areas regulated by various air and water quality boards and regional planning agencies. These regulations are also considered in the park's planning and management decisions.

California Coastal Commission, Central Coast District

The California Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 and made permanent by the Legislature through adoption of the California Coastal Act in 1976. The Coastal Commission, in partnership with coastal cities and counties, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone (see **Figure 7**, Coastal Zone). Development activities, which are broadly defined by the Coastal Act to include (among others) construction of buildings, division of land, and activities that change the intensity of use of land or public access to coastal waters, generally require a coastal permit from either the Coastal Commission or the local government.

The most significant provisions of the CZMA give state coastal management agencies regulatory control (federal consistency review authority) over all federal activities and federally licensed, permitted or assisted activities, wherever they may occur (i.e., landward or seaward of the respective coastal zone boundaries fixed under state law) if the activity affects coastal resources. Examples of such federal activities include: outer continental shelf oil and gas leasing, exploration and development; military projects at coastal locations; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fill permits; certain U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permits; and highway improvement projects assisted with federal funds. Federal consistency is an extremely important coastal management tool because it is often the only review authority over federal activities affecting coastal resources given to any state agency.

The California Coastal Commission jurisdiction in the coastal zone (which is specifically mapped) applies to all private and

public entities. It covers development activities, including any division of land, a change in the intensity of use of state waters and of public access to them. The Coastal Act includes specific policies (see Division 20 of the Public Resources Code) relating to such activities as public access and recreation, lower cost visitor accommodations, terrestrial and marine habitat protection, visual resources, landform alteration, agricultural lands, water quality, transportation, development design, and public works. For all projects at Año Nuevo SP within the coastal zone, compliance with the Coastal Act is administered through a Local Coastal Program by the counties.

State Water Resources Control Board

Año Nuevo SP lies within the Big Basin Hydrological Unit of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board jurisdiction. The RWQCB has regulatory authority in regard to water quality at the park. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board falls within the oversight of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The mission of the SWRCB is to ensure the highest reasonable quality of waters in the state, while allocating those waters to achieve the optimum balance of beneficial uses. The joint authority of water allocation and water quality protection enables the SWRCB to provide comprehensive protection for California's waters. The mission of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans which will best protect the beneficial uses of the state's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology, and hydrology.

California Air Resources Board, Bay Area Air Quality Management District

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) regulates emissions sources and oversees the activities of the local Air Pollution Control Districts and Air Quality Management Districts. The ARB regulates local air quality by establishing state ambient air quality standards and vehicle emissions standards. The ARB is also responsible for monitoring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. On September 27, 2006, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) was signed. This legislation will create a comprehensive multi-year program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California, with the overall goal of restoring emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. The Act also directs state agencies to consider and implement strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) seven-county jurisdiction encompasses Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Napa counties, and southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. The mission of the BAAQMD is to achieve the goal of clean air to protect the public's health and the environment of the San Francisco Bay region. The BAAQMD uses a progressive approach to regulating air pollution. By adopting reasonable air quality plans and then following through with regulations sensitive to the socio-economic impacts, flexible permitting, compliance assistance, and proactive enforcement, the BAAQMD has one of the most responsive air programs in the nation. The BAAQMD has established a Climate Protection Program to reduce pollutants including greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. The climate protection program emphasizes collaboration with ongoing climate protection efforts at the local and state level, public education and outreach, and technical assistance to cities and counties.

California Department of Fish and Game

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is the trustee agency for the state's plant and wildlife resources. As such, it has regulatory authority over the state's special plant and wildlife species. Any project that has the potential for direct or indirect impacts to state-listed plant or animal species or Species of Concern requires consultation with CDFG. Authorization for "take" of listed species (i.e., an Incidental Take Permit) and mitigation may be required.

Any project that involves work within a streambed or stream banks of any permanent or intermittent stream requires a permit from the CDFG under Section 1601 (i.e., a Streambed Alteration Agreement) of the Fish and Game Code. A Streambed Alteration Agreement is also needed for any project that will divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; use materials from a streambed; or result in the disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it can pass into any river, stream, or lake.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has regulatory authority over federal, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species and Species of Concern. Whenever a federally listed plant or wildlife species, Species of Concern, or designated (or proposed) critical habitat occurs within a proposed project area, California

State Parks is required to consult with the USFWS on direct or indirect impacts to those species or their habitat as a result of the project. Consultation with the USFWS may result in the need for an Incidental Take Permit and/or required mitigation measures.

National Marine Fisheries Service

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has regulatory authority over federally-listed marine or anadromous fish species and their habitats. Whenever a proposed project has the potential to result in direct or indirect impacts to a federally-listed marine or anadromous fish or their habitats, California State Parks is required to consult with NMFS. Consultation with NMFS may result in the need for an Incidental Take Permit and/or required mitigation for project impacts to these species or habitats.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) is a federal agency mandated to regulate certain types of activities in wetlands and waters of the U.S. under the following sections of Federal law: 33 CFR – Navigation and Navigable Waters (COE); 40 CFR – Protection of Environment (EPA); Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; and Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. Under these sections, the USACOE requires permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into any water of the U.S. or wetland under its jurisdiction. A permit from USACOE must also be obtained for any and all structures, whether permanent or temporary, that are planned to be in or over any navigable water of the U.S. and those that affect the course, location, or condition of the water body. Types of projects requiring permits from the USACOE include placement of wharves, dams, dikes, pilings, weirs, breakwaters, jetties, bank protection, aerial or subaqueous power transmission lines, intake or outtake pipes, permanently moored floating vessels, tunnels, artificial canals, boat ramps, aids to navigation, and any other permanent or semi-permanent obstacle or obstruction. Permits are also required from the USACOE for any project that requires dredging of, or placement of fill into, any wetland or water of the U.S. and for the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of dumping it into ocean waters.

REGIONAL AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The following are several governmental and non-governmental organizations that are actively involved in planning and acquiring natural open space lands in this region.

Association of Bay Area Governments

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is a regional council of local governments operated by the cities and counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. It was established in 1961 to protect local control, plan for the future, and promote cooperation on regional issues. ABAG's regional jurisdiction includes 100 cities and the nine counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. More than six million people live in this 7,000 square mile area.

Through its role as an association of cities and counties, ABAG has been designated by the state and federal governments as the official comprehensive planning agency for the Bay Area. Its locally-adopted Regional Plan provides a policy guide for planning the region's housing, economic development, environmental quality, transportation, recreation, and health and safety. One of ABAG's vital functions is to provide a forum to resolve local differences through workable compromises. Its active public information program encourages citizen involvement in planning and policy decisions.

Useful ABAG studies cover demographics, transportation, air and water quality, earthquake information, smart growth, and land-use planning. Understanding the conditions and trends in the region helps planners understand the visitors who come from this area and how they may affect the park.

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) serves as a forum for planning, discussion and study of regional issues of concern to Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties; as well as the development of studies, plans, policy, and action recommendations. This jurisdiction is adjacent to Año Nuevo SP and SNR. Useful AMBAG studies and reports cover demographics, transportation, air quality, water quality, and land-use planning.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) is an independent special district with the single purpose of preserving regional open space lands in a natural condition. The MROSD, located in the mid- and southern portions of the San Francisco peninsula, currently manages nearly 50,000 acres of land, in 26 open space preserves. These preserves range in size from 55 acres to 15,000 acres. The MROSD's purpose is to acquire, permanently protect, and restore lands forming a regional open space greenbelt. It also provides recreation opportunities in an ecologically-sensitive way and educates the public about these lands. The MROSD has an active acquisition program in pursuit of these purposes. Facilities and improvements on these lands are typically limited to trails and parking areas intended to enhance public access and enjoyment of these natural areas.

Peninsula Open Space Trust

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is a regional nonprofit organization working to protect land as parks and open space. POST has purchased lands in this region using a combination of public and private funds, and has sold the land to public agencies when further public funds were available. Through this productive partnership, important open space has been protected and POST has been able to leverage its available land acquisition funds. POST has been involved most recently in open space acquisitions north of Año Nuevo SP and SNR, with its 640-acre conservation easement for Pesky Ranch, and at Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park, where Whaler's Cove, a three-acre parcel of land, was transferred to California State Parks in 2005. POST owns over 5,600 acres west of Cloverdale Road and northwest of Año Nuevo SP known as the Cloverdale Coastal Ranches. Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains, the land includes sandy beaches, coastal bluffs, grasslands, creeks, and woodlands. The ranch supports many species of birds, rare plants, and large mammals. Farmers grow artichokes, leeks, and Brussels sprouts on nearly 400 acres.

Save-the-Redwoods League

The Save-the-Redwoods League (League) was founded in 1918. As a leader of the movement to preserve the coast redwood and giant sequoia, the League has assisted in permanently protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of redwood forest. Its primary conservation tool is acquisition of forest land from willing sellers. The League also funds

restoration, supports research to expand knowledge about the redwood forest, and educates the public about the redwoods and the redwood forest ecosystem. The League has assisted in establishment and expansion of parks in the southern range of the redwood forest including Big Basin Redwoods, Portola Redwoods, Butano, Wilder Ranch, Julia Pfeiffer Burns, and Limekiln State Parks. The League also has developed (in partnership with State Parks and The Nature Conservancy) a "Master Plan for the Redwoods, Santa Cruz County" which is a regional conservation strategy.

Sempervirens Fund

The Sempervirens Fund is a nonprofit organization working to preserve redwood forest lands as parks and open space. Donations to the Sempervirens Fund are used to purchase threatened redwood forest property in the Santa Cruz Mountains region.

The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit organization working to protect land as parks and open space. TPL is not a government agency, although it sometimes works with agencies to protect open space land. TPL assists communities and government agencies in identifying land for protection. It identifies funds that might be used to protect that land, and sometimes helps raise funds through charitable campaigns and legislative or voter initiatives. TPL's real estate and legal staff also help complete the transaction itself, often optioning or purchasing a property and holding it until it can be permanently protected by a government or community land trust. TPL has been involved in open space protection in this region, particularly at Coast Dairies and Año Nuevo SP.

University of California Natural Reserve System

In 1965, the University of California established the Natural Reserve System (NRS). The mission of the NRS is to contribute to the understanding and wise management of the earth and its natural systems by supporting university-level teaching, research, and public service at protected natural areas throughout California. The NRS make relatively undisturbed samples of the state's natural ecosystems and the facilities needed to support teaching and research available not only to students, teachers, and researchers from the University of California, but to any qualified user from any public or private institution throughout the world. The NRS is the largest university-operated system of natural reserves in the world.

The NRS has assembled, for scientific study, a system of protected sites that broadly represent California's rich ecological diversity. By creating this system of outdoor classrooms and laboratories and making them available for long-term study, the NRS supports a variety of disciplines that require field work in wildland ecosystems. Año Nuevo Island Reserve was established as a unit of the NRS in 1970. The Año Nuevo Island Reserve operates with a use agreement between the University of California and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Due to the highly sensitive habitats and protected marine mammals at the island, reserve access and use is restricted to approved research projects. Research on the island is enhanced by the use of historic buildings. Selected research at Año Nuevo Island includes:

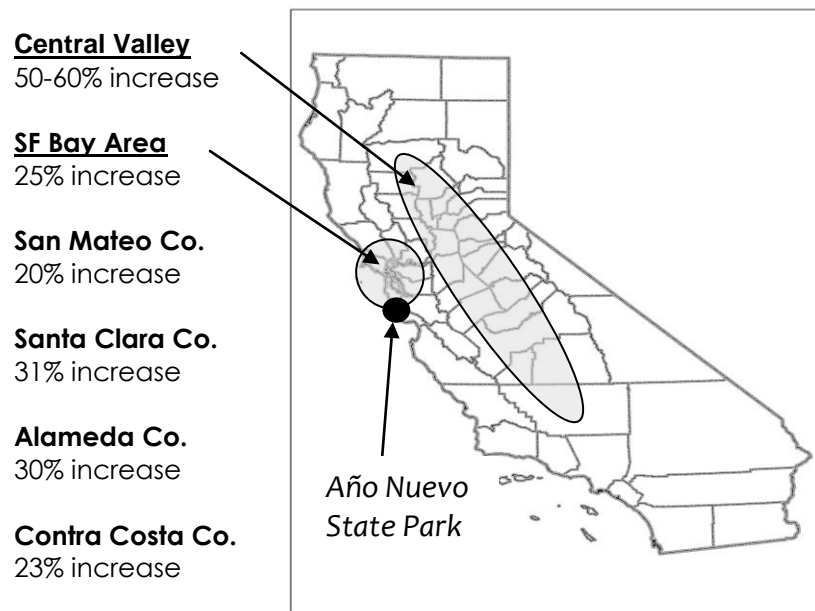
- Northern elephant seals: effects of low-frequency sound in the marine acoustic environment; geographic-reference behavior during migrations; buoyancy and swimming effort; predator-prey relationships with white sharks; and developmental physiology of pups during natural, prolonged fasts.
- Steller sea lions: population monitoring.
- Rhinoceros auklets: conservation, demography, and food habits.

DEMOGRAPHICS, TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

During the last fifty years the importance of outdoor recreation to Californians has steadily grown. During the last several decades, changing demographics and user interests and demands require recreation planners to be responsive to several factors that will affect the future use and development of Año Nuevo SP. The following are several key factors which will affect future use patterns, management decisions, and facilities and programs at state parks located in and around the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Population Increase and Park Visitation

California's population approached 37.7 million persons as of January 2007, according to the California Department of Finance. California, the nation's most populous state, represents 12.5 percent – one out of every eight persons – of the United States population. The state's population grew almost 1.3 percent in 2006 – adding close to 470,000 residents – mirroring the growth pattern of 2005. The state has increased by nearly 3.8 million persons – 11.2 percent – since the last census on April 1, 2000.



Park Visitors - Major Areas of Origin
Population Growth 2000 to 2020

Even though the current population growth figures have slowed in comparison to earlier projections, perhaps in response to a slower national economy, population growth in California continues to remain strong. Between 1987 and 2002 the state's population grew by 25%, and according to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the population of the San Francisco Bay Area is projected to increase 20% by the year 2025. This equates to an additional 1.4 million residents living in and around the San Francisco Bay. The majority of visitors to the Santa Cruz Mountains state parks live in the Bay Area communities of San Mateo, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Francisco and Contra Costa counties. Ninety-seven percent of this population participates in some form of outdoor recreation activity at least a few times a year, with almost half participating twice a week or more (Bay Area Open Space Council 2004). Due to these factors, along with California's explosive population increase, it's projected that demand for recreational opportunities in these coastal state parks will certainly increase. With the projected population growth rates in the Bay Area and California, even activities with static or declining rates of participation will grow in absolute numbers because there will simply be more people to participate.

Living costs and escalating home prices in the San Francisco Bay Area is prompting home buyers to move to less expensive areas where commutes are much longer such as the burgeoning Central Valley where home prices and quality of life issues are important. Yet these former residents occasionally return to the Bay Area for recreation pursuits and it is expected that the Santa Cruz Mountains will continue to be popular with Central Valley residents seeking to escape the of the valley during the hot summer months.

Transplanted Bay Area residents form relationships in their new communities and share their positive experiences at this park and parks nearby such as Big Basin Redwoods SP, increasing visitation to all Santa Cruz Mountains parks by people who live far away. The Central Valley’s population is projected to sharply rise in the next three to four decades, increasing anticipated visitation to Bay Area and Santa Cruz parks from valley communities such as Stockton, Sacramento, Modesto, Merced, and Fresno.

Please see **Appendix K** for more information on San Francisco Bay Area population growth from 2000–2020.

County	Population 2007
Alameda	1,526,148
Contra Costa	1,042,341
Merced	251,510
Sacramento	1,406,804
San Francisco	808,844
San Joaquin	679,687
San Mateo	726,336
Santa Clara	1,808,056
Santa Cruz	264,125
Solano	424,823
Stanislaus	521,497
Yolo	193,982

Age and Technology Factors

By 2010, one in five Californians will be older than 60, and by 2020, the senior population will double due to the aging of the “baby boomers.” It is predicted that the boomers will have expectations of recreation providers and active recreational abilities that their parents didn’t have due to improvements in overall fitness and advances in medical technology. In addition, baby boomers are typically better educated and more knowledgeable about legislative advocacy so the expectation is that they will ask for services more readily than previous generations. Raised in relative prosperity, they will anticipate more amenity-rich and meaningful recreational experiences and programs, including park facilities and infrastructure such as RV campgrounds, alternative overnight accommodations, and facilities that they can use their high tech equipment such as GPS units, bikes, kayaks, backpacking equipment and fishing gear. In addition baby boomers will have mobility enhancement issues, and are anticipated to be interested in conservation and heritage programs as well as volunteer activities where they can contribute their knowledge and time. They will have an appetite for adventure and high quality programs and an aversion to slowing down as they age (California State Parks 2005).

New technology is engendering new forms of recreation, and broadening the user base of existing recreational pursuits.

Recreation equipment is being custom designed by using the user's body mass index using graphite and titanium alloy materials. Although expensive to do so now, as technological advances continue it is expected that this 'customization' will decrease in cost and become more available to a larger consumer group. There is also a perception that custom tailored equipment will shorten the learning curve for the skill needed for the recreation activity. And, as technological advances continue, whole new forms of recreational pursuits appear. These activities such as geocaching using global positioning systems will continue in popularity as will Wi-Fi.

Implications to population changes mean that park service providers will need to expand lands, programs, services and facilities to accommodate the future influx of anticipated user groups. Lands not acquired now may be unavailable or likely too costly in the future and certainly programs and opportunities will need to be evaluated and updated constantly to reflect the interest and demands of a rapidly changing California population.

Thirty-seven percent of California's foreign born arrived since 1990. With such a diverse group of users, greater emphasis will need to be placed on programs that attract a variety of people. For example, many immigrants to the Bay Area are unfamiliar with the kinds of facilities and services provided at Año Nuevo State Park. Ways to educate and encourage these diverse groups and newcomers to become users of and advocates for parks and recreation will have to be developed.

In 1960 the baby boom was the largest group in the total population of the state; in 2000, boomers were still a major group but were surpassed in numbers by the 5-9 year old group. The most populous age groups of California's youngest citizens are on average two full years younger than the U.S. average, due to recent immigration. By 2020, it is projected that California's young adult group (ages 18-40) will still be the most populous in the state (California Dept. of Finance 2004), and will be more mobile, dependent on technology, and comfortable with change and cultural diversity than their predecessors. This age group is fueled primarily by recent immigration with families including young children and high birth rates and unfortunately, these young (and new) Californians are not necessarily connected to outdoor recreation activities and programs of the kind California State Parks typically provides. For recreation they will most often prefer to travel, participate in extreme (at risk) sports, attend movies and go on day trips often combining multiple activities and experiences (California State Parks 2005).

The Bay Area's population age demographics show a typical baby boom aging pattern. However, the proportion of younger age groups in the total Bay Area population is larger than the baby boom generation's was statewide, and it is larger than the younger age groups in the statewide population. This indicates an even higher potential recreation demand by this young Bay Area age group for nearby relevant recreational facilities and experiences.

Latent Demand for Outdoor Recreation

The seventh in a series of surveys of 2,512 representative adults throughout California showed that the trend for all segments of the population during the 1990s was to engage in some outdoor recreation more often (Roper Starch Worldwide, Inc. 2000). Camping grew in popularity as the decade drew to a close and has continued to be popular into the new century. California State Parks' *2002 Public Opinion and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation Survey* shows that outdoor recreation areas and facilities are very important to the quality of life for most Californians and that there is a strong public belief that the protection of the natural environment is an important aspect of outdoor recreation (California State Parks 2002a).

Based on unmet demand and public support, Californians believe the following outdoor recreation activities should have top priority for expenditure of public recreation funds (California State Parks 2002a):

- Camping in developed sites
- Trail hiking
- Walking for fitness and fun
- Wildlife study
- Picnicking in develop sites
- Visting historic-cultural sites
- Visiting museums, zoos, etc.
- Bicycling
- Beach activities
- Camping in RV sites

The U.S. Forest Service's *National Survey on Recreation and the Environment – 2000–2003* shows the current top recreation pursuits in the Santa Cruz Mountains area are:

- Walking and hiking
- Family gatherings
- Viewing/photographing natural scenery

Campground demand will continue to grow in California, especially for RV camping and alternative camping such as cabins, tent cabins, and yurts.

- Visiting outdoor nature centers
- Picnicking in developed sites

Campground demand will continue to grow throughout California, particularly for RV and alternative campground facilities. This is for the most part true for aging baby boomers who seek convenience and relaxation and who are still inclined to enjoy camping, may have limited mobility, but have grown weary of the preparatory steps such as setting up tents. Also families and single parents with young children who seek quality time with their family and less work such as single moms who are concerned about safety and security are found to be pleased with tent cabins and yurts. During the peak season and holiday weekends many state park campgrounds are full and campers are turned away. California State Parks has been able to add very few campsites during the last ten years, and no coastal campsites. Population growth and demand is so high that if California State Parks were to add 325 campsites a year, it would not keep up with demand (California State Parks 2002a). The situation for day use picnic sites is similar.

Changes in California's ethnographics appear to be creating a change in recreation uses in state parks.

The *National Survey on Recreation and the Environment 2000-2003* indicates that camping in developed sites was an activity that approximately 37% of the residents of the Bay Area participated in. With the dramatic projected increases in statewide and regional populations, especially of younger, active people interested in family and group recreational experiences, camping will continue to be an important and well-used type of recreation facility in these parks in the future.

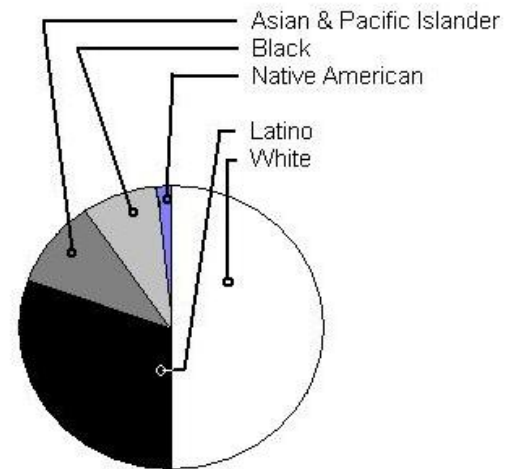
Changing Ethnic Patterns

The relatively large Latino and Asian populations located in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Central Valley counties, combined with changing ethnicity patterns in California, will directly affect visitor demographics at Año Nuevo SP. In fact, a language other than English is spoken roughly in 40 percent of California households. And, roughly 25 percent of K-12 students are learning English as their primary language. California ethnic facts are impressive – over one-third of Asian Americans live in California and nearly one-third of Hispanic Americans call California home.

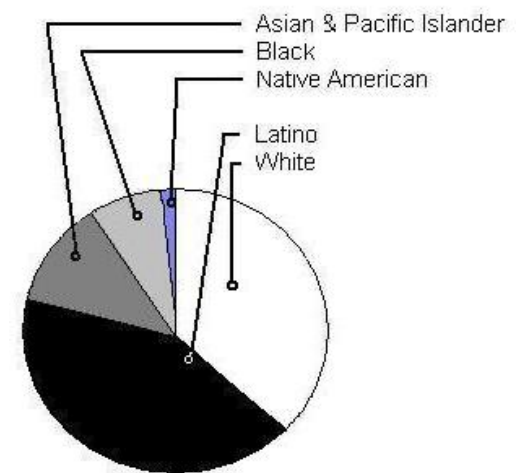
California's total Latino population grew from 20% in 1990 to 32.4% according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Population projections for Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties show a 38% increase in the Latino population and a

49% increase in Asian populations by 2020, compared with only moderate increases or slight reductions for other ethnic groups. This increase suggests that the mix of user groups and the corresponding facility needs at parks may be changing. For example, there is a correlation between Latinos recreating in large, often family-based groups and a high demand for developed recreation sites, particularly those with picnic tables, barbeque grills and parking lots. Group picnics also tend to be longer in duration than for other ethnic groups, as many food items are prepared on site (California State Parks 2002a). Asian Americans also spend time outdoors with family and friends and like to be near natural areas to view and photograph wildlife and hike and bicycle on park trails (Bay Area Open Space Council 2004).

It is clear that the San Francisco Bay Area population is changing. This is also true for the Central Valley, another potential visitor base for the park. Population projections for Sacramento, San Joaquin, Yolo and Solano Counties suggest that from 2000 to 2020 there will be a 256% increase in the Latino population, which will then comprise 33% of the population in these four counties. In the same four Central Valley counties, the Asian American population is expected to double in the same time frame to comprise just over 15% of the population. African-Americans and other ethnic groups will also increase as a percentage of the population, while in certain Central Valley counties the percentage of whites will decrease. The implications of these demographic changes for recreation demand will compel future planners to provide recreation facilities and public participation opportunities that will satisfy these emerging user groups. The charts at right show projected ethnographic changes in California between 2000 and 2020.



California Population 2000



California Population 2020

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

California State Parks uses a variety of methods to solicit public input during the preparation of general plans including public meetings and workshops, visitor surveys, and posting planning information on the Department's web site. Identifying issues that the General Plan should address were also obtained during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Preparation public comment period.

Public Meetings and Workshops

California State Parks held public meetings to solicit input for the preparation of the General Plan. The majority of attendees at these meetings were adjacent residents or members of local communities. Few people attended the first

public meeting held August 26, 2003 at the La Honda-Pescadero School District Office in Pescadero. The purpose of this meeting was to identify issues and concerns for the parks and to gather input on desired recreational activities. This type of public meeting was also held during the concurrent planning processes for Butano SP and Big Basin Redwoods SP. In December 8, 2007, a public open house was also held the La Honda-Pescadero School District Office in Pescadero. The Open House provided a preview of the draft plan proposal highlights for Año Nuevo SP and Butano SP, share information on the key natural and cultural resources identified in the planning process, update participants on the regional planning process and context, and gather further public input.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared and filed by the Department on October 20, 2003. Many issues identified and discussed at the public scoping meeting were included in the NOP. The purpose of the NOP is to gain input from other agencies, organizations and individuals identifying additional issues that should be addressed in the General Plan/EIR. The Department received input during the NOP comment period, including concerns about conversion of existing agricultural lands to park and recreation purposes.

Through public meetings, agency and stakeholder briefings, surveys, and posting planning information on the project website, the planning process has encouraged public participation.

Visitor Surveys

Written visitor surveys at the former Año Nuevo SNR were conducted from 1997 through 2001. The approximately 250 responses were examined to help identify potential issues considered during the planning process. Most comments related to visitor experience and park facilities, such as the availability of restrooms in the Visitor Center area, the limited time allotted for the guided elephant seal tours, the desire for more trail hiking opportunities, and more extensive and varied interpretive programs and methods.

Continued Public Involvement

Subsequent to the completion and approval of the General Plan, there will be public input opportunities on future management plans and project efforts that implement the recommendations of the General Plan. This includes California Environmental Quality Act public review of proposed projects.



Photo on reverse: Cascade Ranch historic building area

CHAPTER 3: ISSUES

The Issues section identifies planning assumptions and key parkwide issues that were identified during the planning process. These issues were identified during the statewide and regional analysis for natural, cultural, and recreational resources, public workshops, stakeholder meetings, and through discussions with park staff. The following are the primary planning issues the general plan addresses, through parkwide management guidelines or guidelines for specific park areas.

3.1 PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions are based on current state and federal laws, regulations, and Department policy, which form the basis for planning and sets the parameters for addressing general planning issues for Año Nuevo SP.

California State Parks will:

- Manage and protect rare, threatened and endangered species and sensitive wildlife habitats, including the coastal, marine, and old growth redwood habitats, as required by federal and state laws.
- Coordinate and collaborate with agencies and regional partners on regional conservation actions such as DFG's Wildlife Action Plan recommendations for the Central Coast Region and the Marine Region. These include:
 - Work with land use planning processes to establish regional goals for species and habitat protection.
 - Work with private landowners and land managers to implement agricultural management practices that are compatible with wildlife and habitat conservation.
 - Protect large unfragmented habitat areas, wildlife corridors, and underprotected ecological community types.
 - Protect sensitive species and wildlife habitats.
 - Provide greater resources and efforts to control invasive species and prevent new introductions.

- Preserve the park's cultural resources, including historic structures and landscapes, following the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.
- Consult with Native Californian Indian groups and obtain a mutually respectful understanding of the long-term needs for protection and treatment of heritage sites, objects, or human remains; also, to determine future consultations that would be required during the subsequent planning, design and implementation projects.
- Maintain and increase, where appropriate, the overall level of recreational opportunities for state parks located in the San Mateo coast and Santa Cruz Mountain regions.
- Consider the issues and concerns of adjacent land owners and residents during the planning and implementation process; seek input from local, regional, and statewide interests.
- Coordinate with planning efforts in adjacent state parks and with other open space providers and agencies to evaluate potential connectivity and compatibility of recreational and interpretive opportunities and resource management programs. This includes the Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Sanctuary Program regarding management of marine resources and marine interpretation opportunities.
- Continue to provide vehicle access from State Highway 1 to the park.

3.2 PARKWIDE ISSUES

RECREATION DEMAND AND VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES

As the population continues to increase and diversify in the Santa Clara Valley and Bay Area, the demands for outdoor recreation will grow, both in the numbers of people desiring an outdoor experience and in the types of recreational activities they seek along the San Mateo coast and in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The proximity of the unique resources of Año Nuevo SP to nearby high density urban centers can help serve a high regional demand for recreation.

Coastal Area

The primary visitor activity in the Año Nuevo coast is viewing elephant seals in their natural habitat, particularly during breeding season which occurs mid-December through March. This is one of the state park system's most popular wildlife experiences and valuable natural resource interpretation programs. The visitor opportunities for viewing elephant seals (guided tours, limited access, and limited visitor numbers) within the Wildlife Protection Area are working well to protect the natural resources and provide wildlife viewing. Planning efforts analyzed current visitation numbers and resource management programs to determine if they effectively serve state-wide visitor needs and demands while protecting elephant seal habitat. The park's visitor center serves this popular activity as well as other marine education aspects and park orientation. Existing facilities were evaluated for their effectiveness in serving current visitor numbers with particular attention focused on the main visitor parking area. School group staging area activity can cause traffic congestion at the visitor center parking area. Options for a separate staging area and trail route for school groups were evaluated to improve circulation efficiency and visitor experience. Other recreation activity at the Reserve includes hiking, shoreline fishing, and beach activities.

Inland Area

There is potential for new recreation opportunities at Año Nuevo SP's inland areas where formal park access and facilities have not been established. Año Nuevo SP, along with other regional parks and natural areas, can play an important role in providing more diversified and accessible recreational activities as well as additional recreation facilities. The proximity of the park's unique resources to nearby high density urban centers generates a high demand for recreation. Currently regional recreation demand is exceeding supply during May through October with camping, picnicking, and trail use being the most popular activities. Further evaluation of the historic Cascade Ranch will determine the type of visitor opportunities that may be appropriate in this area. The General Plan recommends a process to determine appropriate levels of visitor use and resource protection in the park.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Coastal Area

Existing access to coastal Año Nuevo SP is provided by State Highway 1. The main entrance is located at the southern

portion of the park near Año Nuevo Point. Existing park infrastructure (parking and trails) have been developed to provide public access to the coast and wildlife viewing.

High speeds and the narrow layout of the highway can create difficult situations for vehicles entering and leaving the park. This is particularly evident at the five informal parking areas located in the northern coastal section of the Reserve. Planning considered providing safe access and visitor facilities in these locations. South of the main entrance, a former gated entrance road on the west side of Highway 1 is unmonitored for entry and has private land on either side. An adjacent pullout on the west side of the highway serves as a trailhead area for coastal access to Año Nuevo Bay and an informal hiking trail crossing a narrow historic bridge connects this southern access to the visitor center area. Evaluations were made on the appropriateness of this access and whether any improvements are warranted.

Coastal access north of Año Nuevo Point is provided by five coastal trailheads along State Highway 1. These existing trails provide access to Franklin Point, Gazos Beach, and the coastline. Some existing trails traverse sensitive wetlands and dunes and informal volunteer trails have been established through these sensitive areas. Planning considered appropriate adjustments to the trail system or design treatments to minimize visitor disturbance.

The California Coastal Trail, an ongoing project to establish a network of public trails along the California coastline, is primarily located adjacent to State Highway 1 at the Reserve. Continuous coordination with appropriate agencies and stakeholders for the establishment of this trail and trail linkages to the regional trail network in the Santa Cruz Mountains will be supported.

Access to Año Nuevo Island is limited to scientific research activities. Sensitive marine resources, historic lighthouse structures, as well as hazardous conditions make general public access to the island difficult and inappropriate. State Parks' oversight of continuing maintenance and repair of historic structures on Año Nuevo Island is necessary to assure appropriate maintenance and preservation of those structures.

Inland Area

Primary access to Año Nuevo SP will also be provided by State Highway 1. High speeds and the narrow layout of the highway will require careful planning and design for safe

vehicular access into the park. Visitor facilities and use may generate an increase in pedestrians crossing the highway to access the coast or inland trail system.

Año Nuevo SP's location along the San Mateo coast and within the Santa Cruz Mountains offers coastal access and the potential for inland trail connections within the region. Trail opportunities within the park and those connecting regional natural lands and parks are in high demand by multiple user groups. There is potential for new public trail access from State Highway 1 into the Santa Cruz Mountains regional trail network. These trail connections could be established with existing Whitehouse Creek Road, Chalk Mountain Road, and Old Womans Creek Trail.

Land use, natural resources, cultural resources, operations, infrastructure and the needs of adjacent resident's along Whitehouse Road and Old Womans Creek Road was evaluated to determine appropriate park access. Potential inland access points include State Highway 1 at Lake Elizabeth and Cascade Ranch as well as Gazos Creek Road at the intersection of Cloverdale Road. Planning evaluated access locations and appropriate areas for future facility development. Improving access to and within the park and enhancing regional connections was a significant aspect of this planning effort.

PARK PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IN A REGIONAL CONTEXT

Coordinated planning and management can identify recreation needs and desires and expand recreation opportunities by integrating the park's recreation into a regional natural lands and recreation network, enhancing regional natural resource preservation and management, enhancing regional interpretation, and improving the effectiveness of maintenance, administrative, and visitor services. The planning and management of Año Nuevo SP should consider interagency and regional coordination as key elements.

Año Nuevo SP is located near Pigeon Point Light Station SHP, Butano SP, Big Basin Redwoods SP, and Wilder Ranch SP. They are also near several other recreational and natural areas such as the Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST) Cloverdale Coastal Ranch property and the Coast Dairies property. The close proximity of these properties and the similarity of natural, cultural and recreational resources provide opportunities to manage these lands in a coordinated and integrated way.

Coordination among the region's open space and park agencies as well as with adjacent private property owners can strengthen natural and cultural resource protection, enhance park operations, improve recreational and educational opportunities and protect private property interests. Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA) and marine education programs associated with California's marine protected areas are also needed. Coordinate and collaborate with agencies and regional partners is especially important on regional conservation actions such as CDFG's Wildlife Action Plan recommendations for the Central Coast Region and the Marine Region as noted in the Section 3.1 Planning Assumptions.

Coordination and partnerships with POST and Cascade Ranch Historic Farm will play an important role in determining future recreation, trail connections, habitat preservation, interpretation and education opportunities, and park operations. Evaluation and coordination of regional agricultural heritage interpretation and education programs with Cascade Ranch Historic Farm, Wilder Ranch SP, Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and Coast Dairies should also help determine interpretation and educational opportunities at Año Nuevo SP. Opportunities for shared agency and interagency staff housing and maintenance facilities was evaluated.

COMBINING AÑO NUEVO STATE PARK AND AÑO NUEVO STATE NATURAL RESERVE INTO A SINGLE STATE PARK

Acquisition of Año Nuevo SP and Año Nuevo SNR properties has occurred incrementally. Initial acquisition of the Reserve properties was completed in 1958 in order to preserve the elephant seal habitat, coastal resources, and marine resources around Año Nuevo Point. Acquisition of the Cascade Ranch properties that would eventually become Año Nuevo SP was completed in 1985. During the park unit classification and naming process for the Cascade Ranch properties, consideration was given to inclusion of the properties as a part of the Reserve. The resulting action was to designate and name the properties as a separate park unit with a State Park classification because it allowed consideration of a wider range of recreation opportunities than a State Natural Reserve classification.

Park operations, maintenance, and administration have also evolved in an incremental manner to respond to specific management circumstances and issues as the state park land ownership has grown. Providing for increasing visitor service

needs and fulfilling park operations responsibilities is continually more challenging as park operations staff and resources remain limited.

The general plan provides a broad perspective beyond existing park operations arrangements, individual park unit boundaries or specific issues. The planning process provided an opportunity to consider more integrated, efficient, or creative alternative approaches to park operations, visitor experience, and resource management and to assume adequate resource protection and desired existing visitor experiences. Consideration was given to combine the State Natural Reserve with the State Park to improve current park operations, resource management and protection, as well as to serve or expand future park and visitor needs more effectively. Sub-unit classification, such as Natural Preserve, was considered appropriate to continue a high level of resource protection.

PRESERVATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

Since the original acquisition of Año Nuevo SNR, there has been a continuing concern about providing adequate protection for the coastal environment and the elephant seals that inhabit the area. Throughout the history of the State Natural Reserve, the Department and the State Park and Recreation Commission have implemented actions, policies, and designations to assure appropriate protection of the unique and sensitive resources in this area.

As the general plan process proceeded through resource inventories and analysis, the planning team learned about the extent and conditions of sensitive natural and cultural resource areas. This is especially true of coastal areas and the Quiroste Valley.

Consideration of combining Año Nuevo SP and Año Nuevo SNR into a single State Park classification must continue protection of the elephant seals, coastal natural and cultural resources, and visual character. A sub-classification designation of Natural Preserve may be considered for important sensitive resource areas, such as the elephant seal habitat and native coastal dune complex, in order to continue and enhance resource protection in the Año Nuevo Point area.

There are also significant environmentally sensitive areas with individual and distinctive landscape character and experiences that warrant special long-term protection and management. In recognition and response to these special

park features, this general plan established a Natural Preserve to preserve and protect coastal habitats and wildlife. The General Plan also established a Cultural Preserve to preserve and protect a culturally significant valley occupied in the past by the Ohlone people in the inland portion of the park. Furthermore, the General Plan ensured the appropriate preservation of the historic resources and character of the Dickerson-Steele Ranch and Cascade Ranch complexes.



4 PARK PLAN

Photo on reverse: Dickerman-Steele Ranch buildings

CHAPTER 4: PARK PLAN

The Park Plan establishes the long-range vision and purpose for the park. Specific goals and supporting guidelines further clarify this purpose and vision. These goals and guidelines are written to address current issues while providing a foundation for continued resource protection and preservation, as well as development and interpretation of the park. The goals and guidelines also serve as design and implementation parameters for subsequent management and development plans.

4.1 CLASSIFICATION

In addition to the Department's mission, park management and development is further directed by park unit classification as specified by the California Public Resources Code, Section 5019.50-5019.80. At the time of General Plan preparation, two Año Nuevo parks were classified as a State Park (inland, east of Highway 1) and a State Natural Reserve (coastal, west of Highway 1). Recent planning provided a long-term perspective and an opportunity to further evaluate the classification of these two parks. The Department identified its preferred alternative for combining both parks under the classification of "State Park" and sub-classifying the former Wildlife Protection Area, adjacent to coastal bluff and dunes, and Año Nuevo Island as a Natural Preserve (see **Figure 15**, Proposed Preserves).

The potential benefits of unifying the two parks into one single unit included:

- Natural Preserve sub-classification of a major portion of the coastal property will provide a high level of protection for natural and cultural resources. The protected area would be expanded to include protection of other significant resources.
- A single state park designation may reduce visitor confusion of having two similar park unit names in the same location.
- The restoration and adaptive use of historic structures (Steele Ranch and Cascade Ranch) would be more compatible with a state park classification rather than be divided between the State Park and State Natural Reserve units.

- Potential acquisition and use of coastal lands may be more compatible with a state park classification due to the resource sensitivities and compatibility with adjacent land uses.
- Operational benefits include improved administrative efficiencies, increased opportunities for improving park infrastructure, and increased opportunities to provide appropriate recreational trails and educational programs.

The two park properties were proposed as one State Park, with a Natural Preserve designation for much of the coastal property and a Cultural Preserve in an inland area of the park.

The California Public Resources Code defines the "State Park" classification as follows:

PRC 5019.53. State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archeological, ecological, geological, or other such values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains.

Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modifications of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural,

or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions unto themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

State parks may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the state.

The Public Resources Code establishes sub-classifications for areas that may be included within the boundaries of another unit of the State Park System. Año Nuevo SP was proposed to have two of these sub-classifications: Natural Preserve and Cultural Preserve. The proposed Natural Preserve was an expansion of the Wildlife Protection Zone of the former Año Nuevo SNR. The California Public Resources Code defines the Natural Preserve classification as follows:

PRC 5019.71. Natural Preserves consist of distinct nonmarine 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 geologic 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 that constitute the basis for the establishment of the natural preserve.

Goals and guidelines are provided in this general plan to guide management and appropriate use of the Natural Preserve (see Section 4.4, Planning Zones and Area-Specific Guidelines, Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone).

The Cultural Preserve is in the existing inland Año Nuevo SP area. The California Public Resources Code defines the Cultural Preserve classification as follows:



Franklin Point Trail

PRC 5019.74 Cultural Preserves consist of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California. The highest level of resource protection and complete integrity of the cultural resources is to be sought within Cultural Preserves. Structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity are not permitted.

Goals and guidelines are provided in this general plan to guide management and appropriate use of the Cultural Preserve (see Section 4.4, Planning Zones and Area-Specific Guidelines, Quiroste Valley Zone).

4.2 DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

A Declaration of Purpose describes the purpose of a park and is the broadest statement of management goals designed to fulfill the vision for the park. A Declaration of Purpose for each state park unit is required by Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2(b), "... setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the park consistent with the park's classification."

The purpose statement for the former State Natural Reserve was approved in 1979:

The purpose of Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve is to make available for public enjoyment, in an essentially natural condition, the scenic, biological, ecological, and cultural values of the California coastline, in the vicinity of Año Nuevo Point, including Año Nuevo Island. The pinniped rookery on Año Nuevo Island and the mainland is a prime resource, and shall receive full protection. The endangered San Francisco garter snake shall receive full protection. Day-use recreational activities necessary to permit people to enjoy the natural values of this location, and that will not conflict with these values, are appropriate. Every effort shall be made to provide full protection for unrestricted use of the rookery by the pinniped population. Archeological and historical values that exist in the unit shall be protected and interpreted.

The original purpose statement for the State Park was approved in 2000 as follows:

The purpose of Año Nuevo State Park, in San Mateo County, is to preserve and protect a substantial area on the western slope of the central Coast Range inland from Año Nuevo Point. The property contains a diversity of plant communities, including old growth forest, freshwater marsh, red alder riparian forest and knobcone pine forest. Its four perennial streams support steelhead trout and coho salmon, and its wetlands are habitat to the rare San Francisco garter snake and red-legged frog. Cultural resources include the remnants of a prehistoric Native American village site and a number of structures from the nineteenth century Cascade Ranch. In conjunction with adjacent and nearby public lands, the unit permits the protection of important regional ecological corridors.

California State Parks will preserve, protect, restore, interpret and manage the unit's archaeological, cultural, natural, aesthetic and scenic resources, features and values, making them available to the public for their educational, inspirational and recreational benefits.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE (APPROVED IN 2008)

The purpose of Año Nuevo State Park, in San Mateo County, is to preserve and protect the scenic, biological, ecological, and cultural values of the central California coastline, including Año Nuevo Island and properties on the western slope of the coast range inland from Año Nuevo Point. The park protects and interprets the pinniped rookeries, a prime resource, and significant wildlife habitats on Año Nuevo Island and the mainland. It also contains sensitive native dunes and coastal terrace prairie habitats, and a diversity of inland plant communities, including old growth forest, freshwater marsh, red alder riparian forest and knobcone pine forest. Its four perennial streams support steelhead trout and coho salmon, and its wetlands are habitat to the rare San Francisco garter snake and red-legged frog. Cultural resources include the remnants of Native California Indian Ohlone occupation of the area and a number of structures from the nineteenth century Cascade Ranch and historic Steele Ranch. In conjunction with adjacent and nearby public lands, the unit protects important regional ecological corridors and linkages.

California State Parks will preserve, protect, restore, interpret and manage the unit's archaeological, cultural, natural, aesthetic and scenic resources, making them available to the public for their educational, inspirational and recreational benefits.

4.3 VISION

A vision statement provides a view of desired future conditions within the park.

PARK VISION

Año Nuevo State Park contains an abundance and diversity of marine, coastal, and mountain resources. Visitors will come here to explore and experience the ecological transition from ocean to coastal terrace, then through the foothills and up into the Santa Cruz Mountains. Discovering and viewing marine mammals in their natural habitat will provide a unique and unforgettable experience for many visitors.

A variety of day use and overnight facilities, as well as an extensive network of trails, will provide numerous recreation choices and ensure public coastal access. The natural resource values and expansive views of the rural landscape, isolated coastline, and rugged Santa Cruz Mountains will be preserved.

The park's cultural resources include Native California Indian village sites, maritime history, and remnants of historic ranches and other coastal agricultural heritage that reflect a history of human interaction with the land. Interpretation and education programs will enhance the visitor's experience by connecting visitors with the rich natural and cultural heritage found here. These exceptional resources at Año Nuevo State Park will be protected and preserved for future generations.

4.4 PLANNING ZONES AND AREA-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

The management intent and guidelines for specific planning zones within the park are integrated into and support the broader perspective described in the parkwide goals and guidelines. The planning zones are defined by a combination of landscape character, distinctive resources, visitor activities, operations or management requirements, and planning issues. As shown in **Figure 12** (Planning Zones), there are six planning zones, which include:

Coastal:

- Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone
- Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone

Inland:

- Cascade Ranch Zone
- Lake Elizabeth Zone
- Quiroste Valley Zone
- Backcountry Zone

The parkwide goals and guidelines apply within each of the planning zones. Parkwide concerns, such as the protection and preservation of ecosystem elements and processes, including the protection of special status species and important cultural features, are integral components in the management of all areas. See 4.5 Parkwide Goals and Guidelines.

ENTRANCE AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER ZONE

Management Intent

The Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone is located in the southern coastal portion of the park. It is bordered by State Highway 1 to the east, Año Nuevo Bay and Año Nuevo Creek to the south, private property currently in agriculture to the north, and the Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone to the west.



The Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone. Visible in this aerial view are the main parking lot, the Dickerman-Steele historic ranch complex, and the old Highway 1 bridge.
Photo copyright 2002-2007 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project

This area serves as the main park entrance and provides initial visitor contact, orientation, education, and interpretation of the coastal natural and cultural resources, as well as a staging area for guided tours. The unique resources in this zone include historic structures and special status species.

This planning zone will be managed to provide a variety of recreation and interpretive opportunities. There are numerous ways to experience the distinctive natural and cultural resources in the area, including nature hikes, exhibits, lectures, and videos. Adaptive re-use of the 19th century historic structures at the Dickerman-Steele Ranch provides outstanding facilities to educate visitors about the unique wildlife and other natural and cultural resources in the park. The restored Dickerman Barn, Horse Barn, and Creamery (the Año Nuevo Marine Education Center) will provide interpretive exhibit space, public orientation, training rooms, support space for docents, and space for films and lectures. A park administrative center will provide administrative offices and staff/volunteer meeting space. There is also a park employee residence in this planning zone to provide continuous staff presence at the park.

Eleven trails have been developed on the bluff providing visitor access to Año Nuevo Point, Cove Beach, and to the scenic viewpoints along the shoreline and at the historic bridge that crosses Año Nuevo Creek. The trails and other park facilities will provide opportunities for visitors of all ability levels to experience the landscape, resources, and recreation that the park has to offer.

This planning zone will accommodate high visitation during the peak season (associated with the elephant seal breeding season, December through March). There will be a high degree of social interaction as visitors participate in the guided tours to observe the elephant seals in the Natural Preserve and frequent contact with park staff can be anticipated. See **Figure 13** for location of coastal proposals.

Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone Guidelines:

Entrance and Interpretive 1: Preserve and protect the historic structures and sites located in the Dickerman-Steele Ranch complex. Rehabilitate historic buildings for appropriate adaptive uses and provide park orientation, interpretive programs, tour staging areas, visitor services, and day use facilities. Protect and interpret the mission-period foundation found in the area between the Horse Barn, Dickerman Barn, and Creamery Building.

Entrance and Interpretive 2: Continue this area's function as the park's primary visitor orientation and interpretation center. Encourage visitor exploration of other areas of the park from this center. Also see guidelines **Access 1** and **Access 3**.

Entrance and Interpretive 3: Upgrade the existing entrance parking system to reduce potential user conflicts and traffic congestion, and to improve non-vehicular circulation. This may include separating vehicular from non-vehicular traffic, personal vehicles from buses, and public activity areas from park administration and maintenance operations.

Entrance and Interpretive 4: Continue to provide employee residences in this zone for security and surveillance purposes. Location of staff residences should be consistent with the resource management guidelines for this planning zone.

Entrance and Interpretive 5: Expand interpretive themes to illustrate the story of the Steele family dairy operations and cheese production, and the Año Nuevo Light Station, as well as later irrigated farming. Connect dairy farming interpretation into Wilder Ranch SHP, and light station history into Pigeon Point Light Station SHP.

Entrance and Interpretive 6: Enhance access to Año Nuevo Bay beaches by improving the existing access trail and formalizing the southern Caltrans right-of-way parking area. Establish a viewpoint near the historic highway bridge at Año Nuevo Creek and preserve the expansive coastal and ocean views.

WILDLIFE AND DUNE PROTECTION ZONE

Management Intent

The Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone is the western-most area of the park. It is bordered by Gazos Creek on the north, the Pacific Ocean on the west, Año Nuevo Bay to the south, and the visitor center and tour staging area to the east. This zone also includes Año Nuevo Island.

This planning zone is characterized by a coastal bluff, sand dunes, a rocky shoreline and pocket beaches west of State Highway 1. The area is primarily undeveloped, with the exception of trails, parking, and restroom facilities, where appropriate. Several hiking trails meander along the bluffs,



Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone: Año Nuevo Point in foreground, Franklin Point in background.

Photo copyright 2002-2007 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project

pass through the dunes to a sandy beach or the rocky point, and follow the creeks to the ocean.

The Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone will be managed primarily to protect and preserve the unique terrestrial and marine wildlife and natural and cultural resources while providing visitor access, education and interpretation. The trails through this zone will be clearly designated to minimize visitor impacts to the natural and cultural resources. The area will retain the rural, wild and undeveloped character of this part of the coastline. The natural coastal bluff environment will be protected, including the expansive viewshed, to preserve wildlife habitat and for the enjoyment of visitors who wish to explore the park by foot. Cultural resources throughout this zone, including prehistoric sites and the historic sites at Franklin Point, will also be protected. A large portion of this zone will be classified as a Natural Preserve to provide further protection to the sensitive resources occurring here. (See **Figure 15**, Natural/Cultural Preserves). Management of the Wildlife and Dune Preservation Zone shall maintain and ensure a wilderness-like experience for park visitors. Research activities shall be consistent with the planning zone's management intent, goals, guidelines, and desired visitor experiences.

Park rules and regulations are more restrictive in this zone than in other management areas to ensure a high level of resource protection. This zone is also adjacent to the Año Nuevo SMCA where take of marine species is prohibited except for kelp. Visitors will continue to enjoy the tours led by California State Parks volunteer naturalists to view the elephant seals during peak season, and self-guided hiking by visitor permit during other seasons.

The minimal facility development in this planning zone will include trails (including ADA-accessible boardwalks), observation areas, interpretive information, service roads, a group staging area (including parking, classroom space, storage, staff office, and restrooms), and staff facilities. These facilities will increase visitor amenities and supplement education and interpretive opportunities provided at the visitor center. The facilities will be designed for compatibility with the coastal landscape and character of the park.

Trails will receive high use during the peak season, and can also provide a quieter experience during the off-season. A trail segment adjacent to the privately-owned agricultural fields will provide connections to the Education and Interpretive Center Zone, Franklin Point, Gazos Beach, and the northern coastal dunes. This trail will also serve as a link in the California Coastal Trail and will support regional coastal trail linkages, including connections to Pigeon Point Light Station SHP to the north, private recreation providers, and the Lake Elizabeth area and inland portion of the park to the east. Interpretation will provide information about the trail system, natural resources and maritime history of the area, including the many shipwrecks that have occurred near Franklin Point. Staff housing is provided for park security and surveillance purposes. See **Figure 13** for location of coastal proposals.

Natural Preserve

To preserve significant natural and cultural resources while allowing for visitor access, much of the area of coastal dunes and coastal grasslands warrants special protection through sub-classification as a natural preserve. The management intent in the creation of a natural preserve is to provide protection for most of the park's coastal dune and grassland ecosystems outside of the developed portions of the park. Existing and potentially new hiking trails would allow visitor access to the outstanding coastal resources along routes that would provide maximum resource protection. Day uses compatible with natural preserve status would be allowed, but facility development would be limited to trails and



interpretive signage. Staging facilities, such as parking, would be located outside preserve boundaries.

Sensitive native habitats occur on much of the coastal portion of the park west of State Highway 1. These include native coastal prairie, dune, and wetland habitats, which support numerous common as well as several sensitive wildlife species. Collectively these habitats constitute one of the most significant native coastal ecosystems on the central California coast. Coastal dune ecosystems with their complement of native species are rare along this part of the California coast and those found at Año Nuevo SP are considered some of the finest examples in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. Some of the park's coastal grasslands are regarded as significant since they are among the few remaining grasslands with a predominance of native species in coastal central California. In addition, significant cultural resources exist in this area.

State Parks will continue to manage Año Nuevo Island to protect marine mammal and bird habitat and the historic light station structures.

Año Nuevo Island, a significant island refuge, will also be part of the Natural Preserve and will continue to be managed to protect the marine birds and mammal habitat as well as the historic light station structures. The island will remain a protected habitat that is used for research purposes and there will be limited access. Efforts to enhance and restore native vegetation and wildlife habitat and to maintain the historic structures will continue. A remote video camera system called Seal Cam is installed in an observation blind on the island. Seal Cam provides internet live video viewing of the elephant seals and is an important interpretive feature for making elephant seal observation accessible beyond the park. Seal Cam is a partnership project of California State Parks with the San Mateo Natural History Association.

Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone Guidelines:

Wildlife and Dune 1: Establish a Natural Preserve of approximately 800 acres of the coastal dune ecosystem and coastal grasslands west of State Highway 1, plus Año Nuevo Island, to establish special protection for sensitive natural and cultural features. The Natural Preserve boundaries shall extend from the area surrounding Año Nuevo Point north to the park's border along Gazos Creek to encompass the existing "Wildlife Protection Area," which was established to protect northern elephant seals and their breeding habitat (see **Figure 13**).

Wildlife and Dune 2: Establish an appropriate buffer area (approximately 100 feet wide) between the Natural Preserve and this zone's western boundary,



State Highway 1, existing development, roads, and areas managed for more intensive visitor use. Developed areas, such as staff housing and parking, will be located outside the Natural Preserve.

Wildlife and Dune 3: Continue accommodating research activities on Año Nuevo Island to ensure a high level of protection of cultural and marine resources. The Department should maintain the existing relationships with U.C. Santa Cruz, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and other entities currently using the island, for their continued occupancy of the fog signal building and to provide management guidelines for the appropriate treatment and protection of this building. Maintain and improve the Seal Cam system as necessary.

Wildlife and Dune 4: Protect and restore sensitive habitats in the northern coastal dune complex. Provide greater protection of cultural and natural resources from visitor use impacts and elephant seal activity by directing pedestrian traffic and trails, where possible, to avoid damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Wildlife and Dune 5: Provide visitor access on designated trails through the Natural Preserve. Use boardwalks and trail delineation to provide public access while protecting and interpreting resource values. Establish trail connections between the Año Nuevo Point and Franklin Point areas as well as hiking-only extensions of the California Coastal Trail.

Wildlife and Dune 6: Maintain park signs that clarify property boundaries to minimize public/private use conflicts along trails adjacent to agricultural lands and other private property.

Wildlife and Dune 7: Provide maritime history interpretive information at the Franklin Point viewpoint. Evaluate the potential for additional formalized viewpoints and interpretation along the northern coast (see guideline **Interpretation C-4**).

Wildlife and Dune 8: Discontinue surf fishing opportunities consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act regulations and resource management objectives as well as State Parks and Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) policies, regulations, and agreements. Coordinate with the CDFG to determine the need and



potential for improved parking and access facilities at Gazos Creek (CDFG and California State Parks ownerships).

Wildlife and Dune 9: Coordinate with Caltrans to improve the function and safety of day use parking areas and coastal access along State Highway 1. Enhancements could include resurfacing, striping, signs, screening, restroom facilities, and highway turnouts. Also provide appropriate and safe trail connections across State Highway 1 between coastal and inland park properties as well as appropriate trail markers and maps.

Wildlife and Dune 10: Provide a staging area for school group tours, separate from the general visiting public, in order to improve tour management, visitor safety, and parking conditions. Facility location and design is subject to further environmental impact assessment.

Wildlife and Dune 11: Coordinate with the Peninsula Open Space Trust Cloverdale Coastal Ranches to establish an inland trailhead and interpretive facilities at Gazos Creek Road and State Highway 1.

Wildlife and Dune 12: Support implementation of the California Coastal Trail Plan. Coordinate with adjacent landowners to provide trail linkages, where feasible, north to Pigeon Point Light Station SHP.

Wildlife and Dune 13: Evaluate the long-term effects on park facilities and programs in coastal areas caused by sea level changes resulting from long-term climate changes. Also evaluate potential impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, about every five years.



Cascade Ranch as viewed from Highway 1

CASCADE RANCH ZONE

Management Intent

The Cascade Ranch Zone is located in the southern portion of Año Nuevo SP adjacent to and east of State Highway 1. It is bordered by the Backcountry Zone to the north and by Big Basin Redwoods SP to the east. This area contains five historic ranch structures, including the residences of the area's original ranching family. Cascade Ranch represents one of the last remaining original Steele Brothers Dairies and many of the buildings remaining on the ranch are original. The ranch currently forms a part of California State Historic Landmark #906 and it also appears eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, likely as a historic district.

The entire historic Cascade Ranch is divided into two ownerships. California State Parks owns many of the historic ranch residences and outbuildings. Cascade Ranch Historic Farm (CRHF), a non-profit organization, owns and farms the 480-acre parcel of historic Cascade Ranch just north of the State Parks property which also includes several historic structures. The CRHF land is in crop production to demonstrate historic coastal farm activities and sustainable agriculture, and to keep the traditional ranch lifestyle alive for public education. Coordination between California State Parks and CRHF for public access and interpretation and education will provide visitors the opportunity to understand and experience the rancher's way of life in the traditional row-crop and dairy industries along the coast, and will preserve the remaining features of the historically significant Cascade Ranch.

The Cascade Ranch area, in cooperation with Cascade Ranch Historic Farm, will be managed primarily for its historic and cultural landscape values and educational potential. Interpretive programs will support exploration of historic ranch structures, gardens, and historic coast ranch life. This area will also contain public vehicle access, parking and trails. Staff housing in the area will provide continuous staff presence at the park.

A regional maintenance facility serving the California State Parks units in the Santa Cruz Mountains region will be considered in the Cascade Ranch area. Future opportunities for shared agency and interagency staff housing and maintenance facilities should be evaluated for potential development of this area. See **Figure 14** for location of inland proposals.

Cascade Ranch Zone Guidelines:

Cascade Ranch 1: Preserve and protect the historic character of the Cascade Ranch. Evaluate the historic significance of the ranch, to include a focused historic context and examination of the changing agricultural uses of the ranch, and determine which site features and elements contribute to the cultural landscape.

Cascade Ranch 2: Initiate appropriate management actions for treatment and protection of historic sites and features as follows:

- Stabilize the Cascade Ranch Horse Barn.
- Provide a conservation plan and treatment guidelines for the Steele Family/Chinese Workers' Cemetery.



Cascade Ranch entrance view of horse barn and original Rensselaer Steele house

Cascade Ranch will be managed primarily for its historic and cultural landscape values and educational potential.

- Develop maintenance guidelines for the historic hydrologic system at Cascade Ranch in order to avoid, minimize, or reduce negative impacts. This would include the various historic water control and conveyance features found upstream of the Cascade Ranch buildings.
- Complete a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation and/or nomination for the Cascade Ranch.

Cascade Ranch 3: Develop facilities for visitor day use and park operations which will enhance the visitor's enjoyment and appreciation of the cultural history while preserving and protecting the historic ranch setting.

Cascade Ranch 4: Continue staff housing in the Cascade Ranch area. Continue efforts to preserve and maintain historic buildings and structures, including historic interior and exterior character defining features and associated landscape elements. Additional adaptive uses for interpretive and administrative purposes may be considered, but should follow standards and guidelines identified in management reports (such as Historic Structures Reports or Cultural Landscape Reports) prepared to establish treatment guidelines as per the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Modern improvements should be compatible with historic character and treatment guidelines.

Cascade Ranch 5: Coordinate with adjacent property owners, including Cascade Ranch Historic Farm, to interpret Steele family ranching operations and cheese production. Promote shared use and interpretation of public and privately owned facilities.

Cascade Ranch 6: Coordinate row-crop agriculture or historical ranching interpretation at Cascade Ranch with the interpretation of the Dickerman-Steele Ranch buildings, and other regional agriculture interpretation such as at Wilder Ranch SP and Cloverdale Coastal Ranches (see guideline **Interpretation B-3**).

Cascade Ranch 7: Develop vehicle access, trailhead parking, and picnic facilities immediately south of the historic ranch complex, subject to further environmental impact assessment. Consider providing group day use facilities. Establish safe vehicle access from State Highway 1, with adequate buffers and

screening. This road could also provide visitor access to the historic ranch complex and/or authorized vehicle access to park maintenance facilities.

Cascade Ranch 8: Coordinate with adjacent property owners (Cascade Ranch Historic Farm) to provide a multi-use public access trail connecting Cascade Ranch to the Lake Elizabeth area and for shared use of Chalks Mountain Road for public access and visitor parking at Cascade Ranch.

Cascade Ranch 9: Consider establishing alternative park operations and maintenance functions and facilities south of the ranch complex (in support of Año Nuevo SP, Butano SP, and the Rancho del Oso area of Big Basin Redwoods SP) subject to further environmental impact assessment. Additional adaptive use of existing ranch buildings may be considered for these purposes. Ensure compatibility with the historic ranch setting. Coordinate with adjacent landowners to ensure compatibility of land uses, operations, and circulation. Evaluate this potential in conjunction with development of nearby day use picnic facilities (see guideline **Cascade Ranch 7**).

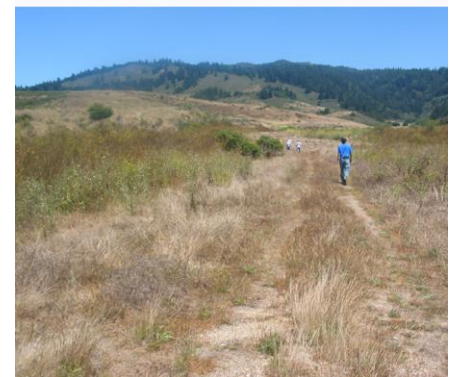
Cascade Ranch 10: As more specific planning and proposed project information becomes available, evaluate the potential cumulative impacts of proposed development on the historic character and integrity of the buildings, structures, and landscape at Cascade Ranch as well as the management intent of this zone.

LAKE ELIZABETH ZONE

Management Intent

The Lake Elizabeth Zone is adjacent to Highway 1 between Cascade Ranch to the south and Whitehouse Road to the north. This area is characterized by annual grassland on the flat terrain and gentle slopes and riparian scrub vegetation surrounding Lake Elizabeth, a reservoir used for agricultural irrigation. This area includes the marine terrace northeast of Highway 1 and the grass and chaparral covered foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. There is an open scenic quality to this area, where sweeping views of the ocean and adjacent agricultural fields are common.

The Lake Elizabeth Zone will be managed primarily for visitor access, recreational use, and natural resource protection. Visitors enjoy the expansive scenic qualities as an important part of visitor experiences in the park and for travelers along



Lake Elizabeth Zone access

the highway. Visitors experience spectacular views of timbered mountains to the east, rolling, brush- and grass-covered interior foothills, and the coastal terrace and ocean to the west. Visitors to this area can find relaxation, wildlife viewing, and access to a variety of recreation facilities. The park's primary and most accessible inland trailhead will be located in this area to provide hikers, bicyclists and equestrians access to the park's uplands. Hiking trails will also provide access to the coastal environment located across the highway. The day use parking lot could accommodate enroute vehicle campers for overnight use along Highway 1. See **Figure 14** for inland proposals.

Lake Elizabeth Zone Guidelines:

The park's primary inland trailhead will be located in the Lake Elizabeth Zone.

Lake Elizabeth 1: Develop a day use area to serve as the primary trailhead access inland from Highway 1. The access road and parking should accommodate different types of vehicles (e.g. cars, camper vans, recreation vehicles, horse trailers) to support multi-use of trails and day use facilities. Provide appropriate park and regional trail network information and orientation.

Lake Elizabeth 2: Park operations may consider alternative use of the day use parking lot at Lake Elizabeth to accommodate enroute campers. No other camping provisions are anticipated.

Lake Elizabeth 3: Continue monitoring water quality and changes in natural resource habitats and take appropriate management actions to ensure desired conditions in compliance with regulatory requirements and use agreements.

Lake Elizabeth 4: Protect special status wildlife species, such as the San Francisco garter snake and red-legged frog and their associated habitat, when considering future development and use of the Lake Elizabeth area.

Lake Elizabeth 5: Preserve the expansive natural views of coastal foothills and ridges from the highway corridor. Minimize the visual impact of park facilities with appropriate site planning and screening.

Lake Elizabeth 6: Manage visitor use along Whitehouse Creek through appropriate easements and right-of-way agreements. Maintain signs indicating State Park boundaries to minimize public/private use conflicts.

QUIROSTE VALLEY ZONE

Management Intent

The Quiroste Valley, once occupied by native California Indians (the Quiroste), is located in the western foothills of the park along the north side of Whitehouse Road. It is a secluded valley of annual grasslands and brush areas surrounded by forested hills. The Quiroste Valley Zone includes the valley and surrounding areas. It is bordered by the Lake Elizabeth Zone to the south, the Backcountry Zone to the east and to the north, and the park boundary with private lands to the west.

Cultural Preserve

To preserve significant cultural resources and a unique cultural landscape, while allowing for Native California Indian community and park visitor access, the Quiroste Valley and surrounding viewshed warrants special protection through sub-classification as a cultural preserve (see **Figure 15**, Natural/Cultural Preserves). The management intent in the creation of a cultural preserve is to provide protection for most of the secluded Quiroste Valley and viewshed as a uniquely preserved and managed cultural landscape and resource that honors the heritage of the historic Quiroste tribe and the Ohlone people.

The Quiroste Valley will be managed as a unique cultural landscape and area of important cultural resources, with provisions for public access and interpretation. A cultural landscape is defined by the National Park Service as “a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources... plant communities, animals, subsistence and ceremonial grounds are often components.” The Zone is proposed to be designated as a cultural preserve. Management of the cultural preserve may involve vegetation management in order to restore valley conditions to the time of Quiroste occupation and the arrival of the Portolá expedition. Such management should include an appropriate and natural vegetation transition to surrounding backcountry natural landscape areas along cultural preserve-planning zone perimeter areas.

Day uses compatible with the cultural preserve status would be allowed, but facility development would be limited to trails in the planning zone and to interpretive signage outside of the valley viewshed. Hiking trails allow visitor access to the valley along routes that would provide maximum resource protection. An existing unpaved service road provides vehicular access into the valley from Whitehouse Creek Road.



Quiroste Valley, upper end

The cultural preserve is intended to provide protection for the Quiroste Valley as a uniquely preserved and managed cultural landscape.

Temporary staging areas and facilities, such as parking, areas for unloading of equipment, materials, or supplies for events, and portable toilets will be accommodated. Non-permanent day use facilities will provide access and interpretation of the extensive cultural and natural resources. Approved overnight use will be restricted to that associated with native California Indian ceremonies or appropriate special events compatible with the character of the Quiroste Valley. Non-permanent replicas of Native California Indian structures and village site features are future considerations that would offer further opportunities for Native California Indian ceremonies, activities, or interpretation to tell the story of the pre-European lifeways of the Quiroste people and the arrival of the Portolá expedition. Interpretive information may be provided on trailhead or viewpoint panels, on brochures, or at the main park visitor center.



Road into Quiroste Valley

Ongoing coordination with appropriate Ohlone tribal representatives will help determine the land stewardship, resource management, appropriate uses, and interpretation and education opportunities to be provided in the Quiroste Valley area.

See **Figure 14** for inland proposals.

Quiroste Valley Zone Guidelines:

Quiroste Valley 1: Provide a Cultural Preserve sub-classification of approximately 225 acres of the Quiroste Valley and surrounding viewshed north of Lake Elizabeth and west of Whitehouse Road to establish special protection for the cultural landscape and the cultural resources of the valley.

Quiroste Valley 2: The Cultural Preserve boundaries (see **Figure 15**) shall include the Quiroste Valley and surrounding viewshed (as viewed from the valley floor).

Quiroste Valley 3: Consult with local native California Indian representatives and pursue partnerships with local native California Indian groups to establish resource management practices and interpretation of native California Indian history, lifeways, and the protection of significant cultural sites and features located in the Quiroste Valley. This includes vegetation management that replicates valley conditions of the historic Native California Indian occupation.

Quiroste Valley 4: Provide visitor access and provisions for appropriate Native California Indian activities and ceremonies as well as interpretation that focus on



Quiroste Valley, lower end

Native California Indian culture and village life in the Quiroste Valley. Continue use of existing unpaved roads for limited vehicular access. Avoid permanent developments that are not consistent with the remote undeveloped backcountry character of the valley and the cultural landscape management of the valley.

Quiroste Valley 5: Limit signage in the Quiroste Valley to that necessary for public safety and orientation, in order to retain the cultural landscape of the pre-European contact valley as much as possible.

Quiroste Valley 6: Continue researching traditional Quiroste village structures (e.g. tule structures, Round House) to enhance understanding of the Native California Indian occupation of the valley.

Quiroste Valley 7: Allow for Native California Indian activities and ceremonies, special events, and interpretive program activities that are consistent with the intent and purpose of the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve classification. Conduct comprehensive cultural resource surveys and evaluations to identify all significant sites. Ensure that cultural, historic, and prehistoric sites and features are protected. (See guidelines **Interpretation E-3** and **Interpretation F-1**, and the related goal).

Quiroste Valley 8: Provide access roads, interpretive viewpoint(s) with interpretive information signs, and trailhead parking. Keep parking out of the valley viewshed. Interpretation in the valley will provide for meaningful on-site interpretation and will not detract from the cultural landscape.

Quiroste Valley 9: Provide interpretive information about Native California Indian history and the Quiroste Valley site, potentially at access points, vistas, trailheads, and the main park visitor center. Continue comprehensive surveys of remaining portions of the Quiroste Valley Planning Zone that lack coverage. Evaluate, record, and interpret historic resources and features, such as the Frank Steele ranch structures and the Whitehouse Creek dam at these same locations. (See **Interpretation and Education Goal F** and guidelines **Interpretation F-1** and **Interpretation F-2**).

BACKCOUNTRY ZONE

Management Intent



Old Womans Creek Road

The Backcountry Zone consists of the more remote upland areas of the park. This zone is characterized by forested mountains, rolling hills covered with grass and chaparral, and riparian canyons with lush undergrowth and large trees. The northern boundary consists of a linear corridor along Gazos Creek which is also the boundary between Butano SP and Año Nuevo SP. The Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST) Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, a significant regional conservancy natural area, borders the northwestern corner of the Backcountry Zone along Gazos Creek Road. Big Basin Redwoods SP is adjacent to the eastern boundary of this planning zone.

The Backcountry contains quiet forests, expansive brushlands, native wildlife and plants, ridge top vistas of the Santa Cruz Mountains, lush riparian corridors, and important cultural resources. These are invaluable qualities that will be protected and enhanced. This area will be managed to preserve the natural landscape, preserve natural and aesthetic resource values, and retain the sense of solitude. There will be minimal recreational facility development to accommodate low impact recreational opportunities. Management of the Gazos Creek riparian area and watershed will support natural processes and scenic views.

Minimal facility development for this zone would include multi-use trails, fire roads, vista points, and trail camps. Fire roads and trails will ensure visitor safety and provide regional trail connections. Backcountry visitors can enjoy day use facilities and overnight trail camps. Hikers, bicyclists and equestrians can explore the park and surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains on the region's multi-use fire roads and trails.

See **Figure 14** for inland proposals.

Backcountry Zone Guidelines:

Backcountry 1: Provide trailhead access and parking in the vicinity of Gazos Creek Road and Old Womans Creek Road.

Backcountry 2: Develop additional trail camps and/or horse trail camps. Consider the possibilities of these trail camps to also serve as bicycle camps in the backcountry, accessible by multi-use trails.

Backcountry 3: Coordinate with POST to develop trail connections to and through the Cloverdale Coastal

This area will be managed to preserve the natural landscape, retain natural and aesthetic resource values, and maintain the sense of solitude.

Ranches. Establish a multi-use trail connection from Butano SP and Cloverdale Coastal Ranches through Año Nuevo SP to the coast. Incorporate key regional vista points and interpretive signage into the trail system, using and tying together the interpretive themes of each park (see guideline **Interpretation B-4**).

Backcountry 4: Explore possibilities for a regional coastal trail connecting destinations such as Pigeon Point Light Station SHP to the north. These routes should be a part of a regional trail network.

Backcountry 5: Cooperate with POST to support opportunities to develop day use parking, trail access, potential bike staging areas, and appropriate orientation, interpretation, and visitor service facilities on the inland side of Highway 1.

4.5 PARKWIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES

The parkwide goals and guidelines address existing issues and provide ongoing guidance that will be undertaken to realize the long-term vision for the park. The *goals* establish the purpose and the *guidelines* provide the direction that California State Parks will consider to achieve these goals. The following goals and guidelines address managing and interpreting the park's resources, providing recreational facilities and opportunities, and operating and maintaining the park.

PHYSICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Geology and Hydrology

Within Año Nuevo SP natural geologic and hydrologic processes are reshaping the park's landforms and changing its watercourses. These processes happen both slowly over geologic time and abruptly during earthquakes, intense or prolonged storm events, or other natural disasters. In the inland portion of the park, steep topography and unconsolidated soils, periodic heavy rainfall, and occasional earthquakes make this area naturally prone to floods, landslides, slope erosion, stream bank slumping, stream sedimentation impacts, and log and debris jams. Overall, the coastal areas have broad sandy beaches, sand dunes, rocky shorelines, and gentler coastal terrace topography that can be prone to landslides, but steep sea cliffs are susceptible to wave-induced erosion and slumping. Human development and use, such as roads, trails, utilities, and recreation facilities



can increase the frequency and scale of these natural processes as well as introduce sediments, septic system wastes, and other pollutants into watersheds. Several traces of the active San Gregorio Fault traverse the coast and the potential exists for surface rupture and strong ground shaking. Appropriate initial site investigation, site planning, design, development, and operation of facilities is critical to avoid or minimize locating park development or activities in potentially geologically hazardous areas, which could lead to negative human impacts on water quality and habitat integrity, and possible loss of human life and property.

A close relationship between watershed integrity, water quality, facility development, and natural disaster preparedness is reflected in the following goals and guidelines. These goals and guidelines are further reinforced by implementing the policies presented in the Department Operations Manual (DOM) for watershed management, stream management, watershed and stream protection, stream restoration, floodplain management, wetlands management, coastal lagoon management, water quality and quantity, water rights, coastal erosion, geologic hazards, facility siting in geologically hazardous areas (including seismic hazard zones), and protection of geologic and soil resources. In addition to the DOM, State Parks has developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) for road recontouring and rehabilitation, road removal, road-to-trail conversion, and culvert replacement. The standard construction BMPs for erosion and sediment control from the California Stormwater Quality Association (Construction Handbook, January 2003) will also be used where appropriate. These BMPs will be implemented as applicable during site-specific development.

Geology and Hydrology Goal: Minimize human impacts on natural geologic and hydrologic processes and values while protecting human life and property from these natural processes. Provide for water quality within the springs, streams, ponds, and coastal waters at Año Nuevo SP that is safe for visitors and keeps water bodies inhabitable for wildlife and plant species.

Geology and Hydrology Guidelines:

Geology/Hydrology 1: Monitor and document the geologic and hydrologic processes affecting the park and its resources.

Geology/Hydrology 2: Determine if, where, and how human development or activities may be exaggerating the natural rates or scales of landslides, coastal bluff erosion, stream channel erosion, log and debris jams

and excessive sedimentation (aggradation) or degradation. Identify best management actions that can reduce or avoid negative human impacts to slope and stream integrity and to water quality. Management actions could include road and trail rehabilitation or removal from highly erosive areas, stream modifications, debris management, and revegetation.

Geology/Hydrology 3: Include licensed professional biological, geological, and engineering evaluations as appropriate when locating and designing permanent structures, campgrounds, roads, utilities, and trails to avoid or reduce potential damage to people and property from unstable soil, coastal bluff erosion, landslides, debris flows, floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

Geology/Hydrology 4: Construct all structures in the park in conformance with seismic design criteria in the newest edition of the Uniform Building Code, California Building Code, or California Historic Building Code. State Parks staff will inspect all buildings as soon as possible after any large earthquake affecting the Año Nuevo area to ascertain damage. Major damage shall be inspected by a qualified structural engineer before the buildings resume use by park staff or the public.

Water Quality Guidelines:

Geology/Hydrology 5: Understand and comply with the surface and groundwater beneficial uses and water quality objectives set forth in the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan that apply to the park watersheds and take appropriate actions to prevent degradation of surface and groundwater within the park. Examples of appropriate actions include ensuring that park sewage treatment meets water quality standards and planning and implementing new park projects so they do not degrade surface or groundwater quality.

Geology/Hydrology 6: Cooperate with other landowners and regulatory agencies to address and remediate sediment issues affecting the park.

Geology/Hydrology 7: As appropriate, develop and implement BMPs for erosion and sediment control and storm water runoff for park projects.

Geology/Hydrology 8: Maintain and manage native riparian vegetation bordering the streams and springs, where feasible to filter sediments and other pollutants from runoff that enter these water bodies. Use biotechnical methods where possible when it is necessary for embankment stabilization and for stream restoration.

Geology/Hydrology 9: Participate with others such as resource/regulatory agencies and adjacent landowners to develop watershed management plans or assessments for major watersheds contained in the park. The watershed planning effort will use current information from existing watershed assessments and studies. These watershed plans analyze the sediment transport functions in the park's stream systems, evaluates impacts of facilities and park use, and provides a scientific basis for selection, design, implementation and monitoring of future fisheries habitat enhancement and sediment reduction projects. Consider a comprehensive plan that also includes Butano SP, as Gazos Creek originates partly in Butano SP. Elements of this plan may include, but not be limited to:

- Inventory and prioritize sediment sources, analyze the sediment transport functions in the stream systems with respect to their impact on in-stream habitat and on sediment delivery to Gazos Creek and its tributaries, Cascade Creek, Whitehouse Creek, Green Oaks Creek and Año Nuevo Creek. Gazos Creek, a priority watershed for coho salmon and steelhead trout restoration, is currently being evaluated by the Coastal Watershed Council. Hydrologic and geomorphic assessments, sediment load and yield, road inventory, and other studies are available.
- Determine if fluvial geomorphic analysis is needed and what level is required for all streams. Coordinate this analysis with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) monitoring efforts.
- Assess the impacts of park facilities and activities on the integrity of the park's ecology, watershed, and water quality.

Paleontology

Paleontological resources are remnants of life from past geological periods (e.g. fossil remains). These resources constitute a fragile and nonrenewable scientific record of the

history of life on earth and represent an important and critical component of the natural heritage. The geologic formations in Año Nuevo SP contain various types of fossils, most of which are common fossils dating to the Miocene age (13-20 million years old) and the Cretaceous age (66-98 million years old) when the land within Año Nuevo SP was submerged. Erosion and excavation, associated with site improvement and construction activities, may expose fossils and other paleontological resources. Other human activities may result in damage or destruction of these resources. Department policies (DOM 0309 Paleontological Resources) provide for the protection and preservation of paleontological resources of park resource importance and are also addressed by the following goal and guidelines.

Paleontology Goal: Protect and preserve significant paleontological resources within Año Nuevo State Park.

Paleontology Guidelines:

Paleo 1: Survey paleontological resources to protect these resources within the park. This program can be combined with the park unit resources inventory program.

Paleo 2: If unusual or major paleontological resources are discovered (e.g. exposed by excavation or other actions), consult with the Department's resource specialists to determine significance and implement appropriate remediation, in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The coastal section of Año Nuevo SP comprises approximately 1300 acres that encompass sensitive native dune, coastal scrub, riparian, and coastal terrace prairie habitat. This coastal habitat is extremely important for wildlife. It is characterized by long stretches of sandy beaches and dunes, broken by rocky-intertidal habitat. A portion of this area was formally designated as a Wildlife Protection Area consisting of sand dunes and beaches that included a major mainland breeding colony for the federally protected northern elephant seal. Año Nuevo Island is especially valuable wildlife habitat, and access is restricted to park staff and approved researchers. The proposed Natural Preserve would continue and extend this protection of sensitive resources.

The inland section of the park comprises approximately 2,900 acres of land that encompass several diverse habitat types,

The emphasis in the park's natural resource management should be on the long term health and vitality of the composite ecosystem.

including coastal prairie, freshwater marsh, second growth redwood and Douglas-fir forest, knobcone pine stands, riparian areas, oak woodland, and chaparral. Its four perennial streams support steelhead trout and coho salmon, and its wetlands are habitat to the federally and state listed endangered San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog, federally listed as threatened.

Past and present human influences, including agricultural production, logging, introduction of non-native plants and animals, visitor activities, and facility development have changed the conditions under which natural ecosystems have developed. These changes have created shifts in species composition and changes in the structure and pattern of plant communities and species populations. As a result, sensitive habitats such as wetlands, dunes, grasslands, and riparian areas have been impacted and native plant and wildlife values have declined in some locations. This decline has affected species such as the San Francisco garter snake, California red-legged frog, tidewater goby, coho salmon, steelhead, and Western snowy plover.

The park is an important part of a regional mosaic of preserved lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains that provide valuable native habitats for wildlife. Protecting habitats within the park as well as between the park and other surrounding public natural lands is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems. Año Nuevo SP directly connects these coastal and inland habitats with Big Basin Redwoods SP and Butano SP. In response to this, the emphasis in the park's natural resource management should be on the long term health and vitality of the composite ecosystem.

Natural Resource Management Goal: Manage natural resources to preserve the composite whole of physical and biological processes, features, and native plant and animal communities. The park will be managed to:

- Protect, restore, and maintain the wildlife populations and native ecosystems, especially native dune and grassland vegetation complexes and wildlife populations at Año Nuevo SP.
- Maintain or restore the movement of native species through the park and regional ecosystems in order to protect and promote species abundance and diversity.
- Protect special status plants and wildlife within the park and manage for their perpetuation.

- Restore, maintain, and protect the native dune and grassland habitat.

Vegetation Management Guidelines:

Native plant communities are essential habitat for both sensitive as well as common wildlife species. Four of the plant communities in Año Nuevo SP are designated as rare by the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base. These communities are Arroyo Willow, California Oatgrass, Sand Verbena–Beach Bursage, and Red Alder.

The long term health of the park's native plant communities, which provide habitat for native wildlife, are threatened by invasive non-native plant species, especially European beachgrass, Cape ivy, and Scotch broom.

Vegetation 1: Prepare and update the park's Vegetation Management Statement that identifies goals for vegetation management and desired conditions in each of the park's management units as described in the Department's Natural Resource Condition Assessment database. Re-establish and promote natural ecological processes, such as the use of fire under prescribed conditions, which are essential for the development and maintenance of native plant communities. For example, rare communities such as knobcone pine forest are fire dependent, needing recurring fire events for stand renewal. Maintain sustainable forest management techniques to ensure healthy forests, which may contribute to the reduction of atmospheric carbon through carbon sequestration, especially in conifer tree species.

Vegetation 2: Identify locations in the park that are heavily impacted from past management practices (e.g. agricultural production, logging, fire suppression) and implement appropriate vegetation and habitat restoration programs. Components of such restoration programs may include prescribed fire, revegetation with native species, fenced enclosures, facility relocations, and other methods. Reforestation, where appropriate, can also help to positively affect climate change by reducing greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration.

Vegetation 3: Manage invasive non-native plant species with appropriate methods to prevent their establishment and spread. Priority for control efforts will be given to those species that cause damage, have

the most potential to spread rapidly, and are conspicuous in the park.

Vegetation 4: Prescribed fire should be used as part of a vegetation management strategy, when appropriate, to achieve natural and cultural landscape management goals. This program, including the Unit Prescribe Fire Plan, will be upgraded periodically to reflect the ongoing accomplishments and necessary refinements, changes in prescribed fire science and technology, state and federal regulations, and be reviewed for consistency with other programs affecting vegetation management strategies and public safety.

Special Status Plants Guidelines:

Two special status plant species, coast wallflower and San Francisco popcorn-flower, are reported to occur within the boundaries of Año Nuevo SP. Coast wallflower, occurring on the coastal portion of the park, is on the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B (plants considered rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere). San Francisco popcorn-flower, reported on the inland portion, is listed as endangered by the State of California and is also on CNPS List 1B.

Suitable to marginally suitable habitat exists within the park for 33 other special status plant species. Seventeen of these species are CNPS List 1B plants, one is List 2 (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere), one is List 3 (plants about which more information is needed – a review list), and thirteen are List 4 (plants of limited distribution – a watch list). Appropriate management will be provided for all special status plant species that are considered to be at risk by park biologists.

Special Plants 1: Protect special status plant species to the degree necessary to maintain or enhance populations. Initiate surveys for sensitive plant species to document their distribution and abundance.

Special Plants 2: Implement appropriate management actions using proven ecological principles and professionally accepted methods for those species identified as “at risk” or “with known threats”.

Fire Processes Guidelines:

Fire is an important natural process that is integral to the ecology of the Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion. Many of the plant communities within this region, including the coastal

Fire is an important natural process that is integral to the ecology of the Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion.

habitats, depend on periodic fires for renewal, regeneration, and maintenance of healthy ecosystems. This is especially true for the park's coastal terrace prairie, knobcone pine forest, and chaparral communities. However, natural fire regimes have been greatly altered since the Euroamerican settlement of the area. Subsequent land use conversion, resource utilization (e.g. by logging), and introduction of non-native plant species (e.g. European beachgrass) within the park and surrounding lands have created a mosaic of natural habitats interspersed with lands dominated by non-native species and areas developed for visitor services. In some locations, such as publicly owned lands, it is feasible and appropriate to implement a well-planned program of prescribed fire to promote natural processes and to rejuvenate and maintain healthy ecosystems. Prescribed fires are used as a management tool to eliminate exotic weeds from native habitats, promote the growth of native plant species, and enhance wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire is the planned application of fire implemented under safe weather conditions to restore healthy ecosystems and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. By reintroducing fire cycles to the ecosystem, healthy landscape-level ecological dynamics are restored. See guidelines **Vegetation 1** and **Vegetation 4**.

The prevention and suppression of destructive wildland fires threatening human lives, property, and sensitive natural resources is of prime importance. Wildland fires can have a significant effect on park resources and operations. DOM Chapter 0300, Natural Resources, Section 0313.2 describes the Department's policy on fire management, including wildfire management (Section 0313.2.1) and prescribed fire management (Section 0313.2.2). An Interagency Agreement concerning wildland fire protection between State Parks and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) outlines the primary responsibilities of both agencies, modified fire suppression techniques, and post-fire rehabilitation. Primary responsibilities of State Parks personnel concerning life and safety include the protection and evacuation of visitors and park personnel, area closures, law enforcement, protection of park facilities and resources, and initial fire response. State Parks has also prepared guidelines for the protection of buildings and structures near wildland vegetation (Protection of Structures from Wildland Fire Guidelines, April 2007). These guidelines are intended to minimize the probability that structures near flammable vegetation will ignite and burn during a wildland fire.

Fire 1: A Wildfire Management Plan is required for units that have significant wildland resources such as Año Nuevo SP. The Department shall coordinate with

appropriate agencies, such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) volunteer fire departments, to complete and update the Wildfire Management Plan for this unit, addressing all aspects of wildfire planning, including prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression.

Wildlife Management Guidelines:

The protection and perpetuation of native wildlife species is contingent upon the successful rehabilitation and continuance of native plant and aquatic communities, combined with the removal of non-native, invasive plant and animal species. Wildlife feeding and availability of food provided by humans disrupts natural wildlife processes and threatens the health and existence of some native wildlife species.



Northern elephant seals and other special status animal species will be monitored, protected, and studied.

Wildlife 1: Monitor northern elephant seals and other special status animal species to identify population trends and to develop management strategies for their protection and perpetuation. Encourage and support scientific surveys and studies to be conducted in the park to gather more information about the distribution, status, and condition of sensitive natural resources.

Wildlife 2: Cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies and with open space organizations to promote effective and efficient park and regional vegetation, habitat, and wildlife resource management. State Parks should take a proactive or leadership role in regional efforts such as CDFG's Wildlife Action Plan.

Wildlife 3: Prepare and conduct surveys and inventories of natural resources in areas subject to development. Avoid or reduce negative impacts to sensitive resource areas and follow all applicable regulations and guidelines for minimizing adverse impacts from new facilities development.

Wildlife 4: Control and/or eradicate non-native animal species, such as bullfrogs, that have been identified by State Parks biologists and/or park managers as creating significant impacts to sensitive wildlife species such as the federally listed as threatened California red-legged frog. Use methods that are based on sound principles of ecosystem management and that are consistent with the Department's *Non-Native Animal Control Policy* (DOM, Chapter 0300, Natural Resources, Section 0311.5.7.1). Priority for control efforts will be given to

those species most detrimental to the environment and for which there is a reasonable probability of success.

Wildlife 5: Encourage and support scientific surveys and studies to be conducted in the park to gather more information about the distribution, status, and condition of sensitive natural resources. Monitoring of San Francisco garter snake, California red-legged frog, and other special status animal species is desirable to identify animal population trends and to develop management strategies for their protection and perpetuation.

Wildlife 6: Reduce and, where possible, eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage by using wildlife-proof trash containers and dumpsters throughout the park, increasing the frequency of trash collection, and educating the public about the detrimental effects that human food can have on the ecological balance of the park and surrounding regions. Post signs throughout the park informing people not to feed wildlife and to cover and store food and trash appropriately.

Wildlife 7: Protect common and sensitive wildlife and their habitats for the purpose of establishing and maintaining self-sustaining populations in a natural ecological setting and/or as required by laws and regulations. Avoid human-induced disturbance and degradation of natural areas. Protect special habitat elements such as snags and monarch roost trees where possible.

Special Status Animals Guidelines:

Forty-nine special status animal species are confirmed or strongly suspected to occur within the boundaries of Año Nuevo SP. Eleven of the species with confirmed sightings in the park have state and/or federal listing status. These are the American peregrine falcon, California brown pelican, California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, steelhead (central California coast ESU), coho salmon (central California coast ESU), marbled murrelet, bank swallow, willow flycatcher, Western snowy plover, and Steller (northern) sea lion. Appropriate management should be provided for all special status animal species.

Special Animals 1: Protect all sensitive native wildlife species and their habitats. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species) as well as those protected by federal and/or state law. A



comprehensive list of species requiring special management attention should be prepared and regularly updated. Implement specific programs using sound ecological principles and professionally accepted methods to protect and rehabilitate sensitive animal populations and their habitats.

Special Animals 2: Minimize trail building, roadwork, and park facility maintenance activities in or near breeding areas during the breeding seasons for special status species.

Special Animals 3: Minimize disturbance to sensitive aquatic species, including California red-legged frog and anadromous fish, when scheduling and implementing activities that may result in streambed alteration or disturbance to wetlands or riparian habitat. This includes the sizing and placement of culverts beneath roads and trails throughout the park to facilitate fish passage. Culvert drainage patterns should follow the natural grade of the stream as much as possible to maximize fish passage.

Special Animals 4: Consider the needs of sensitive aquatic species into the timing and implementation of any activity that would result in streambed alteration or disturbance to wetlands or riparian habitat. Conduct instream work consistent with the requirements of CDFG, NOAA Fisheries, and the Federal Clean Water Act. Apply appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality.

Special Animals 5: Inspect structures for special status species, particularly for bat populations, prior to renovation, removal or any other actions which could disturb or harm special status species. Take appropriate measures to protect any identified special status species.

Año Nuevo SP provides a valuable core of preserved native habitats that is contiguous with other protected public lands.

Regional Habitat Management Guidelines:

The Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion comprises a mosaic of pristine or near pristine native habitats, habitats in various stages of succession, and lands converted for agriculture, road development, and home site/business purposes that provide little or no wildlife habitat value. Fragmentation is a primary concern regarding the sustainability of species populations, and linkage with other protected areas is key to long-term species protection. It is vital to maintain connections to regional conservation, including reserve design and linkages, natural processes (such as fire and

flooding), vegetation management, exotic species control, road maintenance and aquatic sedimentation, as well as routine inspections and monitoring. Año Nuevo SP provides a valuable core of preserved native habitats within this bioregion that is contiguous with other protected public lands or is linked to other native habitats. These linkages, both terrestrial and aquatic, allow movement of wildlife from one suitable habitat to another. Linkages may take the form of stream corridors or parcels of wild land through developed areas. Identifying and protecting linkages between the park and other surrounding natural lands is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting regional conservation. Regional stressors affecting wildlife and habitats that are pertinent to Año Nuevo SP include intensive agriculture effects (such as runoff of agricultural chemicals and sediment, consumption of oversubscribed water resources, and conversion and fragmentation of habitat); water management and degraded aquatics (such as riparian habitats, and coastal wetlands have been degraded by the use of water resources, flood control efforts, and the effects of surrounding land uses); recreation pressure on sensitive habitats (such as beaches and dunes, serpentine habitats, and riparian areas); and invasive species threats to biological diversity.

Regional Habitat 1: Protect known wildlife habitat linkages to permit movement of fish and wildlife and to increase species abundance and diversity. Collect baseline information for monitoring the health and function of core habitat areas and these linkages. Monitor wildlife as necessary to gauge the effectiveness of linkages and to identify wildlife movement and population trends.

Regional Habitat 2: Maintain working relationships with other land owners, such as the open space districts, to coordinate efforts to identify and preserve natural lands and habitat linkages. Acquire adjacent properties from willing sellers and/or obtain conservation easements where necessary to connect wildlife habitats in the park with other properties in the region that would preserve similar habitats that might otherwise be logged, subdivided, or developed.

Regional Habitat 3: Protected land areas should be managed in coordination with marine areas to support the vital links between healthy watersheds and wetlands and the continued productivity of coastal waters.



Regional Habitat 4: Coordinate, collaborate, and take a leadership role where appropriate with agencies and regional partners on recommended regional conservation actions for the Central Coast Region and the Marine Region as identified in the CDFG's Wildlife Action Plan. Actions include, but are not limited to:

- Work with agencies and government land use planning processes to establish regional goals for species and habitat protection.
- Work with private landowners and land managers to implement agricultural management practices that are compatible with wildlife and habitat conservation.
- Protect large unfragmented habitat areas, wildlife corridors, and underprotected ecological community types.
- Protect sensitive species and wildlife habitats.
- Provide greater resources and efforts to control invasive species and prevent new introductions.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Año Nuevo SP is known to contain a wide array of cultural resources, from prehistoric archaeological sites to mid-nineteenth century and later ranch buildings. Many of these known resources have not been formally recorded, and much of the park has not been surveyed for cultural resources.

Prehistoric Resources

There are numerous prehistoric sites in the coastal and inland portions of Año Nuevo SP. Many important archaeological sites at the park are being damaged due to elephant seal and visitor use activities which also result in increased soil erosion. The elephant seals have disturbed protective dune cover over archaeological sites resulting in substantial loss of archaeological material. The prehistoric occupation of the area around Año Nuevo Point is significant in a number of ways and the remaining sites contain important archaeological information that should be preserved. The inland Quiroste Valley was also a significant area of prehistoric human occupation.

Prehistoric Resources Goal: Identify, protect, and preserve the significant prehistoric archaeological sites in Año Nuevo SP.

Prehistoric Resources Guidelines:

Prehistoric 1: Conduct cultural resource surveys and evaluations to protect the remaining archaeological resources in place, and identify those that are in need of data recovery. Initiate a data recovery effort, including site surveys and GIS mapping, followed by analysis and documentation of the findings, and develop specific management guidelines for significance evaluation of archeological sites, monitoring, site treatment and protection.

Prehistoric 2: Survey high priority areas for cultural resources, including Año Nuevo Creek, the area between Año Nuevo Point and Franklin Point, and Quiroste Valley. Provide guidelines and treatment plans for the cultural resources in the inland portions of the park, particularly Quiroste Valley.

Prehistoric 3: Survey, record and evaluate areas of high probability for prehistoric archaeological sites (particularly along ridge tops). Establish criteria of significance for each class of resource for sites encountered in the future. Investigate, record, and evaluate the known historical sites and areas of historic-period activity.

Historic Resources

There are numerous historic buildings, structures, objects, sites, and landscape features in both the inland and coastal portions of Año Nuevo SP, as well as on Año Nuevo Island. There are several historic buildings and structures remaining in the coastal area, historically known as the Dickerman Ranch. The Dickerman Barn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), while several others are eligible for listing. There are also several other historic buildings, structures, objects, and sites in this area, that may be eligible. While most of the historic buildings have been recorded, many of the structures, objects, and sites have never been recorded, inventoried, or evaluated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP, or the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR).

The Cascade Ranch area, located in the inland portion of the park, represents one of the last remaining original Steele Brothers Dairies. This ranch appears eligible for listing in the NRHP, likely as a historic district. Currently, it is recognized as part of California State Historical Landmark #906. Many of the buildings remaining on the ranch are original. Most of the ranch's historic resources have never been formally recorded,

The Cascade Ranch area includes original buildings from one of the Steele Brothers Dairies. It is part of California State Historical Landmark 906.



and most of the inland portion of the park has not been surveyed for cultural resources.

Monterey Cypress windbreaks are remnants of former agricultural use and are a potential cultural landscape feature that should be evaluated and considered in a comprehensive coastal land use and vegetation management strategy.

Historic Resources Goal: Identify, protect, preserve, and interpret the significant historic resources (buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts) in Año Nuevo SP.

Historic Resources Guidelines:

Historic 1: Conduct a comprehensive survey of historic resources in the park, to include focused archival research on the history of the park (for those portions not already completed). Complete focused historic contexts for the park that will provide for more meaningful significance evaluations.

Historic 2: Identify and record historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and landscape features for those that lack such documentation. Complete historic structure reports for the three houses at the Cascade Ranch complex (the Steele House, Rensselaer Steele/Humphrey House, and the Humphrey Cottage) and the Flora Dickerman-Steele-Elliott House and Garage located in the Dickerman Ranch complex. Complete Historic Structures Reports and Cultural Landscape Reports as necessary. Until inventorying and evaluation is completed, treat all potentially historic resources as if eligible for listing in the NRHP, in accordance with Department policy.

Historic 3: Preserve and protect those resources found to be eligible and potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources and that are of regional or statewide significance. Develop treatment recommendations for significant historic structures and identify compatible and non-compatible uses. Project work, treatments, and seismic retrofitting on historic structures will comply with the State Historic Building Code. Protect significant prehistoric sites through identification, preservation, and avoidance. Evaluate potential of the Cascade Ranch for eligibility for nomination to National Register of Historic Places.

Historic 4: Prior to site-specific development, areas of potential impact shall be surveyed and evaluated to determine the presence and significance of cultural resources, the potential impact, and recommended mitigation, if appropriate. Impacts may be reduced by project avoidance, site capping, structural stabilization/preservation, project design, and data recovery.

Historic 5: Park development strategies should include cultural resource treatments, as defined by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, for identified historic buildings, structures, sites, and features, combined with the interpretive objectives for the landscape as a whole, including the periods of significance, the integrity of the landscape and its character-defining features, and the existing condition of these individual features. New construction should not attempt to add "historic period" looking features and elements. Prioritize building restoration work.

Museum Collections and the Scope of Collections Statement

Museum collections are important for understanding a park's cultural and natural histories and for interpreting that information to the public. A Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) is required for every park unit that has or plans to have museum objects. The purpose of the Scope of Collections Statement is to define what objects constitute the permanent collection for this park; how the objects are used; and what objects are appropriate for the park to acquire. The Scope of Collections Statement describes how the park plans to interpret, exhibit, conserve, and make collections available for public research. It includes a description of the park's museum collections, historical time periods, interpretive themes, intended uses of museum objects, and recommendations for museum acquisitions and collection management goals.

The following collections guidelines outline the types, acquisition, maintenance, qualities, and quantities of objects appropriate for the museum collection. The Scope of Collections Statement is the document which will provide a detailed management plan.

Museum Collections Guidelines:

Museum 1: A Scope of Collections Statement shall be prepared for this unit and updated periodically to

provide clear guidelines on which objects to seek, acquire, decline, and deaccession.

Museum 2: The park's museum collections shall relate closely to the park's history, resources, themes, and values. Documents and artifacts of people, events, cultural features, or natural features shall be protected, curated, and accessible to the public.

Museum 3: Appropriate and relevant objects should be acquired and maintained to preserve original elements of the cultural and natural environment, to preserve documentation of people, events, and cultural or natural features that are central to the park's purpose, and to support the interpretation of park themes as given in this plan and in future park interpretive planning. Appropriate and relevant cultural history objects would include any related to the native California Indian lifeways in the area, cattle ranching, dairying and row-crop farming activities at Año Nuevo, and shipping, shipwrecks, and the light station. Natural history objects would include any related to the northern elephant seal and other marine mammals, local fossils and geology, the plant communities of the park, and special status species.

Museum 4: Collections acquired for or maintained at the park shall be managed in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Chapter 2000, Museum Collections Management, in the Department's Operations Manual. The Department will establish secure and climate-controlled collections storage, management, and research space for the park's collections.

As the Bay Area's population grows and changes, it will be a challenge to provide opportunities for visitors to experience the park's exceptional resources, while protecting those resources for future generations.

VISITOR USE AND OPPORTUNITIES

Recreation

Año Nuevo SP is in a location along California's central coast that has remained relatively undeveloped and offers a variety of recreation opportunities in coastal, mountain, and other remote natural settings. California's growing and changing population is placing new demands on existing parks and recreation areas, especially those near large metropolitan centers such as the San Francisco Bay Area. A future challenge will be to provide opportunities for an optimum number of visitors to experience the exceptional natural and cultural resources at the park while protecting these resources for future generations. The inland portion of the park offers the

potential to provide additional recreation facilities and programs to help satisfy the increasing demand.

Recreation Goal: Provide a variety of recreation and visitor opportunities and facilities that will allow California's diverse population to visit, appreciate, enjoy, and learn about Año Nuevo SP.

Recreation Guidelines:

Recreation 1: Plan recreation opportunities and facilities within a regional context and in coordination with federal, state, and county agencies as well as conservancies and open space organizations. Integrate recreation opportunities and facilities into recreation networks such as regional trail systems. Focus on expanding the regional diversity of visitor experiences and complement, rather than duplicate, existing regional facilities.

Recreation 2: Accommodate and enhance existing recreation and visitor opportunities and ensure use levels are appropriate to park resources protection. Evaluate visitor programs and facilities for effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. Evaluate new and emerging recreation activities and trends for safety, environmental impacts, and compatibility with existing uses.

Recreation 3: Provide recreation opportunities that respond to the specific characteristics of the Santa Cruz Mountain and San Mateo coast region. Include activities at the park that reveal the sights, sounds, and experiences of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Pacific Coast. Appropriate activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, biking, surfing, horseback riding, picnicking, camping, nature study, photography, and the enjoyment of solitude. Consider accommodating new and emerging outdoor activities, such as geocaching and orienteering, that provide different ways to experience and enjoy the park's environments and resources.

Recreation 4: Seek opportunities to further serve regional recreational demand. This may include: camping, picnicking, hiking; opportunities for group picnics, hiking opportunities, and camping, indoor overnight accommodations such as yurts or cabins (designed and sited appropriately so as not to impact important natural and cultural resources), enroute camping, and ADA-compliant recreational facilities.

Modify trails to provide viewpoints for scenic, natural, and/or cultural resources and incorporate places for photo opportunities and interpretation where appropriate in the park. Periodically evaluate how California's changing demographics may be influencing park visitation patterns and intensities and implement management actions and create opportunities that respond to these trends, consistent with the General Plan's vision, goals, and guidelines.

Recreation 5: To increase recreational opportunities, provide recreation opportunities that expand the use of the park in the spring and fall "shoulder seasons" as well as activities other than the popular elephant seal tour activities in winter.

Recreation 6: Provide visitor opportunities and adaptive uses in historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscapes where appropriate, and in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, where applicable. Possibilities include historical displays or interpretive activities at the Dickerman-Steele Ranch and park visitor center, interpretive or special event activities, as well as equestrian access at the Cascade Ranch.

Recreation 7: Acquire adjacent properties or easements from willing sellers that can enhance the natural lands or resource character of the park and that would provide recreation opportunities and connections between Año Nuevo SP and other state and regional parks and natural lands.

Recreation 8: Continue evaluating new technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation and education facilities and programs, such as use of the Internet for public outreach and wireless Internet access in the park.

Access and Circulation

Año Nuevo SP is well known for its coastal resources and the park attracts thousands of visitors every year to observe marine mammals. The park's road and trail system is important to provide efficient vehicle and pedestrian circulation and safe pleasant visitor experiences, and is located to protect the unique natural and cultural resources. Public access is available from Highway 1, although access into the inland portion of the park is currently limited.

Access and Circulation Goal: Provide access to and within Año Nuevo SP that allows public use of its recreation resources and is well-designed, efficient, safe, easy to understand, convenient, and enjoyable. Coordinate and maintain staff and visitor access and circulation to optimize efficiency, security, emergency access, and enjoyment of the park while still keeping with the park's character and avoiding resource degradation.

Access and Circulation Guidelines:

Access 1: Establish park access that provides clear direction for visitor arrival to and departure from the park. Provide easily accessible orientation and information that will permit visitors to choose from a range of available park experiences. Ensure that primary visitor contact areas are conveniently located so that their administrative functions proceed efficiently for both visitors and park staff. Provide or improve access to less-visited areas of the park. Coordinate with Caltrans and San Mateo County to ensure that road construction and maintenance will result in safe, convenient, and enjoyable driving experiences for motorists as they access the park. If necessary, provide appropriate warning of potential hazards.

Access 2: Work with state and local transportation agencies to support an integrated and efficient multi-modal transportation system that facilitates visitor access to the park. Coordinate with these agencies to provide facilities that encourage and support a variety of transportation forms, including pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, individual vehicle, bus, and shuttle, and includes support facilities, such as bus pullouts and transit shelters. Coordinate with Caltrans and San Mateo County to provide sufficient emergency vehicle access on the roadways in and around Año Nuevo SP.

Access 3: Enhance park entrances with treatments that convey a positive and welcoming "first impression" appearance. Park access facilities should convey a sense of the park's character through sensitive design that reflects local natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources and avoids negative impacts to those resources. Remove, combine, or relocate signs that are confusing, unnecessary, or negatively impact aesthetic resources. Create a continuity of sign placement and design to promote a recognizable park identity.

Access 4: Consider a visitor shuttle service from the visitor/interpretive center to other areas of the park,

such as Cascade Ranch. Evaluate the feasibility of a shuttle service to provide visitors with an alternative and convenient access to explore other areas of the park, to contribute to more efficient use of existing facilities, and to reduce park traffic and the size of parking facilities needed to serve visitor activities at Cascade Ranch or other park areas.

Access 5: Provide a circulation system that separates vehicular from non-vehicular traffic where feasible, personal vehicles from buses, and public from park administration and maintenance functions in order to reduce potential user conflicts and enhance non-vehicular modes of transportation.

Access 6: Provide park directional, orientation, and trail signs that help visitors easily understand the park's trail system and reinforce the rules and policies of trail usage, consistent with Department guidelines, aesthetics, safety, views, and compatibility with the surrounding natural and cultural environment.

Parking

Año Nuevo SP has coastal day use parking facilities (209 total spaces plus five coastal trailheads with informal parking areas) supporting coastal visitor uses that include the popular elephant seal tours at Año Nuevo Point, picnicking, coastal trail access, and coastal fishing access at the mouth of Gazos Creek. Park visitation peaks during elephant seal breeding season (December 15 to March 31), creating some traffic conflict and congestion problems at the visitor center parking area adjacent to the Dickerman-Steele Ranch complex. Several roadside parking areas between the visitor center and Gazos Creek serve low-intensity coastal trail access. Since there are no existing formal parking areas in the inland portions of the park, there is a need for parking to help establish visitor access and use.

Parking Goal: Provide well designed and convenient parking facilities that minimize negative impacts to natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources while contributing to positive visitor experiences in the park.

Parking Guidelines:

Parking 1: Provide safe and convenient day use and overnight parking as well as parking for group use and special events in appropriate locations. Design and implement parking improvements to respond to actual demand for parking, in order to minimize formal parking

lot development. Explore alternatives for accommodating special event parking, such as the use of unpaved areas and satellite parking areas. Reconfigure parking availability where necessary to address public safety concerns and improve visitor experiences. Consider shared parking arrangements with adjoining landowners.

Parking 2: Minimize the number of parking facilities near or adjacent to sensitive resource areas to reduce or avoid negative resource impacts.

Trails

Trails are important recreational facilities within and adjacent to Año Nuevo SP and are in high demand by multiple user groups. The park's large backcountry area provides potential for multiple trails for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The park's location on the coastal side of the Santa Cruz Mountains and along the San Mateo coast offers public coastal access and can serve as a primary node for trail connections within the region.

Trails Goal: Provide a trail system that offers a range of trail experiences, including hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use, with access to regional and statewide trail systems.

Trails Guidelines:

Trails 1: Develop new trails and trailheads to provide visitors a range of choices for enjoying pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, aesthetic, and interpretive experiences in the park. Focus on providing trails that access areas of natural, cultural, and scenic interest, reach the coast and backcountry areas, and that also connect to regional trail systems. Improve existing trailheads and create new trailhead facilities to promote and encourage the use of existing unpaved and paved roads within the park, as determined in the Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP). Use the Department's *Trails Handbook* to guide trail design, construction, management, and maintenance. See **Access 5** guideline.

Trails 2: Continue hiking-only trails in coastal areas. Multi-use trails are allowable in developed areas at the Dickerman-Steele Ranch and Gazos Creek coastal access parking area. Allow wheelchair access on designated handicapped accessible trails. Explore the potential to expand the miles of accessible trails within the park unit to visitors with mobility challenges to



Año Nuevo Point trailhead

experience more of the park. Complete Coastal Trail sections through the park in a manner that is consistent with the management intent, goals, and guidelines for the coastal planning zones.

Trails 3: Develop trails and trail loops of shorter length near popular park attractions to accommodate California's growing populations of older, younger, and disabled park visitors. Multi-use designations should be determined in the RTMP. Provide support facilities at locations such as trailheads that incorporate ADA-compliant picnic facilities, restrooms, and other universally accessible amenities.

Trails 4: Locate trails and trailheads to minimize impacts to natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and to avoid areas of geological instability.

Trails 5: Maintain signs clarifying public property boundaries and provide trail users with information regarding park rules, wayfinding, and regulations to minimize public/private use conflicts.

Trails 6: Coordinate trails planning, development, and use with regional parks and open space providers, community-based organizations, and adjacent landowners to encourage trail connections between Año Nuevo SP and other public lands. Support federal, state, and regional trail objectives and plans, such as county local coastal programs.

Trails 7: Acquire from willing sellers, recreational corridors and easements on existing fire roads or other appropriate lands for trails that connect the park to other state and regional parks and natural lands.

Trails 8: Coordinate and develop a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan that evaluates the park's entire circulation system and guides the placement and use of future trails. Emphasize opportunities for visitors to access and enjoy the park's natural and cultural resources, its recreation destinations and facilities, and its diverse topography, natural communities, and scenic views. The plan should recognize regional trail connections, recreation opportunities, habitat linkages, and provide opportunities for further public input.

Accessibility

The park currently has a visitor center, picnic facilities, and a boardwalk that are universally-accessible. Future projects will retrofit other facilities to ADA standards and provide additional universally-accessible facilities and recreation opportunities in the park as identified in the Department's Accessibility Transition Plan.

Accessibility Goal: Año Nuevo SP's recreation facilities shall become universally-accessible, and provide high-quality recreational opportunities for all visitors.

Accessibility Guidelines:

Accessibility 1: Provide universal access to the park's recreation facilities and resources where feasible, including buildings and their contents, historic structures and landscapes, roads, walkways and trails, and the park's important natural and cultural resources, in accordance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)* and California State Park's *Accessibility Guidelines*. Provide universal accessibility for employees in work areas and in park residences as they are developed or renovated.

Accessibility 2: Design and place all signage, interpretive exhibits, and park publications in accordance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)* and California State Park's *Accessibility Guidelines*.

Accessibility 3: Use the *California Historic Building Code* as a guideline for providing appropriate accessibility in historic structures. The code provides alternative regulations to facilitate access and use by persons with disabilities to and throughout buildings, structures, and sites designated as qualified historic buildings or properties. Reasonably equivalent access alternatives are evaluated as part of this process.

Aesthetics

Park aesthetics are a vital part of the quality of visitor experience at Año Nuevo SP. Visitors to the park experience scenic resources and other sensory experiences from a variety of vantage points. Positive scenic views include vistas of the expansive ocean and coastline, coastal dunes, wetlands, adjacent agricultural fields and ranches, historic ranch buildings, coastal foothills, forested mountains, secluded

State Parks is committed to providing accessible facilities and high-quality recreation opportunities for all visitors.



The visitor experience at Año Nuevo SP includes this view of grasslands and distant fogbank, the feel of the cooling breeze off the ocean, and the sound of birdsongs.

The dark night sky will be preserved by limiting artificial lighting to only what is needed for public safety.

valleys, ridgelines, and distant features on the horizon, such as the Pigeon Point light station. Other sensory elements that enrich a visitor's park experience include the sound and smell of the ocean, the sound of wildlife, the quiet stillness of a forest, and the scents of varying vegetation types. Negative impacts to aesthetic resources may include incompatible development and uses, and adjacent influences such as highway traffic noise or odors from nearby property uses.

Aesthetics Goal: Protect and enhance scenic viewsheds and features and preserve the visitor's experience of the surrounding landscape. Integrate positive aesthetic qualities into the design of park facilities and programs.

Aesthetics Guidelines:

Aesthetics 1: Locate development, structures, and other facilities to be sensitive to scenic views from and to the park. Locate facilities to minimize the impact on views from key viewpoints and to protect and/or emphasize positive scenic views. Use vegetative screening, land contouring and other appropriate methods to minimize visual impacts from structures and outdoor facilities. Place utility lines underground and remove utility lines and poles where feasible.

Aesthetics 2: Establish design guidelines and an architectural vocabulary for new facilities development throughout the park. Newly established guidelines will incorporate elements or material types from existing facilities into new or rehabilitated facilities. The design of buildings, pedestrian bridges, fencing, gates, lighting, trails, signage, and other park infrastructure should be consistent with the overall design guidelines and with the park's vision and educational, recreational, and environmental objectives. Consider elements that will establish design continuity between the coastal and inland facilities.

Aesthetics 3: Establish access points into the inland portion of the park and develop design standards for these "gateway" areas to create a sense of arrival and establish an initial identity and sense of place. Design standards and guidelines for access points should distinguish primary and secondary gateways.

Aesthetics 4: Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to the more developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots) and provide lighting fixtures that focus the light downward. Light levels should be as low as

possible, consistent with public safety standards. Refer to the Department's *Lightscape Protection Policy* (DPR Operations Manual, Chapter 0300, 2004) when evaluating lighting.

Aesthetics 5: Minimize vehicle noise in heavily-used areas of the park through screening, separation of use areas, and other appropriate techniques. Locate park administrative and maintenance functions away from public areas, if possible, and take appropriate measures to reduce construction and park maintenance noise.

Aesthetics 6: Conduct noise studies, if required, for development or improvements that may cause state noise standard exceedances at nearby sensitive use sites. Implement recommendations from the noise studies to reduce generated sounds to within acceptable noise levels.

Aesthetics 7: Restrict sound levels from radios and other human-made devices and enforce park noise standards, especially during the night and early morning hours. Refer to the Department's *Soundscape Protection Policy* (Department Operations Manual, Chapter 0300, 2004) when planning new facilities or evaluating noise standards, and comply with federal and state noise standards.

Aesthetics 8: Coordinate with local, state and federal agencies, open space organizations, conservancies, community groups, landowners, and other stakeholders to protect and enhance positive aesthetic features and viewsheds in the park and region. Coordinated efforts with Caltrans (designated scenic highways), San Mateo County (designated scenic county roads) and the Peninsula Open Space Trust (Cloverdale Coastal Ranches Plan scenic protection goals) are necessary to achieve mutual goals. Follow the Local Coastal Program and other applicable standards for aesthetic resources.

Concessions

Concessions play a supportive role in enhancing the mission of California State Parks by providing essential and appropriate services that the Department may not have the resources or expertise to provide, and that are not being provided nearby by private business. Currently, there are no concessions operating at Año Nuevo SP.



Concessions Goal: Provide high quality recreation and visitor services through concessions contracts while protecting the park's natural, cultural, recreation and aesthetic resources.

Concessions Guidelines:

Concessions 1: Provide visitor services and products that enhance recreational and education experiences at the park, consistent with the Public Resources Code, Park and Recreation Commission policy guidelines, Department policies, and the park's purpose and vision.

Concessions 2: Evaluate and implement new types of concessions at the park to respond to regional and statewide recreation trends, demographic changes, and needs that are not being met by the private sector.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Interpretation is meant to inspire an audience to care more, not necessarily to teach facts.

The National Association for Interpretation defines interpretation as "a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and meanings inherent in the resource." Interpretation is meant to inspire the audience to care more, not necessarily to teach facts.

Interpretation can enhance a park visitor's experience and their understanding and appreciation of the park's resources. Interpretation promotes recreational enjoyment, visitor safety, cultural and natural resource protection and appreciation, and understanding of management and maintenance practices. It can also educate visitors about how to help preserve the resources they came to enjoy and how to have a safe visit.

Opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness, accessibility, and efficiency of interpretation at Año Nuevo SP. Interpretation can also play a larger role in helping visitors reduce their impacts on the park's resources, and giving visitors a take-home message on the importance of resource protection in their daily lives.

Education is focused intellectual learning. California State Parks is a leader in providing education programs for California's grade K-12 school groups. There are opportunities to provide more education programs in and around Año Nuevo SP and via remote media, especially in partnership with other area interpretation and education providers.



Interpretive Significance, Mission and Vision

Interpretive Significance of Año Nuevo SP:

Año Nuevo State Park encompasses Año Nuevo Point, Año Nuevo Island, and the western slope of the coast range inland from Año Nuevo Point. Park interpretation focuses on this area, with connections to geographically, culturally, or thematically related resources that enhance interpretation of the park.

Important natural resources for interpretation include pinniped rookeries and other significant wildlife habitats on Año Nuevo Island and the mainland, and the adjacent Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and three vegetation types that have been recognized as rare natural communities. The park and the adjacent marine areas provide habitat for several species of special concern, including coast wallflower, Steller sea lion, northern elephant seal, steelhead trout, coho salmon, San Francisco garter snake, southwestern pond turtle and red-legged frog; and make up part of important regional ecological corridors and linkages.

Significant cultural resources for interpretation include evidence of native California Indian occupation, and historic buildings, structures, and landscape features on Año Nuevo Island and at the Cascade Ranch and Dickerman-Steele Ranch. The proposed traditional Ohlone landscape treatment at Quiroste Valley will provide a significant cultural resource for interpretation.

Important stories related to the park include the lifeways of the Quiroste band of Ohlone Indians, the Portolá expedition visit to the Quiroste village of Casa Grande in 1769, the Quiroste resistance to the Spanish mission system in the early 1790s, the Santa Cruz Mission outpost at Año Nuevo in the early 1800s, shipping, shipwrecks, and lighthouses on or near the present park coast; dairy farming and row crops, and the founding of the park.

Important natural resource stories include northern elephant seal natural history and the population's near-decimation and recovery, the population threats and recovery hopes for other species of special concern in the park including Steller sea lions, red-legged frogs, and San Francisco garter snakes; scientific research occurring in the park, especially on Año Nuevo Island,

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and the effect of humans through the years on the natural environment.

Aesthetic resources that may be included in interpretation include vistas of the ocean and coastal terrace from the upper slopes of the park, Cascade Falls, views of the Quiroste Valley, the cool marine air, and the sounds of breaking ocean waves and bellowing elephant seals.

Regional trail networks and local camping opportunities are the most important recreation resources to interpret.



The Año Nuevo Visitor Center, now part of the new Marine Education Center, is the start of a memorable interpretive experience for thousands of visitors each year.

Interpretation Mission: The mission of Año Nuevo State Park interpretation is to create a positive connection between park visitors and the diverse natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources of southwestern San Mateo County, from Año Nuevo Island and the ocean's edge to the upper western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Interpretation Vision: High-quality interpretation, both at Año Nuevo State Park and via remote interpretive media, will give participants enhanced enjoyment and knowledge of the geology, plants, animals, and people of the San Mateo coastal area, will promote further understanding of and interest in broader science, history, and cultural concepts; will increase visitor safety at the park, and will lead to further protection of irreplaceable cultural and natural resources both in and outside of the park.

Interpretation and Education Goals and Guidelines

Interpretation and Education Goal A: Interpretation will support park management goals, including public safety and resource protection, which will increase compliance to rules, visitor safety, and the public's enjoyment and appreciation of the park, and will inspire public support and adoption of resource protection behavior beyond their park visit.

Guidelines:

Interpretation A-1: Use interpretive techniques to deliver wayfinding and park orientation information, and public safety messages such as staying on designated trails and not approaching the elephant seals.

Interpretation A-2: Interpret management programs to restore and preserve the park and surrounding area's unique natural and cultural resources.

Interpretation A-3: Interpret State Parks' measures to reduce global warming and inspire park visitors to adopt similar measures in their daily lives. (See guideline **Sustainability 2**).

Interpretation and Education Goal B: Interpretation at Año Nuevo SP will highlight the distinctive features of the park, and put them into a regional and statewide context.

Guidelines:

Interpretation B-1: When developing interpretive programs and interpretation plans for Año Nuevo SP, focus on the exemplary values and stories of the park and how they relate to the resources, programs, facilities, and stories of surrounding areas and to the Department's statewide interpretation and education program. For example, interpretation of the lifeways of the land's early inhabitants can focus on the Quiroste band, which can then be put in the context of the Ohlone tribes in the region, and California Indians statewide. Also the conservation and protection of the land affects marine area protection and conservation, and vice versa.

Interpretation B-2: Research and develop opportunities to coordinate and partner with nearby state parks—including Big Basin Redwoods SP, Butano SP, and Pigeon Point Light Station SHP—and other area interpretive facilities to tell the regional story of cultural and natural resources. This can be done with joint programs, or by referring to interpretation in another facility where visitors can learn more about a certain topic. For example, interpretation of the dairying at both the Dickerman-Steele and Cascade Ranches can refer visitors to Wilder Ranch SP for more information on central coast dairying. Information on the Quiroste resistance and the mission outpost can lead naturally to information on visiting Santa Cruz Mission SHP. Each interpretive facility will tell its part of the larger story.

Interpretation B-3: Coordinate and partner with the Cascade Ranch Historic Farm or other area agriculture interpretation/education providers to improve public understanding and appreciation of coastal agriculture's past and present, and its potential sustainable future. (See guidelines **Cascade Ranch 5** and **Cascade Ranch 6**).

Interpretation B-4: Coordinate and partner with Cloverdale Coastal Ranches on regional interpretation

and public open-space orientation programs and facilities where appropriate. Minimize duplication of efforts where possible. (See guidelines **Wildlife and Dune 12** and **Backcountry 3**).

Also see guideline **Backcountry 3** regarding regional trail interpretation.

Interpretation and Education Goal C: Park visitors will make connections between natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources, and understand individual park natural and cultural resources as part of larger processes and relationships.

Guidelines:

Interpretation C-1: Integrate natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational interpretation. Interpret wildlife, plants, and people (past, present, and future) in the context of the park's ecology, and in the context of the varied cultural landscape components within the park.

Interpretation C-2: Demonstrate how different perceptions of the park resources have led to vastly different uses, including timber harvesting, cattle ranching, dairying, row crop agriculture, shipping, recreation, and habitat preservation, and how those different uses have affected the area's resources in different ways.

Interpretation C-3: Interpret processes and relationships (patterns, cycles, interactions and adaptations) rather than isolated facts. For example, the northern elephant seal's rebound from the brink of extinction can be used to discuss evolutionary adaptations that suit the elephant seal to its environment, and the threat posed by the genetic bottleneck effect despite the species' growing population.

Interpretation C-4: Provide maritime history interpretation for Franklin Point, potentially with panels and/or guided or self-guided walks at Franklin Point. Consider augmenting cultural interpretation at the visitor center with themes appropriate to this site. Tie shipwreck and lighthouse history to the geology of this rugged section of coast, and to the broader historical context of the rest of California. Coordinate maritime history interpretation with Pigeon Point Light Station SHP, possibly including mention of that site in maritime history



Victims of nearby shipwrecks were buried at Franklin Point. The site is now protected by this decking. Maritime, lighthouse, and shipwreck history will be interpreted at this spot.

interpretive panels, programs, brochures, etc. (See guideline **Wildlife and Dune 7**).

Interpretation and Education Goal D: Interpretation will be engaging, address multiple learning styles, reach a broad audience and be universally accessible.

Guidelines:

Interpretation D-1: Emphasize tactile, auditory and object-related media that are dynamic and dramatic.

Interpretation D-2: Use a well-designed mixture of media to make interpretation interesting and accessible to all.

Interpretation D-3: Expand the use of remote interpretation techniques—the existing PORTS programs and webpages, and other remote media such as podcasts, interactive websites, and downloadable/mailable activity books—to reach a wider interpretation/education audience not physically at Año Nuevo SP or a specific site at the park. This could include those who are unable to reserve elephant seal tours because tour demand exceeds availability, visitors with disabilities who cannot access more remote park areas, and potential visitors interested in the park and its resources.

Interpretation D-4: Continue to explore the possibilities of new technologies to further enhance the park's interpretive presentations, and broaden the audience and venues for park interpretation.

Interpretation D-5: Consider offering scheduled shuttle interpretive tours of backcountry areas using existing fire roads, if road easements and ownership will allow this on suitable routes. These tours could also visit other park units in the Santa Cruz Mountains, such as Big Basin Redwoods SP and Butano SP, and offer an overview of the area's history, geology, wildlife, and plant communities.

Interpretation and Education Goal E: Año Nuevo SP's interpretation program will use partnerships and cooperative relationships to expand interpretation resources and opportunities.

Guidelines:

Interpretation E-1: Work with interested parties to provide environmental education, research, and restoration opportunities.

Interpretation E-2: Work closely with the park's cooperating association and volunteers to improve park interpretive resources, programs, and opportunities. This will include expanding and updating volunteer resources such as the docent library and items for hands-on interpretation.

Interpretation E-3: Expand the volunteer program, to assist in the interpretation of the inland area. Provide a volunteer office/library in the park area east of State Highway 1 possibly as an adaptive use in one of the Cascade Ranch buildings.

Interpretation and Education Goal F: Año Nuevo State Park will provide respectful interpretation of the Quiroste Ohlone lifeways, the story of the Portolá expedition's contact with the group, and later Ohlone interaction with the Spanish at the Año Nuevo mission outpost, in conjunction with cultural and natural resource management of the landscape of Quiroste Valley.

Guidelines:

Interpretation F-1: Work with appropriate native California Indian groups to develop culturally respectful interpretation for Quiroste Valley's Casa Grande village site and mission outpost building foundation.

Interpretation F-2: Provide one or more interpretive panels at parking lots, visitor information centers, trailheads and/or viewpoints for the Quiroste Valley, interpreting the Quiroste heritage and the valley's traditionally managed landscape with consideration for preserving the viewshed of Quiroste Valley.

Interpretation and Education Goal G: Interpretation facilities will be provided in appropriate locations that effectively serve the interpretation goals and guidelines for the park, especially in the inland sections of the park which were not previously open to the public.

Interpretation G-1: Explore future interpretation facility locations for further expansion of park interpretation opportunities.

Interpretation G-2: Where feasible and when consistent with historic resource treatment guidelines, consider adaptive use of existing or historic buildings, structures or landscape settings for interpretation use. Possible adaptive use opportunities include the Dickerman-Steele Ranch and the Cascade Ranch.

Park Unit Interpretation Planning

State park unit interpretation planning takes place on three levels, each of which builds on the previous levels. The first level is the interpretation information in the unit's general plan. The general plan builds on State Parks system-wide interpretation planning. The two subsequent unit levels are:

- Interpretation Management Plan
- Project Plan

Interpretation Planning Goal: The interpretation goals defined for Año Nuevo SP in this general plan will be fulfilled by completing more detailed levels of interpretation planning, and implementing these plans.

Interpretation Planning Guidelines

Interpretation Planning 1: Integrate all interpretation planning with regional and statewide interpretation planning and development, both within California State Parks and with other local agencies. (See guidelines **Regional Planning 1** and **Regional Planning 2**.)

Interpretation Planning 2: Prepare an Interpretation Management Plan that further delineates the park's interpretive themes, periods, facilities, and media, and presents a plan for implementation. Update the master plan as needed.

Interpretation Planning 3: Develop specific interpretive project plans for Año Nuevo State Park personal and non-personal interpretation, as guided by the Interpretation Management Plan.

Interpretive Periods

Interpretive periods define what spans of history will be covered by the park's cultural history interpretation. A primary interpretive period focuses interpretation on the time period of greatest significance in the park's cultural history. The significance is determined by important events associated with the park site, or by notable existing historic or prehistoric

resources at the site. Choosing the primary and secondary interpretive periods also involves considering what stories are best told in a particular park, the distinctiveness of the resources, the amount of information available to draw upon, and the physical evidence available for visitors to relate to. A secondary interpretive period designates a time period that is worthy of interpretation but that should receive less emphasis than the primary period. Except for major natural phenomena such as earthquakes or fire, interpretive periods generally are just set for cultural resource interpretation.

Primary Interpretive Periods:

Native California Indian Period: prehistory to 1850s

This period includes the prehistoric and post-European contact lifeways and histories of the Native California Indians of the area. It also covers the 1769 contact with Portolá's expedition at the Ohlone village of *Casa Grande*, and the c.1791-1794 Quiroste resistance to the mission system.

Ranching and Farming Period: 1851 to the 1900s

This period includes the 1851 acquisition of *Rancho Punta de Año Nuevo* by Isaac Graham, the 1862 land sales to John Baird and Loren Coburn, the dairy ranching of the Steele family, and the irrigated farming operations that began in the early 1900s.

Secondary Interpretive Period:

Spanish Exploration, Mission Lands, Mexican Secularization, and Rancho Period: 1602 to 1846

This period includes the 1602 ship passage of Vizcaíno, the pre-1834 Santa Cruz Mission ranch outpost at Año Nuevo, and the 1834 secularization that led to Simeon Castro receiving the land grant for *Rancho Punta de Año Nuevo*. The Native California Indian interpretive period covers the Portolá expedition's Quiroste contact, and the Quiroste resistance to the mission system, as these are primary topics for Año Nuevo SP, and the Quiroste viewpoint is extremely important.

Shipping, Shipwrecks, and Lighthouse Period: 1864 to 1948

This period covers William Waddell's 1864 construction of his lumber railroad, warehouse, and wharf; the three major shipwrecks at Franklin Point (1853-1866); and the building and operation of the foghorn and lighthouse on Año Nuevo Island (1872 to 1948).

Interpretive Themes

An interpretive theme is a succinct, central message about a topic of interest that a communicator wants to get across to

an audience. Interpretation uses themes to connect visitors to the significant recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the park in personally meaningful ways. Themes provide a point of view for presenting information and inspiration through various interpretive media. Primary themes address the park's most significant topics; secondary themes relate information about slightly less-important park topics. The unifying theme integrates all of the park's primary and secondary **themes**.

Unifying Theme

The Pacific Ocean is the major influence on the climate, geology, plants, animals, and people of Año Nuevo.

One can almost say, "It's all about the ocean at Año Nuevo:"

- Ocean waves continually shape the dramatic coastline, which is formed from rocks that were once at the bottom of the Pacific.
- The seaside climate strongly influences the flora at Año Nuevo, which is a major determiner of the fauna.
- Marine mammals—most notably northern elephant seals—visit Año Nuevo in large numbers.
- The conservation and protection of the land affects marine area protection and conservation, and vice versa.
- The coastal location attracted prehistoric people for food, and even money in the form of the shell trade.
- The Portolá expedition came through Año Nuevo because they were exploring the coast.
- Later settlers came to the Año Nuevo area to be able to ship by the sea.
- The marine shipping and rugged geology led to shipwrecks, which led to the building of the Año Nuevo light facility and the burials at Franklin Point.
- The mild coastal climate also makes Año Nuevo ideal for dairying and growing certain rowcrops.

Primary Themes

Physical Forces Theme

Geology, the ocean, weather, and fire continue to shape and recreate Año Nuevo State Park's topography and natural communities.

This theme covers the geologic formation of Año Nuevo Point, the coastal terrace, and slopes within the park; the formation of rock fossils; the dynamics of beaches, dunes, bluffs, the

island, and inland erosion and landslides; how the area's topography transforms weather into microclimates, and how fire affects Año Nuevo's plant and animal communities.

Natural Communities and Adaptations Theme

Año Nuevo State Park preserves a rich variety of natural communities and species that use well-honed relationships and adaptations to survive.

This theme covers the park's natural communities from the open ocean to the forested ridges, and the natural histories and evolutionary adaptations of the plant and animal species that inhabit them, including the animal the park is most connected with—the northern elephant seal. These communities include: the marine, the intertidal, sand dune, coastal scrub, grassland, coastal stream, pond, redwood and Douglas-fir forest, and knobcone pine communities.

Special Status Species Theme

Año Nuevo State Park is a refuge for species living on the edge of extinction.

This theme covers the park's special status species, including the Steller sea lion, the sea otter, the brown pelican, the peregrine falcon, the San Francisco garter snake, the California red-legged frog, and the southwestern pond turtle, and scientific study of these species at the park, especially on Año Nuevo Island. It also addresses the remarkable comeback of the northern elephant seal, and the potential problems that could occur because of the genetic bottleneck of its near-extinction.

Local Native California Indians Theme

The rich coastal resources of what is now Año Nuevo State Park supported one of the largest populations of people in the Monterey Bay area before Spanish settlement, and now provides a setting for revitalization and celebration of Ohlone culture.

This theme covers the lifeways and traditions of the Quiroste Ohlone people who lived in this area before 1791, the 1769 visit by Portolá's expedition to Quiroste Valley, the c.1791-1794 Quiroste resistance to the mission system, the decline of the Quiroste tribe, and the modern research, development and use of the Quiroste Valley traditionally managed landscape and cultural preserve. It also covers earlier non-Ohlone people to a lesser extent.

The contrast between the initial friendly contact with the Spaniards and the later strife that developed because of the missions can add further depth to this theme.

Ranching and Farming Theme

The ranching operations at Año Nuevo shifted from raising cattle to milking cows to growing row crops as transportation and economic conditions changed.

This theme covers the stories of the acquisition of *Rancho Punta de Año Nuevo* by Isaac Graham, the brief ownerships of John Baird and Loren Coburn, the Steele family's several area dairy ranches, and the irrigated farming operations that began in the early 1900s and continue today. The pioneering dairy ranching of the Steele family at Cascade Ranch should receive the greatest interpretive emphasis, especially Clara Steele, "the Mother of the California Cheese Industry," and the production of cheese. Dairy and row crop history could be tied in with Wilder Ranch SP, which also interprets these topics about a half-hour drive away. Row-cropping can possibly also be tied in with the Cascade Ranch Historic Farm and Cloverdale Coastal Ranches' agriculture education programs. The story of Rensselaer Steele Jr.'s failed attempt to develop the town of Torquay on the property, which led to selling Cascade Ranch, can be told as a side note to this theme.

Recreation and Preservation Theme

We can enjoy Año Nuevo State Park today and preserve its many values for tomorrow.

This theme addresses visitors' need for wayfinding information and orientation to the park and its recreational opportunities, as well as tips on how to enjoy a safe and low impact visit. Low impact visitation messages may include restrictions on visitor activity needed for resource protection such as closure of offshore areas to fishing to protect marine resources.

Resource Opportunities and Challenges of the Future Theme

The natural communities at Año Nuevo State Park have and will continue to benefit from restoration projects, but they also face challenges from global climate change and other stressors in the future.

California State Parks preserves, protects, and also restores natural resources in its care. Global climate change will affect the plant and animal communities at Año Nuevo SP. Some changes can be mitigated, but other changes may be irreversible. State Parks is actively working to reduce its carbon footprint and lessen the negative effects of global climate

change. Park interpretation audiences will understand and appreciate this message, and also be inspired to make changes in their own habits to reduce global climate change.

Secondary Themes:

Spanish Exploration Theme

Seeking a good port for trade ships and places to build settlements and missions, the Spanish explored the central coast by sea, naming Año Nuevo Point; and later passed through the area on a land expedition.

This theme explores the 1602 ship passage of Vizcaíno by Año Nuevo Point and the 1769 land expedition of Portolá during which they visited the Quiroste Ohlone village the Spanish called *Casa Grande*. The contact at *Casa Grande* is covered in more detail as part of the Local California Indians primary theme.

Mission Outpost Theme

In the early 19th century Santa Cruz Mission established and maintained a ranch outpost at Año Nuevo, one of several on the coast.

This theme covers the story of the Ohlone neophytes who ran this ranch outpost for the Santa Cruz Mission. It ties in Rancho del Arroyo de Matadero, the mission cattle ranch interpreted as a secondary theme at Wilder Ranch SP, and other nearby sites that were known mission outposts, to emphasize the far reach of the mission system in the Ohlones' world.

Mexican Land Grant Theme

After Santa Cruz Mission was closed, Simeon Castro was granted the lands of Rancho Punta de Año Nuevo.

This theme covers the story of the transfer of Santa Cruz Mission lands to Castro, who ran cattle on Año Nuevo when the mission was closed. Interpretation of this theme can be tied in with interpretation of Wilder Ranch's similar post-mission-land role as a Mexican land grant.

Shipping, Shipwrecks, and Lighthouse Theme

In an era without roads, the sea provided a dangerous and uncertain route for commerce.

This theme covers the stories of Waddell's lumber railroad, warehouse, and wharf; the shipwrecks at Franklin Point, and the foghorn and lighthouse on Año Nuevo Island. It allows for regional interpretation that ties in Pigeon Point Light Station.

Area Public Lands and Protected Marine Area Links Theme

Año Nuevo State Park connects to recreation, aesthetic, resource management, and interpretation opportunities in neighboring public lands and protected marine areas.

This theme highlights the trail connections proposed between Año Nuevo SP, Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and Butano SP, and any other future cooperating, physical or thematic connections between area public lands and special-status offshore areas. Año Nuevo connects to adjacent marine areas that include Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area, Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area, Natural Bridges Marine Reserve, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

PARK OPERATIONS

Infrastructure and operations are at the core of a functional park. They are integral to meeting the park's purpose, vision, management of resources, and visitor uses. Interagency and intra-district cooperation and sharing of personnel and resources can help to ensure efficient operations and up-to-date infrastructure, especially if staffing levels and management organization change.

Infrastructure and operations are integral to meeting the park's purpose and vision.

Visitor Safety

Public safety is an important concern at Año Nuevo SP, as the coastline experiences riptides and strong offshore currents. In addition, erosion caused by seasonal waves, stormwater runoff, marine mammals, and visitor use may cause trails to become unsafe for visitors and may require temporary closure. The Department's objective is to provide a safe visitor experience for all park users.

Safety Goal: Provide facilities and services that contribute to the safety and convenience of visitors.

Safety Guidelines:

Safety 1: Work with state agencies and local communities, districts, and agencies to provide a unified delivery of services in response to structural and public safety emergencies, training and using the expertise of all personnel.

Safety 2: Evaluate signage informing the visitor of riptides, undercurrent hazards, and other known hazards. Install or improve signage where appropriate and necessary.



Safety 3: Maintain trails in safe conditions where feasible and monitor for hazards. Close trails with unsafe conditions until improvements are completed.

Special Agreements

The park has a variety of legal agreements with different entities. It is important that these agreements are kept up-to-date and that they respect the purpose and vision of the park while honoring any legal requirements.

Special Agreements Goal A – Agricultural / Irrigation Water Rights: Ensure that water diversions out of Lake Elizabeth do not interfere with park operations and do not significantly affect resources.

Special Agreements Guideline:

Special Agreements A-1: Work with the current owner of the Lake Elizabeth water rights (Cascade Ranch Historic Farm) to monitor current diversion practices and ensure that the methods comply with current legal agreements.

Special Agreements Goal B – Adjacent Land Owners: Enhance the functionality of the park operations through coordination and cooperation with adjacent land owners. Ensure that all easements, access agreements, or other legal arrangements are in the best interests of the Department and consistent with the park's purpose and vision.

Special Agreements Guideline:

Special Agreements B-1: Contact adjacent landowners to identify any parcels that may be available from willing sellers and suitable as park additions. Investigate and seek opportunities for securing easements or parcel additions that will enhance the functionality of the park.

Special Agreements B-2: Review all legal agreements regularly and check operating language to ensure compatibility with the park's mission and operations, monitor physical effects over time, if any, and update and modify agreements as necessary. Continue the Memorandum of Understanding with Cascade Ranch Historic Farm to cooperate in planning public access, visitor use, tours, presentations, and park operations.

Special Agreements Goal C – Año Nuevo Island: Continue research activities and protect and preserve natural and cultural resources on Año Nuevo Island.

Special Agreements Guideline:

Special Agreements C-1: Continue agreements with U.C. Santa Cruz, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and other entities currently using the island for research activities to ensure a high level of protection of cultural and marine resources and the continued occupancy of the fog signal building. Provide management guidelines for the appropriate treatment and protection of this building as necessary. Periodically review, reevaluate, and update agreements as necessary to assure consistency with the park's mission and current Department policies and operations. (See guideline **Wildlife and Dune 3**).

Special Agreements Goal D – Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve:

Develop an agreement with appropriate representatives of the Ohlone People and State Parks in regards to plans, events and or special activities to be held in the Cultural Preserve.

Special Agreements Guideline:

Special Agreements D-1: Formulate an agreement, such as Memorandum of Understanding or a Shared Values Statement, with Ohlone Tribal affiliates that outlines conditions to hold special events in Quiroste Valley that relate to their inherent relationship with sites located within the Preserve.

Facilities

Park facility design and development is wide-ranging, encompassing accommodations for visitor services, interpretive displays and programs, administration, support, maintenance, and operations. Park facilities allow the public to enjoy and benefit from the resources and recreational opportunities provided at the park. Both California State Parks and concession-offered visitor services should provide environmentally-appropriate and enjoyable recreation opportunities for a wide range of visitors. Also included under park facilities are facilities and infrastructure for park operations functions such as administration, security, maintenance, storage, resource management, interpretation, concessions, and docent or volunteer programs.

Facilities Goal: Plan, develop and maintain environmentally compatible and logistically convenient facilities in order to meet visitor, staff, and park management needs and to support efficient park operations.

Park facilities will be environmentally compatible and logistically convenient.



Facilities Guidelines:

Facilities 1: Provide visitor use facilities that support opportunities for diverse visitor experiences. Locate facilities for effective and efficient visitor and staff use while minimizing user conflicts and negative effects on viewsheds, cultural, or natural resources. Design facilities that are compatible with the surrounding landscape character. Develop visitor use facilities to accommodate changing visitor uses and accessibility needs, population demographics, and increases in visitation.

Facilities 2: Ensure facilities and associated activities support or are compatible with the desired visitor experience and resource management intents of each planning zone. Evaluate the compatibility of new development with historic structures and visual resources, the potential impacts of new development upon historic and visual resources, as well as the efficient design of park circulation and traffic capacities.

Facilities 3: Initiate site-specific area plans and studies to determine appropriate location, size, and configurations for access roads, parking and staging areas, restrooms, camping and overnight facilities, interpretive facilities, operations and maintenance facilities, availability and location of utilities, and other park developments.

Facilities 4: Locate and design operational support facilities that aid in staff efficiency and effectiveness. Consolidate and strategically locate park operations and maintenance facilities in the park and in the region where feasible to improve efficiency and accessibility by staff. Consider inland locations that do not conflict with visitor facilities or activities and do not significantly impact the viewshed from State Highway 1 or the character of cultural landscapes.

Facilities 5: Provide staff housing to serve park security surveillance, effective emergency response, and park maintenance efficiency, as well as accommodate park staffing levels. Minimize conflicts with visitor facilities and activities. Locate staff housing in this park or other park units in the region.

Facilities 6: Consult with other state agencies, such as the San Francisco Bay Area Air Pollution Control District

and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, prior to initiating construction activities.

Facilities 7: Conduct project-specific geotechnical evaluations prior to preparation of final plans for development on sites that may subject property or persons to risks from geologic hazards. Site mitigation, if necessary, shall conform to the recommendations in the geotechnical evaluations.

Facilities 8: When planning new facility development or property acquisitions, consider the needs for maintenance and public safety personnel, equipment, communication systems, and emergency vehicle access.

Facilities 9: When reviewing potential new facility development or property acquisitions, assess the ability to provide for adequate public safety and facility upkeep as part of the environmental review. New park facilities or improvements to existing facilities shall comply with the California Building Code or the State Historical Building Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 8 where applicable.

Utilities

Park building construction dates vary from the mid-19th century to modular buildings erected in the late 1990s. Current utility needs may require upgrades to existing services. The most constraining limitation is the shortage of potable water for public consumption. Current water storage and distribution are limited.

Utilities Goal: Ensure long-term sustainable, environmentally compatible and energy-efficient infrastructure function for the park.

Utilities Guidelines:

Utilities 1: Repair and upgrade the potable water supply and distribution systems to the existing park buildings and key visitor locations.

Utilities 2: Identify utility needs and implement utility improvements comprehensively to avoid unnecessary site disturbance and expensive rerouting of utility corridors and junctions over time. Ensure maximum energy efficiency with all improvements, repairs and new projects.

Utilities 3: Locate and map the current telephone, electricity and water utility systems in the park and maintain maps in a current condition, so that staff can recognize and respond to utility problems efficiently.

Utilities 4: Perform a condition assessment of the unit's current park infrastructure and determine the long-term facility needs for water, power, and other utility systems. Develop recommendations for utility replacement, upgrades, and new construction, in support of future park development, maintenance and operational needs. Plans for infrastructure and facilities development shall be consistent with other park management goals and guidelines identified by the General Plan.

By using sustainable design principles in all phases of park design and operation, State Parks will encourage the development of new environmentally healthy technology, and model to visitors some positive actions to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability

The concept of sustainable design represents a desire to harmonize the built environment with natural systems by emphasizing the principles of energy conservation, waste reduction, and pollution prevention. California State Parks can apply sustainable design principles that complement the Department's mission to provide recreation opportunities while preserving resources for future generations and to focus on creating environments that promote good health. It is especially important that park units use sustainable design principles, including energy and water conservation, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in light of the potential environmental changes due to global climate change. In doing so, the Department will also encourage the development of new technology and innovations that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and model to visitors some examples of positive actions to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability Goal: Incorporate sustainable design principles into the design, development, operations, and maintenance of park facilities and programs.

Sustainability Guidelines:

Sustainability 1: Use sustainable design strategies to minimize impacts to the park's natural, cultural and aesthetic resources. Choose low-impact building sites, structures, and building and landscape materials, and maintenance and management practices that avoid the use of environmentally-damaging, waste-producing, or hazardous materials. Use natural, renewable, indigenous, and recyclable materials, and energy-efficient design.



Sustainability 2: Interpret sustainable design elements in the park to encourage a sense of connection to the surrounding natural and cultural resources and inspire personal behavior that reduces negative impacts to the environment and promotes energy conservation.

Sustainability 3: Consult the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. These standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices

Sustainability 4: Use low- or zero-emission vehicles when possible, for park operations and maintenance, and a potential shuttle system. Small gas engines on grounds maintenance equipment are a leading contributor to greenhouse gases. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment as much as practicable, such as manual or electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of zero- or lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping emissions, and promote energy efficiency.

Regional Planning and Community Involvement

Año Nuevo SP is located in the midst of a regional network of state parks and public and privately-owned natural lands. Establishing and coordinating recreational activities, interpretation and education, and resource management programs with the surrounding open space agencies, recreation providers, and private property owners provides opportunities to maximize public use, strengthen resource enhancement and protection, improve park operations and programs, and protect private property interests.

Regional Planning Goal: Integrate the planning and management programs at Año Nuevo SP with the programs of other parks and natural lands along the San Mateo coast and in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Regional Planning Guidelines:

Regional Planning 1: Coordinate resource management, operations, staff housing, interpretation, visitor and emergency services, and facility development programs at Año Nuevo SP with other state parks in the area to provide an integrated network of regional natural lands and healthy ecosystems, protected cultural and scenic resources,

Regional coordination provides opportunities to maximize public use, strengthen resource enhancement and protection, improve park operations and programs, and protect private property interests.

high-quality recreational opportunities, and operational efficiencies.

Regional Planning 2: Work in partnership with state, regional, and local agencies, private landowners, and other organizations to provide a network of regional natural lands and a variety of interpretation, education and recreation opportunities. Coordinate park planning with local natural lands planning efforts, such as the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property), Cascade Ranch Historic Farm, and other organizations. Coordinate with regional natural lands partners on changes in environmental and climate conditions, habitat location shifts, migrations of plants and animals, changes in public access and recreation opportunities, new emerging interpretive opportunities, and responding to changing operations challenges.

Regional Planning 3: Work in partnership with federal, state, regional, and local agencies as well as other organizations to manage and protect marine and intertidal resources along the Año Nuevo SP coastline.

Regional Planning 4: Coordinate and collaborate with universities, colleges and other research organizations on natural and cultural resource studies to increase the knowledge of resources in the park and in the San Mateo coast and Santa Cruz Mountains region. Seek cooperative agreements with adjacent landowners, neighbors, and local jurisdictions responsible for zoning and land use management to provide open-space buffer areas to protect sensitive park resources and to identify and preserve wildlife habitat linkages.

Regional Planning 5: Coordinate with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient public safety programs in the park and to maintain emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas of the park where people visit, work or reside.

Regional Planning 6: To expand affordable housing for park employees, coordinate with other parks and agencies in the region to identify and use potential shared housing opportunities.

Regional Planning 7: Provide input to San Mateo County and the California Coastal Commission as well

as appropriate local, state, and federal agencies during environmental review of development projects, regarding visual impacts of surrounding development within the viewsheds of visible points within Año Nuevo SP, particularly if a development would be visible from designated viewpoints.

4.6 MANAGING VISITOR CAPACITY

The Visitor Capacity Management (VCM) section presents the Department's methodology to evaluate existing and future desired conditions and to analyze the capacity issues related to general plan concepts and recommendations for the future development and use of the park. It is intended that the general plan and this discussion of visitor capacity will satisfy the initial requirements of the Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, which states:

"Before any park or recreational area development plan is made, the department shall cause to be made a land carrying capacity survey of the proposed park or recreational area, including in such survey such factors as soil, moisture, and natural cover."

Año Nuevo SP contains developed areas with recreation and administrative facilities as well as a large amount of undeveloped land. The General Plan recommends preserving and protecting the park's important natural and cultural resources as well as recommending desired visitor and recreation experiences for future generations.

The General Plan discusses potential, desired, and appropriate visitor and recreational activities for Año Nuevo SP. Some recreational activities that have occurred in the park for many years have had impacts on some of the park's important natural and cultural resources. General Plan guidelines for resource management present a template of desired future conditions against which park managers can measure visitor use and take the appropriate actions to reduce or limit negative impacts using the adaptive management process. This process also considers possible alternatives for continuing desired and appropriate visitor experiences.

Park visitor experience is shaped by the physical environment and character of specific park areas. A particular park area's character helps determine the types of visitor opportunities that allow enjoyment or appreciation of a park's defining

qualities, the variety of possible activities, and types and amount of development that serve those visitor activities. Physical constraints for development and public use exist in the park, such as sensitive wildlife and vegetation communities, archaeological and historic sites and features, existing roads, easements, and drainages. These elements will all be important factors in park design and area visitor capacities.

The quality and character of visitor experience is also influenced by visitor demographics and recreation trends. These dynamic influences contribute to defining the nature of what are desirable park experiences and conditions.

The Department's methodology focuses on the initial capacity of developed facilities and desired resource and social conditions. Subsequent surveys, analysis, and monitoring programs are necessary in order to make final determinations and adjustments in visitor capacity through future management actions. The methodology and steps to be used in this process are outlined below.

VCM METHODOLOGY

The following represents an adaptive management cycle, or methodology, that involves research, planning, monitoring, and management actions to achieve sustainable resources and social conditions. This methodology was initiated during this general planning effort and applied with the level of detail commensurate with the conceptual nature of this plan. This includes the identification of existing opportunities and constraints and the description of desired resources and social conditions (refer to **Table 4-1**). Visitor capacities are addressed for park areas when sufficient data is presented.

Visitor Capacity Management is defined by California State Parks as:

“A methodology used to determine and maintain the desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park. It includes establishing initial visitor capacities, then monitoring key indicators in order to identify appropriate management actions in response to unacceptable conditions.”

Adaptive Management Process

The following tasks are usually carried out during the resource inventories, unit classification, and general planning processes. Subsequent management plans and site investigations provide the more detailed information

necessary for project-level analysis and impact assessments in order to initiate required mitigation and monitoring programs. These tasks are presented here for an understanding of the iterative process that California State Parks considers from the programmatic planning stages of the general plan through the project implementation and monitoring phases.

1. **Identify Existing Opportunities and Constraints:** Through ongoing research, surveys, and site investigations we are able to document existing resources and social conditions. This data helps identify opportunities and constraints, and establishes the baseline condition for natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
2. **Determine Vision and Desired Conditions:** The analysis of current uses and condition assessments begin to shape the types of activities and experiences that are desired. This increases our ability to determine the resource conditions we desire and the protective measures, including thresholds (standards) of acceptable resource conditions that are necessary to maintain those resource conditions.
3. **Identify Issues and Evaluate Alternatives:** The analysis of resource and social impacts related to current use helps identify the issues, problems, and thresholds that shape the vision or desired conditions of the park. Additional surveys, studies, or site analysis may be necessary to understand the full effects of existing uses, potential alternatives, or feasibility of desired improvements. It is at this stage that the objectives of visitor use and capacity for specific units are determined, which may include quantitative limits on certain park uses (e.g., the number of campsites or parking spaces in the park).
4. **Develop Measurable Indicators and Thresholds:** Key indicators are identified that can diagnose whether the desired conditions for a park are being met. These indicators must be measurable and have a direct relationship to at least one desired condition (e.g. the number of exposed tree roots per mile of trail). Thresholds that reflect desired conditions are then identified for each indicator (for example: 100 tree roots per trail mile maximum). Through monitoring processes, management is alerted when conditions exceed a determined threshold or deviate outside the acceptable range.
5. **Establish Initial Visitor Capacities:** Initial visitor capacities are formulated based on the analysis of existing conditions, alternative considerations, desired future conditions, and prescribed goals and objectives.

Implementation occurs when sufficient knowledge is gained and plans are finalized. As environmental impact assessments and monitoring programs are initiated, plans are implemented and new patterns of use are generated.

6. **Monitor Use and Identify Changing Conditions:** Through monitoring and further study we can assess the degree of impact or changing conditions that occur over a specified period of time. Thresholds and indicators are used in the monitoring process to determine when an unacceptable condition exists. Unacceptable conditions trigger management action(s) appropriate to correct the unacceptable condition.
7. **Adjust Environmental or Social Conditions:** As monitoring efforts reveal that conditions may be approaching or exceeding thresholds, management must consider alternatives and take appropriate action. The analysis of impacts and their causes should direct management toward actions that adjust resource/experience conditions to a desired state. This may include further studies, new project design, interpretive messages to change visitor behavior and use patterns, and stronger enforcement of rules and regulations, which may also require adjustments to the initial visitor capacities.

Research, Investigations, and Monitoring

Data from research, pre-project site investigations, visitor impact assessments, post-project evaluations, and baseline resource monitoring can all be captured and used to make sure the desired condition of the park is maintained. A program of continued research and site investigations provides and documents updated data on resource conditions and new problems as they may occur. Periodic surveys provide a measure of visitor satisfaction and identify recreation trends and public opinions on the types of activities and experiences people are seeking. These ongoing efforts build the unit data file for subsequent planning and analysis, and monitoring programs ensure that development actions achieve the desired outcomes.

Table 4-1 contains a sampling of indicators that may be developed based on some of the guidelines in this plan and their associated desired outcomes. These indicators may be modified on a regular basis, based on site-specific knowledge, recent observations in the field and updates in

scientific understanding, in order to achieve the desired outcome.

Table 4-1
Samples of Desired Outcomes and Indicators

Guideline	Desired Outcome	Indicators (Environmental and Social)	Potential Management Actions & Monitoring Activities
<p>Natural Resources Protect all special-status native wildlife species and their habitats. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species) as well as those protected by federal and/or state law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable populations of special-status wildlife species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Occurrence of special-status native wildlife species. ▪ Active nest sites. ▪ Presence of suitable habitat. ▪ Abundance of prey species. ▪ Periodic sightings reported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Periodic field surveys. ▪ Check for active nest sites prior to construction activities.
<p>Protect special-status plant species to the degree necessary to maintain or enhance populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable populations of special-status plant species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Occurrence of special-status plant species. ▪ Active special-status native wildlife species nest sites. ▪ Presence of associated healthy plant communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiate a survey for special-status plant species in the park as staffing and funding become available. ▪ Periodic field surveys.
<p>Cultural Resources Protect significant cultural sites and features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retention of the integrity and value of cultural resources. ▪ Preservation of historic character of Cascade Ranch and Dickerman-Steele Ranch complexes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disturbance to known archeological sites. ▪ Retention of historic building fabric. ▪ Retention of cultural landscape elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a program for archeological survey, site recordation, evaluation, GPS mapping, and record and report preparation for the cultural resources within the park. ▪ Develop specific management guidelines for inventory and significance evaluation. ▪ Staff observations of park resources and visitor activity

			<p>during day-to-day operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Periodic maintenance and building inspections.
<p>Cultural Resources (continued) Preserve and protect those resources found to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Protect significant prehistoric sites through identification, preservation, and avoidance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retention of the integrity and value of cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disturbance to known archeological sites. ▪ Retention of historic building fabric. ▪ Retention of cultural landscape elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop treatment guidelines and recommendations for significant historic structures and features, including compatible and non-compatible uses. ▪ Staff observations during day-to-day operations. ▪ Periodic maintenance and building inspections.
<p>Recreation Resources Provide a range of high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities that allow California's diverse population to visit, enjoy, experience, and appreciate all of the park's resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A variety of recreation experiences that enhances appreciation and enjoyment of the park's resources, including opportunities to view or visit the elephant seals, coastal dunes, historic ranch complexes, the Quiroste Valley, coastal viewshed, trail systems, day use areas, and the coast redwoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presence of returning park visitors ▪ Diversity of recreation activity throughout the park ▪ Diversity in park visitation demographics ▪ Conflict amongst park users and differing recreation activities ▪ Effects on park resources with increases in park visitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff observations of park recreation activity during day-to-day operations ▪ Design facilities for user needs. ▪ Visitor satisfaction surveys. ▪ Evaluate new recreation opportunities, trends, and activities. ▪ Adjust or respond park visitor opportunities to changing demographics ▪ Conduct periodic visitors use and satisfaction surveys

Planning Zone Guidelines

Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone:

Protect the historic structures and sites located in the Dickerman-Steele complex. Continue function as the park's primary visitor orientation and interpretation center.

Reduce potential user conflicts and traffic congestion, and improve non-vehicular circulation in the entrance parking area. Enhance access to Año Nuevo Bay.

- Protection and preservation of historic structures through adaptive reuse. Provision of visitor services to support quality visitor experiences.
- Less traffic congestion.
- Higher-quality visitor experience.
- Safer non-vehicular travel in and out of the park.
- Reduce pollution from idling vehicles.

- Retention of historic building fabric.
- Retention of historic building arrangements and site development.
- Retention of cultural landscape elements.
- Improved vehicular and non-vehicular circulation.
- Decrease in user conflicts.
- Increase in returning park visitors.

- Rehabilitate historic buildings for appropriate adaptive uses and provide park orientation, interpretive programs, tour staging areas, visitor services, and day use facilities. Protect and interpret the Mission period outpost foundation found in the area between the Horse Barn, Dickerman Barn, and Creamery Building.
- Staff observations of park resources, facilities, and visitor activity during day-to-day operations.
- Periodic maintenance inspections.
- Upgrade the existing entrance parking system. This may include separating vehicular from non-vehicular traffic, personal vehicles from buses, and public activity areas from park administration and maintenance operations.

<p>Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone: Preserve and protect the wildlife, habitats, and natural scenic vistas of the Año Nuevo coast.</p> <p>Provide for visitor access, use, and interpretation consistent with natural and cultural preservation values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special protection for sensitive natural and cultural features. ▪ Continued access and tours to northern elephant seal rookery. ▪ Continued visitor access to coastal dunes and beaches. ▪ Buffer zone established between the Natural Preserve and the highway and future developments. ▪ Coastal access, viewpoints, and maritime interpretation at Franklin Pt. ▪ Research-only access to Año Nuevo Island. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continually active pinniped rookery ▪ Presence of special status plant and wildlife species. ▪ Sightings of wildlife and marine life reported. ▪ Health of the coastal dune habitat. ▪ Structural integrity and presence of historic fabric of light station structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Periodic field resource surveys ▪ Check for active special-status wildlife species nest sites and presence of special status plant and wildlife species prior to any improvements to existing facilities. ▪ Field observations and recording visitor use patterns and capacity levels. ▪ Adjustments in visitation numbers, if necessary, and/or design improvements to visitor access locations and use areas.
<p>Cascade Ranch Zone: Preserve the Cascade Ranch area in cooperation with Cascade. Ranch Historic Farm for its historic and cultural landscape values and educational potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserved historic character of Cascade Ranch complex and historic fabric of structures. ▪ Rehabilitated historic buildings and adapted for appropriate uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presence of historic fabric in ranch structures and historic character of ranch complex. ▪ Disturbance of known archeological sites. ▪ Presence of special status plant and wildlife species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Periodic field resource surveys. ▪ Inspect structures for special status species, particularly bat populations.

<p>Lake Elizabeth Zone: Develop this area as the primary trailhead access inland from State Highway 1.</p> <p>Provide day use recreation and enroute overnight stay opportunities.</p> <p>Protect special status wildlife species and their associated habitat.</p> <p>Preserve the expansive natural views of coastal foothills and ridges from the highway corridor.</p> <p>Minimize public/private use conflicts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accommodates visitor access to the inland Santa Cruz Mountains, Cascade Ranch, the coast, and Cloverdale Ranches to the north. ▪ Trailhead parking serves enroute camping. ▪ Creates new visitor/recreation opportunities. ▪ Possible increased camping capacity in the San Mateo Coast area. ▪ Preservation of the aesthetic resource of coastal foothill views from the Highway 1 area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presence of special status plant and wildlife species and suitable habitat. ▪ Periodic sightings of wildlife reported. ▪ Disturbance of known archeological or historical sites. ▪ Reports of public/private use conflicts. ▪ Trail erosion. ▪ Condition of day-use area and possible enroute campsites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct periodic field resources surveys. ▪ Conduct periodic peak visitor surveys. Include their recreational pursuits and interests. ▪ Conduct periodic trail condition appraisal, and evaluation of use impacts. ▪ Check for presence of special-status plant and wildlife species. ▪ Minimize the visual impact of park facilities with appropriate site planning and screening. ▪ Maintain signs indicating State Park boundaries.
<p>Quiroste Valley Zone: Restore the cultural landscape of the valley to its pre-European contact state, and maintain this appearance.</p> <p>Preserve the valley as an area of unique cultural resources with provisions for appropriate public access, interpretation, and use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High integrity and value of the natural and cultural resources. ▪ Open appearance of valley as described and depicted by early Euro-American California explorers. ▪ Visitor access and provisions for interpretive of native California Indian culture and village life programs and events. ▪ Represented traditional Quiroste village structures (temporary). ▪ Visitor access to backcountry trails and regional multi-use trail network. ▪ Interpretive viewpoint into the Quiroste Valley. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Absence of non-native vegetation. ▪ Disturbance of cultural landscape character and visual quality. ▪ Disturbance of known archeological sites, native plant species, and native habitats. ▪ Conflicts among different visitor or special event activities including disruption of native California Indian ceremonies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased coordination with Native California Indian representatives. ▪ Modify roads and trails access through the valley. ▪ Evaluate visual impacts of any new facility developments.. ▪ Regulate special events activities and monitor and modify visitor use.

<p>Backcountry Zone: Preserve the Backcountry Zone's natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and sense of solitude.</p> <p>Provide visitor/recreation opportunities that encourage appreciation of the Backcountry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visitor access to backcountry trails, and connections to a regional multi-use trail network. ▪ Trail camps and picnic sites provided for small groups. ▪ Horse and/or bicycle trail camps, accessible from multi-use trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presence of special-status plant and wildlife species. ▪ Trail and road erosion. ▪ Presence of suitable wildlife and plant habitat. ▪ Sightings of wildlife reported. ▪ Disturbance of known archeological sites. ▪ Conflicts between different types of trail users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct periodic field resources surveys. ▪ Conduct periodic trail condition appraisal, and evaluation of use impacts and modify trails to reduce impacts of recreation use. ▪ Check for presence of special-status plant and wildlife species before developing any new camps.
<p>NOTE: These are only sample indicators and possible management actions – Indicators also pertain to additional resource topics and may be updated by park staff based on field observations, new scientific knowledge, lack of current indicators to accurately reflect changes, etc.</p>			



5 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Photo on reverse: Lake Elizabeth

CHAPTER 5: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE EIR

This General Plan for Año Nuevo State Park, with all its sections, constitutes an environmental impact report (EIR), as required by Public Resources Code (PRC) §5002.2 and 21000 et seq. The General Plan is subject to approval, and the EIR is subject to certification by the California Park and Recreation Commission (Commission). The Commission has sole authority for the plan's approval and adoption. Following certification of the EIR and approval of the General Plan by the Commission, the Department will prepare specific management plans and development plans as staff and funding become available. Future projects within Año Nuevo SP, based on the proposals in this General Plan are subject to further environmental reviews and permitting requirements and approval by other agencies, such as Caltrans, the Department of Fish and Game, and the California Coastal Commission.

FOCUS OF THE EIR

Notices of Preparation (NOP) for this General Plan were circulated to the appropriate federal, state, and local planning agencies on October 20, 2003. Two NOPs were issued, one for Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve and one for Año Nuevo State Park, and they are being combined in this analysis. Based on known issues affecting the long-term management of the park and on comments received during the planning process, this General Plan and Draft EIR was prepared to address potential environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the management goals and guidelines, as well as from area-specific management and proposals. Emphasis is given to potentially significant environmental impacts that may result from all future park management, development, and uses within Año Nuevo SP that are consistent with these goals and guidelines.

SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The tiering process of environmental review is incorporated into this EIR. Tiering in an EIR prepared as part of a general

plan allows agencies to consider broad environmental issues at the general planning stage, followed by more detailed examination of actual development projects in subsequent environmental documents. These later documents incorporate, by reference, the general discussions from the broader EIR in the General Plan and concentrate solely on the issues specific to the projects [Public Resources Code Section 21093; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15152]. This document represents the first tier of environmental review.

As a first tier of planning, this plan provides parkwide goals and guidelines for cultural and natural and physical resource management, visitor access and circulation, recreation activities and facilities, interpretation, visitor experiences, services and visitor safety, trails, concessions, wildfire, aesthetics, sustainable design, operations, community and interagency relations, and acquisition. Future second tier review will provide more detailed information and environmental analysis. At each planning level specific projects will be subject to further environmental review to determine if they are consistent with the General Plan and to identify any potentially significant environmental impacts, mitigation measures and monitoring that would be required by the project.

Mitigation generally requires resource specialists to evaluate the scope of work, identify the cause of the impacts, and specify measures to avoid or reduce the impacts to a less than significant level. More comprehensive environmental review will be possible at the more specific levels of planning, where facility size, location, and capacity can be explicitly delineated, rather than at the general plan level.

CONTENTS OF THE EIR

This programmatic EIR includes the following sections:

Introduction: This section includes a brief overview of the environmental review process, legal requirements, and approach to the environmental analysis.

EIR Summary: The EIR summary represents a summary of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed General Plan, an overview of the environmental effects of alternatives considered to the preferred General Plan, and a description of any areas of controversy and/or issues that need to be resolved.

Project Description: This section provides an overview of the proposed General Plan, which is the focus of the program EIR.

Environmental Setting: This section provides a description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project from a local and regional perspective. The environmental setting constitutes the baseline physical conditions to determine whether an impact is significant. A complete discussion of the existing conditions is found in Chapter 2.

Environmental Effects Eliminated from Further Analysis: This section describes those environmental topics that did not warrant detailed environmental analysis and the supporting rationale.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation: This section analyzes potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan.

Other CEQA Considerations: This section contains information on other CEQA-mandated topics, including significant and unavoidable impacts, significant irreversible environmental changes, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative impacts.

Alternatives to the Proposed Project: The alternatives analysis describes the various alternatives to the proposed General Plan (including the No Project Alternative) that are considered in this EIR and the associated environmental effects of these alternatives relative to the proposed project.

5.2 EIR SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

Implementation of the General Plan is not expected to result in significant impacts on the environment. Implementation of the goals and guidelines contained in Chapter 4 along with compliance with federal and state laws and regulations avoids potential significant effects or maintains them at a less than significant level. Additional mitigation measures are, therefore, not necessary.

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Four alternatives are considered in this EIR, including the Preferred Plan (the proposed General Plan), Moderate Facility Improvements Alternative, Disperse Visitor Access Alternative,

and the No Project Alternative. Descriptions of the alternatives are provided in Section 5.8.

5.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Chapter 4 of this General Plan represents the project description and establishes the overall long-range purpose and vision for Año Nuevo SP. Management goals and supporting guidelines in Chapter 4 are designed to address the currently identified critical planning issues and to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of uses that would be permitted in Año Nuevo SP. In accordance with the goals and guidelines, site selection criteria would be used to avoid adverse environmental effects of uses that would be permitted in the park.

Planning areas are identified that will guide parkwide land use decisions, visitor use areas, and development proposals. This Environmental Analysis focuses on the environmental effects of the preferred plan for six separate park planning areas: the **Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone**, the **Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone**, the **Cascade Ranch Zone**, the **Lake Elizabeth Zone**, the **Quiroste Valley Zone**, and the **Backcountry Zone**. See **Figure 12** for location of planning areas, and Chapter 4 for complete descriptions. The General Plan proposals improve and expand existing resource protection; provide park improvements enhancing current and future coastal park visitor use; and establish new park visitor access and recreation opportunities to inland park areas. The following is a summary of the General Plan's land use, development, and visitor opportunity proposals:

In the **Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone**, the General Plan proposes to:

- Continue this area's function as the park's primary visitor orientation and interpretation center. The visitor center will also provide information to encourage visitors to explore other areas of the park.
- Upgrade the existing entrance and area parking to reduce potential user conflicts, traffic congestion, and to improve non-vehicular circulation.
- Protect and rehabilitate the Dickerman-Steele Ranch historic buildings and sites for appropriate adaptive uses and provide park orientation, interpretive programs, park tour staging areas, visitor services, and day use facilities.

- Continue to provide appropriate employee residences in this zone for security and surveillance purposes.
- Enhance access to Año Nuevo Bay beaches by formalizing the existing access trail and the Caltrans right-of-way parking area at the southern park boundary.
- Establish a viewpoint near the historic highway bridge at Año Nuevo Creek and preserve the expansive coastal and ocean views.

In the **Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone**, the General Plan proposes to:

- Establish a Natural Preserve sub-classification of approximately 800 acres of the coastal dune ecosystem and coastal grasslands west of State Highway 1, including Año Nuevo Island, to establish special protection for sensitive natural and cultural features. This expanded area includes the existing "Wildlife Protection Area," which was established to protect northern elephant seals and their breeding habitat.
- Provide greater protection of cultural and natural resources from visitor use impacts and elephant seal activity.
- Protect and restore sensitive habitats in the northern coastal dune complex. Use boardwalks and trail delineation to provide public access while protecting and interpreting resources.
- Provide visitor access on designated trails, including extensions of the California Coastal Trail, through the Natural Preserve. Establish trail connections between the Año Nuevo Point and the Franklin Point areas.
- Explore possibilities for a regional coastal trail connecting destinations such as Pigeon Point, coastal portions of Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and Bean Hollow State Beach to the north. This should be a part of a regional trail network.
- Establish an appropriate buffer area (approximately 100 feet) between the Natural Preserve and State Highway 1, existing development, roads, and areas managed for more intensive visitor use. Developed areas, such as staff housing and parking, will be located outside of the Natural Preserve.
- Provide maritime history interpretive information at the Franklin Point viewpoint. Evaluate the potential for



Elephant seals at Año Nuevo Point during molting season



Boardwalk over the dunes to
Franklin Point

- additional formalized viewpoints and interpretation along the northern coast.
- Provide a staging area for school group tours, separate from the general visiting public, in order to improve tour management, visitor safety, and parking conditions.
 - Coordinate with Caltrans to improve the function and safety of day use parking areas and coastal access along State Highway 1. Enhancements could include resurfacing, striping, signs, screening, restroom facilities, and highway turnouts.
 - Coordinate with Caltrans to provide appropriate and safe trail connections across State Highway 1 between coastal and inland park properties. Provide appropriate trail markers and maps.
 - Coordinate with the Department of Fish and Game to determine the need and potential for improved parking and access facilities at the Gazos Creek coastal access (CDFG and California State Parks ownerships).
 - Coordinate with the Peninsula Open Space Trust Cloverdale Coastal Ranches to establish an inland trailhead and interpretive facilities at Gazos Creek Rd. and State Highway 1.
 - Maintain park signs that clarify property boundaries to minimize public/private use conflicts along trails adjacent to agricultural and other private lands.
 - Accommodate research activities on Año Nuevo Island to ensure a high level of protection of cultural and marine resources. The Department should continue agreements with U.C. Santa Cruz, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and other entities currently using the island, for their continued occupancy of the fog signal building and to provide management guidelines for the appropriate treatment and protection of this building.

In the **Cascade Ranch Zone**, the General Plan proposes to:

- Preserve and protect the historic character of the Cascade Ranch.
- Initiate appropriate management actions for treatment and protection of the following historic sites and features:
 - Stabilize the Cascade Ranch Horse Barn.
 - Provide a treatment plan for the Steele Family Cemetery.

- Develop maintenance guidelines for the historic water system at Cascade Ranch in order to avoid, minimize, or reduce negative impacts.
- Develop facilities for visitor day use and park operations to enhance the visitor's enjoyment and appreciation of the cultural history and preserve the historic ranch setting.
- Continue staff housing in the Cascade Ranch area. Continue efforts to preserve and maintain historic buildings, including the exterior appearance and associated landscape. Additional adaptive uses for interpretive and administrative purposes may be considered.
- Provide a multi-use public access trail (in coordination with adjacent property owners, Cascade Ranch Historic Farm) connecting Cascade Ranch to the Lake Elizabeth area and for shared use of Chalks Mountain Road for public access and visitor parking at Cascade Ranch.
- Consider one of the following two alternative development possibilities for the area immediately south of the ranch complex:
 - Develop vehicle access, trailhead parking, and picnic facilities. Consider providing group day use facilities. Establish safe vehicle access from State Highway 1, with adequate buffers and screening. This road could also provide visitor access to the historic ranch complex and/or authorized vehicle access to park maintenance facilities.
 - Establish park operations and maintenance functions (in support of Año Nuevo SP, Butano SP, and the Rancho del Oso area of Big Basin Redwoods SP). Adaptive use of existing ranch buildings may be considered for these purposes.

In the **Lake Elizabeth Zone**, the General Plan proposes to:

- Develop a day use area to serve as the primary inland trailhead access from Highway 1. Access road and parking should accommodate different types of vehicles (e.g. cars, camper vans, recreation vehicles, horse trailers) to support multi-use of trails and day use facilities. Provide appropriate park and regional trail network information and orientation.
- Park operations may consider alternative use of day use parking lot in the Lake Elizabeth planning zone to

accommodate enroute campers. No other camping provisions are anticipated in this zone.

- Minimize the visual impact of park facilities with appropriate site planning and screening. Preserve the expansive natural views of coastal foothills and ridges from the highway corridor.

In the **Quiroste Valley Zone**, the General Plan proposes to:

- Establish a Cultural Preserve sub-classification of approximately 225 acres of the Quiroste Valley and surrounding viewshed north of Lake Elizabeth and west of Whitehouse Road to establish special protection for the cultural landscape and the cultural resources of the valley.
- Consult with local native California Indian representatives and pursue partnerships or agreements with Native California Indian groups to establish management practices and interpretation of Native California Indian history and protection of significant cultural sites and features located in the Quiroste Valley. This includes vegetation management that replicates valley conditions of the historic Native California Indian occupation.
- Provide visitor access and provisions for appropriate Native California Indian activities and ceremonies as well as interpretation that focus on Native California Indian culture and village life in the Quiroste Valley. Continue use of existing unpaved roads for limited vehicular access. Avoid permanent facilities that are not consistent with the remote undeveloped character of the valley and the cultural landscape management of the valley.
- Limit signage in the Quiroste Valley to that necessary for public safety and orientation, in order to retain the cultural landscape of the pre-European contact valley as much as possible.
- Continue researching traditional Quiroste village structures (i.e. tule structures, Round House) to enhance understanding of Native California Indian occupation of the valley and provide meaningful interpretation.
- Allow for Native California Indian activities and ceremonies, special events, and interpretive program activities that are consistent with the intent and purpose of the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve classification. Ensure that cultural, historic, and prehistoric sites and features are protected.

- Provide access road, interpretive viewpoint(s), and trailhead parking. Keep parking out of the valley viewshed. Allow for appropriate trails.
- Provide interpretive information about Native California Indian history and the Quiroste Valley site at access points, vistas, and trailheads, as well as at the main park visitor center. Evaluate, record, and interpret historic resources and features, such as the Portolá expedition and Whitehouse Creek dam at these same locations. Interpretation at viewpoints will provide for meaningful on-site interpretation without detracting from the cultural landscape.

In the **Backcountry Zone**, the General Plan proposes to:

- Provide trailhead access and parking in the vicinity of Gazos Creek Road and Old Woman's Creek Road.
- Develop additional trail camps and/or horse trail camps. Consider the possibilities of these trail camps to also serve as bicycle camps in the backcountry, accessible by multi-use trails. These camps could serve individuals or groups.
- Coordinate with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to develop trail connections to and through the Cloverdale Coastal Ranches. Establish a multi-use trail connection from Butano SP and Cloverdale Coastal Ranches through Año Nuevo SP to the coast. Incorporate key regional vista points and interpretive signage into the trail system.
- Cooperate with POST to support regional opportunities to develop day use parking, trail access, potential bike staging areas, and appropriate orientation/interpretive and visitor serving facilities on the inland side of Highway 1.



Old road into the Steele “back ranch”

Comprehensive parkwide management plans for natural and cultural resources, trails, fire management, and watershed management as well as recommended coordination with others are also proposed and described in Chapter 4.

5.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Existing conditions that characterize Año Nuevo SP, including descriptions of the important resource values within Año Nuevo SP and the regional planning context, are described in Chapter 2.

This General Plan is consistent with other applicable regional plans, such as the San Mateo County Local Coastal Plan and local community and open space plans including the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Master Plan and POST's Cloverdale Coastal Ranch Plan.

5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

The following topics were eliminated for future analysis in the EIR because there is no potential for significant environmental effects resulting from implementation of the General Plan. A brief reason for their elimination is provided for each respective topic.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

The General Plan proposals would not result in the division of an established community or conflict with applicable land use plans, habitat conservation plans, or the policies or regulations of any agency with jurisdiction over the project. Therefore no significant land use and planning effects would occur and no further environmental analysis on the effects on land use and planning is necessary.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources that are or would be of value to the region and residents of the state, or are a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, no further environmental analysis on the effects on mineral resources is necessary.

POPULATION AND HOUSING

Año Nuevo SP is a destination for residents throughout California, although most visitors come from the metropolitan areas of northern and central California. Visitation is expected to increase as the State's population grows by 1.4% annually through 2020. Staff at Año Nuevo SP and the people involved in the regional tourist-serving industries primarily live in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, and this population is projected to grow approximately 7% between 2000 and 2020 and 3.4% between 2010 and 2020 in San Mateo County. In

Santa Cruz County there is a projected increase of 12% between 2000 to 2020 and 7.3% between 2010 to 2020 (DOF 2007).

Guideline **Regional Planning 6** encourages cooperation with other agencies to identify and provide potential shared affordable employee housing opportunities. While implementation of the General Plan would not directly induce regional population growth, additional recreational facilities could attract additional visitation and potentially add to the employment base of the immediate area. Given the latest unemployment rate (U.S. Bureau of Labor 2005 data) in Santa Cruz (6.3%) and San Mateo (4.3%) Counties and the latest housing vacancy rate in San Mateo County (2.5% U.S. Census Bureau 2000) and Santa Cruz (7.8% U.S. Census Bureau 2000), the increase in demand for labor and housing would be met by the existing local population and no additional housing would be needed to serve growth associated with additional visitation. The General Plan does not include proposals for infrastructure that would generate additional growth in the immediate vicinity. For these reasons, no significant population, employment, and housing effects would occur as a result of implementation of the General Plan and no further consideration is necessary for this environmental topic.



Flowers by original Rensselaer Steele home

PUBLIC SERVICES

The General Plan proposals for new facilities at the park are limited. Existing public services such as fire and police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities are adequate to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, and other performance objectives for these services. Therefore, no further environmental analysis is necessary on the effects on public services.

5.6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

The purpose of this section is to identify potential impacts of the project that may be considered significant. This analysis uses criteria from the model Initial Study Checklist (Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines) and CEQA's mandatory findings of significance (PRC sec. 21083, Guidelines sec. 15065 and sec. 15064.5) as tools for determining the potential for significant environmental effects. A significant effect on the environment is generally defined as a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in the physical environment.

General Plan proposals include development and maintenance of day use and camping facilities, parking areas, trails, multi-modal transportation facilities, and natural resource management activities that could create adverse impacts. The impacts are considered potential because the actual size, location, and design of the proposed facilities or structures have not been determined. All park plans and projects shall be in compliance with state and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation. Appropriate mitigation specific to detailed project design will be implemented as necessary in later planning and development stages.

Any potential impacts at this programmatic level would be avoided or reduced to a less than significant effect by implementing the General Plan goals and guidelines, as described in the following analysis for each topic.

AESTHETICS

This section analyzes impacts related to aesthetic resources that could result from implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

Implementation of the General Plan may result in the development of recreational and operational facilities and improvements that would be visible to visitors at designated viewpoints and from Whitehouse Road, Gazos Creek Road, and State Highway 1, which is a State-designated Scenic Highway. If the new facilities are not in context with the existing scenery or if they would introduce light sources that degrade night-time views, significant impacts could result.

With implementation of Guidelines **Aesthetics 14** and **Aesthetics 20**, the coastal and inland viewsheds in Año Nuevo SP would be defined based on the designated viewpoints and would be preserved. This includes guidance for careful site planning, screening, and development in regard to visual quality. The Backcountry Zone management intent describes preservation of inland viewsheds while guideline **Lake Elizabeth 5** aims for the preservation of the frontal slope and ridgeline viewsheds from Lake Elizabeth. The Historic Resources guidelines **Historic 1** and **Historic 2** as well as planning zone management intent statements and guidelines **Cascade Ranch 1**, **Cascade Ranch 2**, **Cascade Ranch 3**, **Cascade Ranch 4**, and **Entrance and Interpretive 1** are intended to preserve historic ranch settings at the Cascade Ranch and the Dickerman Ranch complexes. New facilities

may require night-time lighting that may degrade night-time views within Año Nuevo SP. Guideline **Aesthetics 17** would require shielding that would minimize potential degradation of night-time views. Developments outside Año Nuevo SP may also be visible to visitors at designated viewpoints and on the State Highway 1, and the developments may introduce new light sources that would degrade night-time views. With Guideline **Regional Planning 7**, the Department would submit input to local, State, and federal agencies during the environmental review period of development projects in an effort to encourage mitigation for any potential negative visual impacts. While the decision to implement visual mitigation measures outside Año Nuevo SP is not within the jurisdiction of the Department, it is expected that feasible mitigation measures would be implemented in compliance with State laws. Given the management goals and guidelines for viewsheds, this impact would be less than significant.

Development within the coastal and inland viewsheds could be visible from points within Año Nuevo SP, from lands adjacent to the park, and along State Highway 1. This could degrade the aesthetic value of the scenic views, as well as of night-time views. Implementation of the Aesthetic guidelines (**Aesthetics 14**, **Aesthetics 17**, and **Aesthetics 20**), as well as specific planning zone guidelines regarding visual quality and character, would minimize degradation of the viewshed and night-time views resulting in impacts that would be less than significant.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

This section analyzes impacts related to agricultural resources that would result from the implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

Most of Año Nuevo SP was historically used for coastal farming, dairy production, timber harvesting, grazing and other agricultural purposes. Portions of Año Nuevo SP and adjacent lands are classified as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Significance. Lands within Año Nuevo SP are not currently used for agricultural purposes but some adjacent lands are currently used for agricultural purposes. These adjacent lands include the coastal terrace area north of the Dickerman Ranch complex and the private portion of the Cascade Ranch along State Highway 1. The inland forested portions of Año Nuevo SP were historically used for timber production and agricultural purposes, but all



Agriculture in the private portion of Cascade Ranch

agricultural and timber harvesting uses have ceased since the incorporation of the property into Año Nuevo SP.

Several coastal Williamson Act preserves are located adjacent to Año Nuevo SP. Implementation of the General Plan would not affect the adjacent agricultural uses, because incompatible uses would not be permitted by the General Plan.

Given that there are no Important Farmland or Williamson Act preserves within Año Nuevo SP, no significant impacts related to the conversion of Important Farmland or areas zoned for agricultural uses would occur.

The General Plan proposes considering providing a separate elephant seal interpretive program access for school groups to a location north of Año Nuevo Point. This location could include a staging area, trail, and some group use facilities. A possible access route from State Highway 1 to this location could be via an existing road easement across private agricultural land. Current use consists of park staff resident and park operations access. Establishment of proposed school group interpretive access would increase traffic and dust on the unpaved road. The traffic frequency can be managed and coordinated through cooperative arrangements with the private landowner and agricultural operations. As such, the impacts related to agriculture are less than significant.

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in the conversion of land designated as Important Farmland or located within the Timber Preserve Zone, or the cancellation of Williamson Act contracts. The impact related to agriculture would be less than significant.

AIR QUALITY

This section analyzes impacts related to air quality that could result from the implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

The primary sources of air pollutants include construction activities, onsite operational activities, and offsite traffic. New recreational development at Año Nuevo SP may generate additional vehicular traffic to and from Año Nuevo SP. Traffic volumes on highways and local roadways in the area are highest during peak visitation periods. There are no signalized intersections within and in the immediate vicinity of Año Nuevo SP. Instead, motorists may experience some traffic

slowdowns or delays where turning movements occur frequently (e.g., pull-outs, commercial driveways, local roadways). Potential improvements that would be considered include adding turning lanes to reduce congestion related to turning movements. With these improvements, excessive congestions would be avoided, and localized CO concentrations would not exceed air quality standards.

In addition to vehicular traffic, construction activities and onsite operational activities may also generate air pollutants. Development and improvement projects within Año Nuevo SP may be required to obtain "authorization to construct or modify" and "permit to operate" from the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District. Guideline **Facilities 6** would require consultation with the APCD to determine if permits would be required. As a part of this permitting process, developments are required to comply with the APCD's rules and regulations on fugitive dust emissions, architectural coating emissions, air toxics, and other air pollutants generated by construction and operational activities. Implementation of air pollutant control measures required by these rules and regulations would minimize the emission of criteria air pollutants from construction activities and operational activities of onsite stationary sources.

Typical recreational uses occurring at the park do not generate odors that would be considered objectionable to most people. Use of materials that can release toxic air contaminants (e.g., regulated herbicides) would be in accordance with state and federal regulations. Given the above, impacts related to air pollutants would be less than significant.

Potential construction activity and motor vehicle use by Año Nuevo SP visitors would result in increases in the emission of air pollutants. Compliance with General Plan guidelines particularly Guideline **Facilities 6** would maintain emissions within acceptable levels. This impact would be less than significant.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section analyzes impacts related to biological resources that could result from implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

Implementation of the General Plan would result in the avoidance or minimization of disturbances or losses of sensitive plant communities and special-status plants. The

General Plan includes guidelines that ensure protection of natural resources in the park.

One special plant species, coast wallflower (*Erysimum ammophilum*), is known to occur within Park boundaries. Suitable to marginally suitable habitat exists within the park for 26 other special plant species, which are identified in Appendix G. Among these other species, Hickman's cinquefoil (*Potentilla hickmanii*), is listed as State and Federal Endangered. The Sacramento Office of the USFWS lists another three species as Species of Local Concern, although they have no official state or federal listing status and do not appear on the CNPS lists. These species are pink sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata* ssp. *umbellata*), California saltbush (*Atriplex californica*), and purple owl's-clover (*Castilleja exserta* ssp. *latifolia*).

Undocumented occurrences of these and other special-status plant species may be present in Año Nuevo SP, and focused surveys would be necessary to accurately determine the full distribution and extent of special-status plant species in the park. Direct impacts, such as direct removal or damage of special-status plant occurrences, have the potential to occur where facility development or visitor use would be located. Development or expansion of facilities and other ground disturbance activities, including invasive weed abatement activities, would be conducted in accordance with the Natural Resources Management guidelines. Specifically, these guidelines would result in management actions that would inventory and monitor (**Guidelines Special Plants 1**), and avoid or minimize disturbances or losses of sensitive plant communities or special-status plants (**Special Plants 1** and **Special Plants 2**). As such, direct and indirect impacts to special-status plants would be maintained at a less than significant level. In addition, consistent with **Guidelines Vegetation 1, Vegetation 2, Vegetation 3, and Regional Habitat 1**, habitat restoration and management of non-native invasive species could potentially increase the quality and extent of suitable habitat for special-status plant species.

As discussed in Chapter 2, the dynamic coastal ecosystem of Año Nuevo SP contains a number of common and sensitive vegetation communities that are valuable habitat for plants and wildlife. Sensitive plant communities in Año Nuevo SP include riparian areas, coastal and valley freshwater marsh, coastal brackish marsh, coastal terrace prairie, and native dune and grassland vegetation. Potential improvements, including potential site development and trails at appropriate non-sensitive resource locations would avoid or minimize impacts to riparian areas, wetlands, and other sensitive plant

communities by implementation of the guidelines contained in the General Plan. These include Guidelines **Facilities 1, Facilities 2, Wildlife 3, Access 3, Trails 4, Wildlife and Dune 4,** and **Lake Elizabeth 4**. Therefore, the impact on sensitive natural communities resulting from implementation of the General Plan would be considered less than significant.

Currently, no Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans have been approved in the region. The General Plan is consistent with the Local Coastal Plan, as discussed above under, Land Use and Planning. The General Plan also calls for the Department's active participation in regional conservation planning efforts (Guideline **Regional Habitat 1, Regional Habitat 2, Regional Habitat 4,** and **Wildlife 2**). Therefore, implementation of the General Plan would not conflict with plans intended to protect natural resources in the region, and there would not be a significant impact.

Compliance with General Plan Guidelines would ensure that future development and improvements within Año Nuevo SP would not result in significant disturbance or losses of sensitive plant communities or special-status plants. This impact would be less than significant.

Año Nuevo SP supports a variety of terrestrial and aquatic fish and wildlife species, primarily due to its position along the central California coastline. Most of the animals present are locally and regionally common, but as many as 22 special-status fish and wildlife species have the potential to occur in Año Nuevo SP. Construction and maintenance of existing and proposed State Park facilities could result in loss and/or disturbance of habitat and individuals of some of these special-status species. Potential direct impacts could result from development, re-location and/or expansion of facilities, such as trails, parking lots, campgrounds, day-use areas, and visitor centers. Potential secondary impacts on fish and wildlife resulting from increased visitor use could include disturbance from visitor activities (e.g., beachcombing, hiking and camping).

Impacts to terrestrial special-status wildlife species would be avoided or minimized by compliance with state and federal law in accordance with Guidelines **Special Animals 1** and **Special Animals 4**. Impacts to special status wildlife species found in Año Nuevo SP would be less than significant because maintenance or enhancement of existing facilities and construction of additional facilities would require a relatively small amount of ground disturbance and would not be sited in important wildlife habitat areas, in accordance with



Guidelines **Wildlife 3**, **Special Animals 2**, **Special Animals 3**, **Special Animals 4**, and **Special Animals 5**. Impacts would also be avoided or minimized by locating facilities away from areas known to support special-status species in accordance with the Management Intent for the Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone; the proposed Natural Preserve designation and classification; and Guidelines **Wildlife 3**, **Special Animals 2**, **Special Animals 3**, **Special Animals 4**, and **Special Animals 5**. None of the proposed facilities would involve removal of large tracts of wildlife habitat and none would substantially reduce opportunities for wildlife movement or fish passage, in accordance with Guidelines **Wildlife 3** and **Wildlife 7**. In addition, the opportunity to enhance habitat linkages and buffers around existing resources would be sought, in compliance with Guidelines **Wildlife 3**, **Wildlife 7**, **Regional Habitat 1**, and **Regional Habitat 2**.

Impacts to marine mammals or other special status species from disturbance by recreation beach users would be avoided or minimized by implementing seasonal closures or restricting beach use if necessary to protect marine mammal haul-outs or other special-status species in accordance with Guidelines **Special Animals 1** and **Recreation 2**. Impacts to special status species in structures would be avoided or minimized by implementing protection measures for special status species in structures prior to initiation of major maintenance, construction or demolition in accordance with Guideline **Special Animals 5**. Protection and recovery of listed species, such as western snowy plover, would be ensured by implementing Guideline **Special Animals 1**.

Impacts to aquatic special-status species, including anadromous fish, amphibians and reptiles, would be avoided or minimized by compliance with state and federal law (Guidelines **Special Animals 3**, **Special Animals 4**). Guidelines **Special Animals 3**, **Special Animals 4**, **Geology/Hydrology 7**, and **Geology/Hydrology 9** establishes that any instream work would be conducted consistent with requirements of CDFG, NOAA Fisheries, and the CWA, and that BMPs to protect water quality would be implemented.

Implementation of the General Plan Guidelines would result in avoidance or minimization of disturbances or losses of special-status fish and wildlife species and their habitat and would also ensure that movement of native fish and wildlife species would not be restricted. This impact is less than significant.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section analyzes impacts related to cultural resources that could result from the implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

The General Plan includes goals and guidelines that would ensure protection, avoidance or minimization of disturbances to prehistoric, and historic resources in Año Nuevo SP. There are numerous documented prehistoric resources within Año Nuevo SP, both in the coastal and inland portions of the park. These sites range from small-scale refuse scatters to a prehistoric village site (Site SMA-196) in the Quiroste Valley.

There are also numerous historic buildings, structures, objects, and sites in both the inland and coastal portions of Año Nuevo SP, as well as on Año Nuevo Island. Among these features are two historical ranch complexes in the park: the coastal Dickerman-Steele Ranch and the inland Cascade Ranch. There is existing adaptive use of some historic buildings in these areas such as the park visitor center, interpretive programs, and park staff residences. There are historic archeological sites that have the potential to be disturbed by wildlife, recreational use, or development activities.

Implementation of the Cultural Resource Management Guidelines would protect these resources, thus maintaining any impacts of the implementation of the General Plan at a less than significant level. Specifically, Guidelines **Prehistoric 1**, **Prehistoric 2**, and **Historic 1** would require identification, consultation, and the preparation of inventories to ensure all cultural resources would be identified and thus avoid unintentional destruction of resources. Compliance with Guideline **Prehistoric 2** and **Historic 2** would result in cultural resource guidelines, treatments, and interpretive information for the public that would ensure protection and restoration of cultural resources. Given the management goal and guidelines, there would not be substantial adverse effects on cultural resources present within Año Nuevo SP. This impact would be considered less than significant.

Compliance with the Cultural Resource Management Guidelines **Prehistoric 1**, **Prehistoric 2**, **Historic 1**, **Historic 2**, **Historic 3**, **Historic 4**, **Historic 5**, **Facilities 1**, **Facilities 2**, and **Facilities 9** would ensure that future development and improvements within Año Nuevo SP would not cause substantial adverse effects on cultural resources present within Año Nuevo SP. This impact would be considered less than significant.



Walnut tree, Cascade Ranch area

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

This section analyzes impacts related to geology, soils, and seismicity that could result from the implementation of the Preliminary General Plan.

Impact Analysis

Año Nuevo SP is located in a seismically active area. Portions of Año Nuevo SP along the San Gregorio Fault are located in an Alquist-Priolo special study zone, and fault rupture is possible. The main purpose of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, passed in 1972 and incorporated into the Public Resources Code as Sections 2621-2630, is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults (CGS 2003). Of the known geologic faults in San Mateo County, all show evidence of movement during the past 2 million years and are considered potentially active. Strong seismic ground shaking would occur during a large earthquake, resulting in potential structural damages. The risk of seismic-related ground failure, such as liquefaction or landslide, is moderate to high within Año Nuevo SP. Liquefaction changes water-saturated soil to a semi-liquid state, removing support from foundations and causing buildings to sink. Landslides may occur in areas of gentle slopes due to liquefaction of subsurface materials.

Structures and site development in Año Nuevo SP would be subject to potentially hazardous geologic and soils conditions, including seismic events. The current (1982) Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (APEFZ) map shows existing park buildings and potential park development areas within the APEFZ zone for segments of the San Gregorio Fault. Existing buildings should be seismically retrofitted and potential new buildings should be seismically designed to the highest degree possible to protect the public from an earthquake on the San Gregorio Fault in the vicinity of project sites. Equipment (such as hot water heaters, tall bookcases, etc.) installed as part of a building construction or rehabilitation will be secured to the walls or floor to prevent damage in the event of a large earthquake, in accordance with California Code Building requirements. Implementation of the Guidelines **Geology/Hydrology 2**, **Geology/Hydrology 3**, and **Geology/Hydrology 4** as well as compliance with Guideline **Facilities 7**, the California Building Code, and California Historical Building Code, would maintain the risks of related hazards at an acceptable level, and this impact would be less than significant.

Año Nuevo SP is also located in an area subject to inundation by tsunamis, large ocean waves caused by undersea earthquakes or landslides. Implementation of Guidelines **Safety 1, Facilities 7, Facilities 8, and Facilities 9** would ensure that facilities and services within Año Nuevo SP are designed to provide safety to visitors. Implementation of Guidelines **Facilities 3, Facilities 7, Facilities 8, and Facilities 9** would ensure that design-specific studies or geologic review are completed prior to development on sites that would subject property or people to significant risks from geologic hazards. All structures developed within Año Nuevo SP will also comply with the standards contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 24, also known as the California Building Code. Future development and improvements would include structural reinforcements and other features required by the California Building Code that would minimize geologic or seismically induced structural damage. Improvements or seismic retrofitting of historic structures will comply with the State Historic Building Code as referenced in Guidelines **Geology/Hydrology 4, Historic 3, and Facilities 9**. Furthermore, in accordance with Guideline **Geology/Hydrology 4**, State Park staff will inspect all buildings as soon as possible after a large earthquake to ascertain any damage. Any major damage shall be inspected by a qualified structural engineer before the buildings resume use by park staff or the public. Therefore, geologic and seismic hazards impacts would be less than significant.

In terms of soils and geologic hazards, the primary risks are with soil erosion and natural coastal processes. Some soils within Año Nuevo SP are not suitable for supporting existing or proposed septic systems. In addition, many areas along the coast are prone to landslides due to the seismic activities associated with the San Gregorio Fault and the erosion caused by rainfall and ocean waves. Implementation of the Park Facilities Guidelines **Facilities 1, Facilities 2, Facilities 3, and Facilities 4** would ensure that proposed facilities are appropriate for each location and that site-specific planning and studies are performed prior to development to determine site suitability. Implementation of Guidelines **Geology/Hydrology 7** and **Facilities 7** would help to minimize potential conflicts between structural development and coastal erosion by requiring design-specific geotechnical studies prior to finalization of development plans. Given these goals and guidelines, the potential for soil and coastal erosion impacts caused by park developments would be minimized. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to control soil and surface water runoff during trenching and grading activities. Permanent BMPs for erosion control will consist of



properly compacting disturbed areas and appropriate revegetation of disturbed soil areas with native species using seed collected locally, where possible. Where erosion cannot be prevented (e.g., excavation areas and ocean cliff areas), adverse effects (i.e., structural damage and water quality degradation), would be maintained at a less than significant level by avoiding developments in those areas.

The paleontological resources analysis uses criteria from the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on paleontological resources if it would:

- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Impact Analysis

The General Plan includes guidelines that would ensure protection, avoidance or minimization of disturbances to paleontological resources in Año Nuevo SP.

For specific projects, implementation of the Paleontological Resources Guideline **Paleo 1** would require identification, consultation, and the preparation of inventories to ensure all paleontological resources at specific project sites would be identified and thus avoid unintentional destruction of resources. Compliance with Guideline **Paleo 1** would include paleontological resources in a park unit archeological resources inventory program that would ensure protection of paleontological resources. Given the management goal and guidelines, there would not be substantial adverse effects on paleontological resources present within Año Nuevo SP. In the event of discovery of paleontological resources, implementation of Guideline **Paleo 2** would protect these resources by requiring consultation with Department cultural resource staff, determining significance, and applying appropriate remediation, as well as compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

Compliance with the Paleontological Resources Guidelines **Paleo 1** and **Paleo 2** would ensure that future development and improvements within Año Nuevo SP would not cause substantial adverse effects on paleontological resources present within Año Nuevo SP. Potential impacts would be considered less than significant.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This section analyzes impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials that could result from implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in a substantial increase in the use of hazardous materials (e.g., propane, herbicides) within Año Nuevo SP. Day-to-day operation of Año Nuevo SP does not involve the disposal of hazardous materials, and Año Nuevo SP would continue to contract with licensed providers of propane and herbicides. All transport, storage, and use of hazardous materials, as well as the development of new storage tanks or areas, would be in compliance with state and federal rules and regulations. Furthermore, Año Nuevo SP is not located within one-quarter mile of any schools.

Implementation of the General Plan would not be in conflict with the emergency response plans of San Mateo County. Compliance with the Access and Circulation Guidelines and the Safety Guidelines would ensure that safe roadways, facilities, and services are provided to visitors. Implementation of Guideline **Safety 1** would ensure cooperation with emergency response agencies. No road closures are planned, and implementation of the Access and Circulation Guidelines **Access 2** and **Facilities 8** would also ensure that all development areas would be designed to maintain adequate access for emergency vehicles. All buildings would be designed in compliance with the California Building Code, which requires fire safety features in buildings. Implementation of Guidelines **Access 1**, **Safety 2**, **Safety 3**, and **Facilities 4** would ensure that visitors are notified of potential hazards by appropriate signage, or directed away from roads and trails that have unsafe conditions. Año Nuevo SP is not located within two miles of an airport.

The General Plan would allow new developments and improvements and would require management actions that that may involve the use of fuels and herbicides. Also, hazardous conditions may be caused by natural phenomena or human uses. Implementation of the General Plan guidelines, as well as compliance with existing codes, rules, and regulations, would maintain these risks at acceptable levels, and this impact would be less than significant.

The General Plan proposes the development of new facilities in the park, potentially increasing the risk of wildfire from

construction activities, campfires, smoking, and other potential fire sources. The General Plan recommends the development of a comprehensive **Wildfire Management Plan** that will address potential wildfire risks and specify emergency actions for public safety, park structures, and adjacent landowner structures (see Guidelines **Wildfire 1** and **Safety 1**). The **Wildfire Management Plan** will also specify strategies for pre-suppression measures, such as the creation of defensible space around structures, wildfire education programs, and park fire regulations.

The Department shall follow the fire management policy, including wildfire management (DOM Section 0313.2.1). State Parks is also guided by an Interagency Agreement with Cal Fire concerning wildland fire protection, and has developed guidelines for the protection of structures from wildland fire (2007). These guidelines outline actions to minimize the probability that structures in proximity to flammable vegetation will ignite and burn during a wildland fire. The guidelines consider structural design, maintenance, and specific actions to minimize fuel in the structure ignition zone, defensible space zone, and wildland fuel zone. Some of these actions include, but are not limited to installing fire screens on chimneys; enclosing the area beneath overhanging wooden decks and foundations to prevent accumulations of organic debris below; removing dead organic matter within two feet of any wooden part of the structure; and removing all needles, leaves, and organic debris from roofs, gutters, exterior beams, and decking.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

This section analyzes hydrology and water quality impacts that could result from the implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

Development and land disturbance in general has the potential to cause adverse hydrologic effects to surface hydrology, stormwater drainage, floodplain functions, and groundwater supplies and movement. Development and the associated construction activities can directly alter drainage courses and runoff patterns. Construction and long-term management actions can also result in soil compaction and impervious surfaces that reduce the net amount of infiltration of runoff into the soil and increase runoff rates and quantities. In addition, the risk of exposure of people and property to flooding and flood hazards can increase if development does not consider the floodplain and natural flooding patterns.

These surface hydrologic features and functions can affect groundwater conditions through alterations of groundwater recharge or interception. Additionally, use of surface and groundwater supplies for management actions (e.g., domestic consumption and irrigation) can adversely alter existing hydrologic patterns, particularly during periods of drought when surface and groundwater resources may be lacking.

The quality of surface and groundwater resources could be adversely affected by facility development and/or increased visitor use. Construction activities (e.g., clearing, grading, excavation, utility installation, trail construction) and operations of facilities (e.g., roads, buildings) within and near Año Nuevo SP have the potential to disturb soils and expose soils to the effects of rain and wind. These activities can lead to increases in soil erosion and sediment discharges via stormwater runoff from development sites. Contaminated runoff that enters surface waters can increase turbidity, reductions in prey capture for sight-feeding organisms, and sedimentation of aquatic habitats. Materials such as fuels, oils, paints, and concrete that are used during construction can also contaminate stormwater runoff. Release of hazardous substances to the aquatic environment can have potential harmful effects to fish and other aquatic life. Waste discharges associated with long-term management and visitor activities include petroleum-based contaminants from vehicles, and a variety of inorganic and organic constituents contained in pet and livestock wastes, and direct waste discharges associated with municipal wastewater treatment systems. The extent of potential environmental effects depends on the erodibility of soil types encountered, the types of construction and management practices, the extent and duration of disturbances, the timing of precipitation, and the proximity to receiving waters.

Implementation of the Geology and Hydrology Guidelines for development and management activities within Año Nuevo SP would avoid and minimize the potential water resources impacts described above. Potential hydrologic impacts would be minimized through careful consideration of existing hydrologic conditions (Guidelines **Geology/Hydrology 1, Geology/Hydrology 2, Geology/Hydrology 3, Geology/Hydrology 5, Geology Hydrology 6, Geology/Hydrology 9, Geology/Hydrology 10, Geology/Hydrology 12, Cascade Ranch 2, Lake Elizabeth 3**), stormwater drainage design and controls (Guidelines **Geology/Hydrology 2, Geology/Hydrology 3, Geology/Hydrology 7, Geology/Hydrology 10, and Geology/Hydrology 11**), natural floodplain functions and

minimization of exposure to flood hazards, and water conservation and water supply developments (Guidelines **Geology/Hydrology 5**, **Geology/Hydrology 9**, and **Geology/Hydrology 12**). Potential surface and groundwater quality impacts would be minimized through implementation of standard waste discharge control Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction and long-term runoff, as directed by Guidelines **Geology/Hydrology 2**, **Geology/Hydrology 3**, **Geology/Hydrology 5**, **Geology/Hydrology 7**, and **Geology/Hydrology 9**, as well as consideration of geologic and hydrologic resource limitations in the development of water and wastewater supply systems (e.g., on-site septic systems), as directed by Guidelines **Facilities 1**, **Facilities 3**, and **Facilities 6**. Through implementation of these goals and guidelines, impacts related to hydrology and water quality would be maintained at less than significant levels.

Development of facilities and additional visitor use have the potential to cause short-term and long-term hydrologic and water quality impacts. The General Plan contains goals and guidelines designed to protect water quality, manage runoff, respect floodplain processes, and address other hydrological issues; therefore, hydrology and water quality effects would be less than significant.

NOISE

This section analyzes noise impacts that could result from the implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

The three primary sources of noise expected within Año Nuevo SP are construction activities, operations of facilities, and vehicular traffic. According to the Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services, which has developed criteria and guidelines for human exposure to noise, 60 dBA is the maximum acceptable noise level for the most sensitive land uses, such as single-family residences.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that the average noise levels associated with construction activities typically range from approximately 76 dBA to 84 dBA L_{eq} , with intermittent individual equipment noise levels ranging from approximately 75 dBA to more than 88 dBA for brief periods. Given this noise attenuation rate and assuming no noise shielding from either natural or human-made features (e.g., trees, buildings, fences), outdoor receptors within approximately 1,600 feet of construction sites could

experience maximum noise levels of greater than 60 dBA when onsite construction-related noise levels exceed approximately 90 dBA at the boundary of the construction site. Potential sources of noise associated with future development or improvements within Año Nuevo SP may include the operation of a visitor center (large visitor attendance or group activities) and a vehicle maintenance yard. Whereas noise associated with a visitor center or trailhead might be limited to occasional parking lot-related noise (e.g., opening and closing of doors, people talking, interpretive group activities), a maintenance yard may include additional noise sources, such as the operation of hydraulic lifts and air compressors. The area south of Cascade Ranch considered by the General Plan for a potential maintenance yard is located away from the park's primary visitor use areas and trail locations but is in proximity to existing staff housing (approximately 200 feet away), Cascade Falls trailhead (approximately 150 feet away), and the adjacent Cascade Ranch Historic Farm (approximately 800 feet away). Appropriate buffer space, vegetation screening, and site planning can reduce the impact of potential intermittent noise from a maintenance yard.

Future development and improvements would generate additional visitation to Año Nuevo SP or introduce visitors to new park areas, then traffic volumes and the associated noise volumes along roadways would increase. Where the traffic noise level would exceed the State's noise guidelines at sensitive uses along the roadways and where such increases would be perceptible, an adverse noise effect may result.

Guideline **Aesthetics 6** would require that future development and improvements within Año Nuevo SP include implementation of recommendations in noise studies to reduce or avoid negative impacts for any development or improvement projects within Año Nuevo SP that exceed the State noise guidelines. The recommendations, which may include site design changes and limits on hours of operation would protect sensitive uses from unacceptable noise levels, and, as such, this impact would be less than significant.

RECREATION

This section analyzes recreation impacts that would result from the implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

Management zone designations and sub-unit classifications serve as methods to preserve sensitive natural and cultural

resources while providing for recreation activities and visitor-serving facilities. Management zone designations and sub-unit classifications can restrict certain recreational activities in some areas in order to protect sensitive resources or visitor experience, particularly in the Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone, the Cascade Ranch Zone, and the Quiroste Valley Zone. Although the Natural Preserve sub-classification proposed for the Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone precludes overnight camping and development of park facilities such as buildings, parking areas, and roads, it will permit other types of recreation activities, such as interpretive and educational programs and hiking on designated trails. The Cultural Preserve sub-classification proposed for the Quiroste Valley Zone also precludes overnight camping and development of park facilities such as buildings, parking areas, and roads, but it will permit limited low impact recreation activity such as hiking on designated trails. Appropriate recreation activities and park development that are compatible with an area's sensitive resources are identified in the planning zone descriptions found in Chapter 4.

The plan also proposes the evaluation and potential development of new forms of recreation and new technologies to respond to visitor demand (see Guidelines **Recreation 2** and **Recreation 3**). It recommends providing increased opportunities for interpretation and education, and to expand facilities and programs that allow more recreational opportunities in the "shoulder seasons" of spring and fall (see Guideline **Recreation 5**).

The plan recommends the use of an adaptive management process that would help implement the General Plan's vision and desired conditions for natural, cultural, and recreational resources and visitor experiences in the park. This process would provide an ongoing method to evaluate and avoid or reduce impacts associated with recreational uses, visitor experiences, and park resources. Using the adaptive management process, any potentially significant impacts would be minimized to ensure survival of the park's important values and visitor opportunities as expressed in the General Plan.

The plan's proposals may increase the use of regional parks and recreation facilities by encouraging regional trail and transit connections and interpretation of the natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources in the region. However, this increased use would be minor and not cause or accelerate significant physical deterioration of the facilities.

Future projects will be subject to additional environmental review. There will not be significant adverse impacts from recreational activities or facilities resulting from the implementation of this plan.

The plan proposes increasing recreational resources at Año Nuevo SP with development of day use and camping facilities, new interpretive facilities, improved and new trailheads, additional walking, bicycling, and equestrian trail opportunities, new scenic viewpoint areas, some adjacent to new group bus or shuttle facilities from park trails to local and regional trails outside the park and alternative transportation stops and parking areas. The plan also calls for recreational facilities to accommodate disabled persons (see Accessibility Goal and Guidelines **Accessibility 16**, **Accessibility 17**, and **Recreation 4**). Planning zone designations and sub-unit classifications associated with allowable visitor use and park development will guide and manage visitor use patterns in a manner that will not adversely impact park resources. Compliance with the Recreation Planning Guidelines and the Park Facilities Guidelines would further ensure future development and improvements as well as recreation activity within Año Nuevo SP would not adversely impact park resources. This impact would be less than significant.



Planning team on the Cascade Falls Trail

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

This section analyzes transportation and circulation impacts that could result from the implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

The General Plan would permit additional recreational development that may attract additional visitation, that would increase vehicular trips to and from Año Nuevo SP. As there are no signalized intersections in the immediate vicinity of Año Nuevo SP, some brief delays from vehicle stack-ups may occur at the intersection of State Highway 1 with roadways and parking lot driveways as a result of turning movements.

State Highway 1 is a two-lane facility that accommodates both visitor and through traffic. Passing sight distance in some areas is limited by curves and grades. Typical roadway improvement projects all along State Highway 1 may include shoulder widening, passing lanes, intersection improvements to enhance turning movements, and additional roadside parking areas.

The Access and Circulation Guidelines **Access 1** and **Access 2** would require the coordination with Caltrans and San Mateo County to ensure the roadways in and around Año Nuevo SP would be maintained and improved, to the extent feasible, in order to provide safe and convenient roadway conditions for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Potential improvements that would be considered in a comprehensive roadway management plan include adding turning lanes to reduce congestion related to turning movements to avoid hazardous conditions. Implementation of Guideline **Access 1** would result in the installation of roadway signage that can orient and inform visitors so that unsafe traffic movement may be minimized and trips associated with disoriented motorists (i.e., visitors spending excessive time on the roads looking for unmarked attractions or facilities) may be reduced. Guidelines **Access 2** and **Access 4** would encourage the provision of public transportation, alternative transportation modes (pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails), as well as shuttle bus service within Año Nuevo SP. Compliance with Guidelines **Access 2** and **Access 5** would encourage the use of bicycles to and from Año Nuevo SP. As such, the General Plan proposals may increase the use of alternative modes of transportation. The Parking Guidelines **Parking 1** and **Parking 2** would facilitate the development of new parking areas to meet increased demand for parking, as well as removing parking where hazardous conditions exist or where there may be impacts to adjacent sensitive resources. These guidelines would maintain traffic at an acceptable level to the extent feasible and would increase traffic safety.

Implementation of Guideline **Access 2** would help ensure the roadways in and around Año Nuevo SP would be designed to provide adequate access for emergency vehicles. With implementation of these General Plan Guidelines, impacts related to congestion, traffic safety, emergency vehicle access and alternative modes of transportation would be less than significant.

Implementation of the General Plan may increase traffic volume of various transportation modes to Año Nuevo SP during non-commuter-peak periods, and the General Plan would permit roadway improvements. Implementation of management goals and guidelines would ensure traffic safety and adequate capacity; thus, the impact would be less than significant.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

This section analyzes impacts on utility and public service systems that could result from the implementation of the General Plan.

Impact Analysis

The General Plan would allow the development of new facilities and site improvements that would generate the demand for additional water, wastewater, electricity, propane, solid waste, telephone, law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical, and road maintenance services.

New water supply and water treatment, storage, and conveyance facilities may be needed for water service and would be built based on new demand associated with specific facility developments. The primary sources of water along the coastal area of San Mateo County are groundwater and the associated springs. The prevalent Franciscan geologic formation yields limited quantities of groundwater, and, as a result, inadequate water supply has been a major constraint for development in the area. The Department may contract with local water purveyors to provide water for Año Nuevo SP, or it may develop new wells or water collection systems. In either case, new development in Año Nuevo SP must demonstrate availability of water supplies before construction activities may proceed, in accordance with Guideline **Facilities 3**.

There are no sewer systems available in Año Nuevo SP. Thus, new facilities would require onsite wastewater systems (e.g., septic tanks). Many of the soil types in Año Nuevo SP are not compatible with onsite wastewater systems. Sites that are suitable for onsite wastewater systems may be identified through geotechnical investigations. New development in Año Nuevo SP must demonstrate site suitability for onsite wastewater systems before construction activities may proceed, in accordance with Guidelines **Geology/Hydrology 5** and **Facilities 3**.

For electricity, propane, and telephone services, the Department will continue to contract with private service providers (e.g., PG&E). For solid waste collection and disposal and road maintenance services, the Department will provide the services or will contract for solid waste collection services and Caltrans for road services. For fire protection services, the Department will coordinate with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE stations are located in

Davenport and Pescadero). Law enforcement within Año Nuevo SP is provided by the State Park rangers. In addition, the Department will coordinate with the San Mateo County Sheriff Department and California Highway Patrol for law enforcement services. Emergency medical services are also provided by rangers. In addition, there are emergency air transport services to hospitals in Santa Cruz and San Jose.

New infrastructure and facilities may be needed to serve the future development within Año Nuevo SP. Adverse environmental effects associated with new infrastructure and services are expected to be typical of the equipment and facility types. In accordance with the Park Facilities Guidelines **Facilities 1, Facilities 2, Facilities 3, Facilities 5, Facilities 6, Facilities 4, and Facilities 7**, sites for new infrastructure would be selected based on criteria that give preference to environmental compatibility and logistic convenience. If no sites within Año Nuevo SP would meet the site selection criteria, the Department may consider acquiring sites that are suitable to the proposed development, in accordance with Guideline **Recreation 7**. Construction and operations of the equipment and facilities would be in compliance with state and federal regulations, as well as management goals and guidelines of this General Plan. As such, new infrastructure and services would be environmentally compatible with the resources within Año Nuevo SP, and any degradation of environmental values would not be substantial. Environmental review for new development would be required. While the exact nature of the infrastructure and service needs would not be determined until the development proposals are available, any adverse effects would be mitigated to the extent feasible in accordance with Guideline **Facilities 1**. This impact would be less than significant.

The General Plan would allow new developments and improvements that would generate an increase in the demand for utility and public services. For law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical, electricity, propane, telephone, solid waste, and road maintenance services, existing service providers and resource capacities are expected to be sufficient; for water supply and wastewater, site investigation to ensure site compatibility with facility development would be required. As such, the impact would be less than significant.

5.7 OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Evaluation at the specificity of this first tier review indicates that the potential effects from projects proposed in this General Plan can be reduced to a less than significant level with appropriate facility siting, the implementation of goals, guidelines, resource management programs, and further reduced with the development of specific mitigation when future site-specific development plans are proposed.

Until uses, locations, and the scope of facilities or management plans are specified, the actual level of impact cannot be determined. However, all plans and projects are required to be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project-specific mitigation.

At this level of planning, unavoidable significant effects are not anticipated as a result of the proposals in this General Plan/Environmental Impact Report.

SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

No significant irreversible changes to the physical environment are anticipated from the implementation of the General Plan. Facility development, including structures, roads and trails, may be considered a long-term commitment of resources; however, the impacts can be reversed through removal of the facilities and discontinued access and use. Ongoing adverse effects on the environment, if any, can be monitored by staff through adaptive management. The Department does remove, replace, or realign facilities, such as trails and campsites, where impacts have become unacceptable either from excessive use or from a change in environmental conditions.

The construction and operation of facilities may require the use of non-renewable resources. This impact is projected to be minor based on considerations of sustainable practices in site design, construction, maintenance, and operations that are generally practiced by the Department. Sustainable principles used in design, construction, and management, such as the use of non-toxic materials and renewable resources, resource conservation, recycling, and energy efficiency, emphasize environmental sensitivity (Sustainability

Potential effects from projects proposed in this plan can be reduced to a less than significant level.

No significant irreversible changes to the physical environment are anticipated from the implementation of the General Plan.

Goal and Guidelines **Sustainability 1, Sustainability 2, and Sustainability 3**).

Destruction of any significant cultural or natural resource would be a significant irreversible effect. To avoid this impact, proposed development sites will be surveyed for cultural resources (Guidelines **Prehistoric 1** and **Historic 2**) and sensitive natural resources (Guidelines **Special Plants 1, Wildlife 1, Special Animals 1, and Special Animals 5**); all site and facility designs shall incorporate methods for protecting and preserving significant cultural and natural resources; and human activities will be managed to ensure protection of cultural and natural resources.

GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) requires that an EIR evaluate the growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project. Specifically, an EIR must discuss the ways in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Growth inducement itself is not an environmental effect, but may lead to environmental effects. Such environmental effects may include increased demand on other community and public services and infrastructure, increased traffic and noise, degradation of air or water quality, degradation or loss of plant or wildlife habitats, or conversion of agricultural and natural land to urban uses. The analysis of indirect growth-inducing impacts for the General Plan focuses on two main factors: (1) promotion of development and population growth, and (2) elimination of obstacles to growth.

If implemented completely, the General Plan may indirectly foster economic and population growth in the region. With complete development of all proposals, park visitation is likely to increase. This would be due to the improvements and development of day use facilities, campgrounds, interpretive opportunities, and improvements to park circulation, including new trails and trail connections from the park to regional trails, and mass-transit and multi-modal opportunities to access the park and surrounding areas. Additional directional and informational signage and interpretive information outside the park boundaries (on the highway, in other state and regional parks, and in the community) should raise the park's profile as a destination for the recreational opportunities and appreciation and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources.

Any improvement to recreational facilities, programs, and opportunities or increase in the park's design capacity can encourage increased use, which may create additional tourism and the need for tourist services in adjacent communities, state parks, natural land and recreation areas, and the surrounding region, such as recreation equipment, supplies, food, and related facilities. If visitation to Año Nuevo SP increases, the demand for lodging, restaurants, and other tourism-related businesses and employment in the region would also increase. The extent of such economic effects is unknown at this time, but could indirectly result in additional development in the region wherever permitted by established land use plans and zoning ordinances. The economy of the central California coast depends considerably upon recreation and tourism, and an increase in visitor use may be considered an economic benefit.

The increased visitor capacity and interpretive potential of the plan's proposals may result in the need for an increased number of permanent and seasonal park staff. Even though the General Plan recommends consideration of additional staff housing within the park boundaries, this may result in a minimal housing demand and growth impact to the region.

Development of infrastructure is often cited as a way through which obstacles to growth are eliminated. Additional infrastructure may be developed for the purpose of serving new facilities in Año Nuevo SP. The Department does not typically build infrastructure for the purpose of supporting growth, and none have been proposed for Año Nuevo SP. If development of infrastructure in Año Nuevo SP is proposed, it would comply with current federal and State laws, and subsequent environmental review would be required.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." A cumulative impact occurs from "the change in the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, projects taking place over a period of time" (State CEQA Guidelines § 15355[b]).

Development along the San Mateo Coast and in the Santa Cruz Mountains may contribute to cumulative impacts

associated with the implementation of the General Plan. Maximum development in these areas would be based on the build-out of the San Mateo County Local Coastal Plan and the San Mateo County General Plan. In the vicinity of Año Nuevo SP, future development may include residences in the adjacent Santa Cruz Mountain lands (e.g., Whitehouse Road, Gazos Creek Road). The general intent of the San Mateo County General Plan and LCP in this portion of the County and coast however is to maintain natural and coastal agricultural lands.

The General Plan for Año Nuevo SP was prepared concurrently and in coordination with the general plans for Big Basin Redwoods SP and Butano SP. The planning effort also coordinated as much as possible with surrounding land use planning, resource management, and recreation networks. The result of this is that the General Plan is integrated with surrounding regional open space planning on multiple levels and future land use conflicts should be minimal.

As described above, the facility development and resource management efforts that may occur with the implementation of the General Plan would not result in significant project-level environmental impacts. The goals and guidelines in the General Plan would direct management actions that would preserve, protect, restore, or otherwise minimize adverse effects related to biological resources, cultural resources, aesthetic quality of viewsheds, seismic hazards, water quality, traffic congestion, water supply, etc. These management actions would also maintain Año Nuevo SP's contribution to cumulative impacts to a less than significant level.

5.8 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The guiding principles for the analysis of alternatives in this EIR are provided by the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, which indicates that the alternatives analysis must: (1) describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project; (2) consider alternatives that could reduce or eliminate any significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, including alternatives that may be more costly or could otherwise impede the project's objectives; and (3) evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. The State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(d) permits the evaluation of alternatives to be conducted in less detail than is done for the proposed project. A description of the project

alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, is provided in this EIR to allow for a meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison of these alternatives with the Preferred Alternative, which is the General Plan as described in Chapter 4.

ALTERNATIVE 1: MODERATE FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND INCREASE RESOURCE PROTECTION

Description

This alternative provides park improvements enhancing current coastal visitation and also provides minimum improvements and development to establish inland access and recreation opportunities. Park improvements would generally be focused along the State Highway 1 corridor where current and future visitor use is located. Natural and cultural resource goals and guidelines will remain the same as proposed in the Preferred Plan. Resource protection will be enhanced as a result of less inland visitor access, recreation, and development than in the Preferred Plan.

Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone: Proposed access and development improvements will be similar to the Preferred Plan except that there will be no improvement of the Caltrans roadside parking area, Año Nuevo Beach trailhead, or viewpoint development on the park's southern boundary. Resource protection in this zone would be improved as a result of fewer park facilities proposals.

Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone: Proposals will retain low intensity roadside parking access improvements and coastal trail access improvement proposals along State Highway 1. There will be a new separate school group staging area to reduce existing traffic congestion and improve park circulation. All of the Preferred Plan resource protection proposals, including the expanded coastal Natural Preserve, would be included in this Alternative. Existing and proposed trail and boardwalk access in the Natural Preserve would be retained. There would be no expansion of the Gazos Creek parking area, or shared development of an inland trailhead and interpretive facilities with Cloverdale Coastal Ranches at Gazos Creek Road-State Highway 1. Resource protection in this zone would be the same as the Preferred Plan.

Cascade Ranch Zone: Continue existing uses and activities. Existing adaptive use staff housing would continue in the historic buildings. Existing trail access to Cascade Falls would continue. A new multi-use trail connection between

Cascade Ranch and the Lake Elizabeth trailhead facilities would be developed in cooperation with Cascade Ranch Historic Farm. No other new visitor access, activities, or facilities as well as no park operations facilities would be developed at Cascade Ranch in this alternative. Treatment actions necessary for protection and preservation of historic resources is included in this alternative. New adaptive uses for Cascade Ranch historic structures would not be considered. Resource protection in this zone would be improved as a result of fewer park facilities proposals.

Lake Elizabeth Zone: The proposed access, parking, and trailhead facilities are this alternatives' primary access and development proposals for the inland portions of the park. Use of the parking area as an enroute camping location would be an operational option. No other vehicular access-trailhead would be developed in the Cascade Ranch, Backcountry, or Quiroste Valley Planning Zones. Recreation opportunities would consist of access to the existing network of backcountry and regional Santa Cruz Mountains trails and trail camps. Opportunities for developing new additional regional trail connections such as those with Cloverdale Coastal Ranches are included in this alternative. Resource protection in this zone would be the same as the Preferred Plan.



Multi-trunked redwood tree by
Whitehouse Creek

Quiroste Valley Zone: The cultural preserve proposal would be included with this proposal as a means of providing special recognition and protection for the cultural resources and the cultural landscape, however there would be less opportunities for Native California Indian activities and ceremonies as well as interpretive activities because new access improvements into the valley are not included in this alternative. Resource protection in this zone would be improved as a result of fewer park facilities proposals.

Backcountry Zone: The backcountry would offer visitor facilities as in the preferred plan, but in lower quantities. Visitor facilities would include trail camps for individuals and groups; trailheads and multi-use trails that would connect to regional trails, adjacent state parks, and natural areas; and interpretive elements, including vista points and interpretive panels. The opportunity for interpretive or special event shuttle tours is not included in this Alternative. Resource protection in this zone would be improved as a result of fewer park facilities proposals.

Evaluation

This alternative provides facility improvements and development in response to current access and recreation demand. This serves both the existing coastal visitor use patterns as well as allows for new opportunities and dispersal of visitation into inland areas. Improvements to recreation and interpretive facilities that are compatible with the park's natural and cultural resource management goals would be developed in the entrance area of the park. This alternative would achieve many of the General Plan objectives but would limit the use of the entire park by providing minimum access development to inland areas and not expanding existing regional network connections.

Traffic and circulation improvements in the entrance area would be accomplished with this alternative and improvements to informational and directional signage would also occur. With increases in park visitation these improvements will more effectively accommodate the park traffic, circulation, and avoid congestion in the most active area of the park. Although access and activity will be formalized for the inland portions of the park, visitor use and activities would generally continue to be concentrated in existing coastal visitor activity areas of the park.

If this alternative was implemented most improvements to the visitor center, picnic areas, trails, trailheads, and parking would enhance current park activity areas. The facility improvements would serve existing visitor demand for day use facilities and parking improvements along coastal areas and the highway corridor and a limited variety of backcountry recreation experiences, but would not respond to the desire for additional overnight facilities in the backcountry or anticipated future recreation demand.

This alternative would not provide multiple access locations and routes into the backcountry. Also backcountry trail connections to regional natural lands and other nearby state parks would not occur. Current visitor use in coastal areas might become more intensely used on the trails and in the day use areas (picnicking, visitor center, and parking), due to a lack of facilities or more trail opportunities in the inland portions of the park. This area of the park would require increased monitoring by park staff to ensure the desired level of resource protection. The quiet, remote, and wild quality of the outlying coastal areas of this park may change with increased visitor and staff contact and intense visitor use and activity.

As projected park visitation increases, the improvements provided for in this alternative would not meet the expected future park access and recreation demand (particularly in inland areas).

ALTERNATIVE 2: DISPERSE VISITOR ACCESS AND INCREASE RESOURCE PROTECTION

Description

This alternative would provide coastal access and facilities improvements that would enhance some current coastal visitor use along with increased coastal resource protection. Inland access and facilities will be established to serve Cascade Ranch, Quiroste Valley, and the Backcountry Zones as well as Santa Cruz Mountains regional connections to meet current and future recreation demand. Coastal resource protection will be improved with the establishment of a coastal Natural Preserve. This alternative would not designate a Cultural Preserve for the Quiroste Valley to allow for some additional trail and recreation opportunities. Cultural resource protection will be provided by proposed parkwide cultural resource goals and guidelines.

Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone: Facility improvements will be focused along the State Highway 1 corridor where current visitor use is located. Improvements in the main park entrance and visitor center area of the park will consist of improvements to circulation and parking to reduce congestion and those necessary for visitor safety. This alternative will continue serving the predominant existing coastal visitor use pattern and moderately expand visitor opportunities to inland areas of the park. Sensitive resource protection will be a priority and interpretation of the natural and cultural resources would support this goal. Resource protection in this zone would be improved as a result of fewer park facilities proposals.

Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone: Proposals and resource protection are the same as the Preferred Plan.

Cascade Ranch Zone: The only new park development will be the multi-use connection trail between Cascade Ranch and Lake Elizabeth. There will not be any new developments south of the Ranch complex. Adaptive use of historic structures for park staff housing will continue and appropriate alternative adaptive uses could be considered. Resource protection in this zone would be improved as a result of fewer park facilities proposals.

Lake Elizabeth Zone: The proposed Lake Elizabeth access, parking, and trailhead facility is the primary access and development proposal for the inland portions of the park. This will be primary inland vehicular access-trailhead. Other smaller trailhead access facilities will be located in the Cascade Ranch and Backcountry Planning Zones. Recreation opportunities consist of trail access, day use activities, and enroute camping. Resource protection is the same as the Preferred Plan.

Quiroste Valley Zone: This planning zone will remain as a remote undeveloped backcountry area without the Cultural Preserve sub-classification called for in the Preferred Plan. Appropriate additional trails and trailside camping opportunities will be considered. Cultural resource protection will be provided by proposed parkwide cultural resource goals and guidelines.

Backcountry Zone: Proposals and resource protection are the same as the Preferred Plan.

Evaluation

This alternative was considered in order to keep visitor facilities and development close to State Highway 1 corridor in order to reduce potential negative impacts in the park's most sensitive habitats and wild and remote character. Visitor access and park development improvements are focused along coastal areas and the State Highway 1 corridor to serve the current and continuing pattern of park visitor access and use. Visitor access and recreation opportunities for the inland areas of the park will only be established at Lake Elizabeth. This alternative would minimize development penetration into the more remote coastline and inland mountain areas. This alternative would also rely more on other regional Santa Cruz Mountains trailheads and recreation developments to help provide backcountry access and recreation opportunities.

This alternative would partially achieve the General Plan objectives for recreation and resource protection by improving visitor facilities along the coastal and State Highway 1 corridor areas. The focus on coastal development and limited amount of visitor access and facilities for the inland side of the highway and backcountry areas generally serves and continues the existing park visitor use patterns. It only expands access and visitor use in inland areas in a limited way. Minimum traffic and circulation improvements for safety along the highway corridor and visitor center area would be accomplished with this alternative. This alternative would avoid or minimize potential negative impacts to sensitive

resources by establishing the expanded coastal Natural Preserve and limiting access to the inland areas.

This alternative also supports additional opportunities to create a high quality visitor experience through new coastal trail connections to the California Coastal Trail as well as the existing Santa Cruz Mountains regional trail network, regional state parks, and natural areas, such as the Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and to local or regional community destinations.

Protection for cultural resources in the Quiroste Valley would be provided by the General Plan's parkwide cultural resources goal and guidelines as well as the Department's cultural resource policies and directives.

This alternative would not provide multiple access locations and routes into the backcountry, and backcountry trail connections to regional natural lands and other nearby state parks would not occur. Current visitor use would become more concentrated on existing trails and in day use areas (picnicking, visitor center, and parking), due to a lack of facilities elsewhere in the park. This area of the park would require constant monitoring by park staff to ensure the desired level of resource protection. The quiet, remote quality of some coastal areas in this park may be replaced by frequent visitor and staff contact and intense visitor use and activity.

This alternative would reduce the number and variety of visitor facilities parkwide, and it would not adequately respond to the future recreation demand.

ALTERNATIVE 3: NO PROJECT

Description

The California Environmental Quality Act requires an evaluation of the "no project" alternative and its impact (CEQA Guidelines §15126.6[e][1]). The No Project Alternative represents perpetuation of existing management actions, and its analysis is based on the physical conditions that are likely to occur in the future if the project (the proposed General Plan) is not approved and implemented. The purpose of describing and analyzing the No Project Alternative is to allow decision-makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed General Plan with the expected impacts of not approving the General Plan. Without a general plan for Año Nuevo SP, it is assumed that the existing patterns of operation and management would continue under this alternative and no

major recreational or operational facilities would be developed. Visitation increases would be somewhat smaller than under the Proposed Project due to less recreational opportunities and visitation capacity under this alternative. However, overall use would still be expected to increase as the state-wide and regional populations grow. The management actions that would protect, preserve, and restore natural and cultural resources beyond the requirements of laws and regulations would not occur under the No Project Alternative.

Evaluation

The existing conditions, lack of needed facilities, and limitations would continue if the General Plan were not adopted. Without the facility improvements to accommodate the existing visitor demand as well as a projected increase in visitor use, sensitive natural and cultural resources may be expected to degrade over time due to overuse, particularly in the popular coastal areas.

Under the “no project” alternative the park’s natural and cultural resources may not receive an increased level of protection particularly with the proposed Natural Preserve in the coastal area. Resource management plans and policies for natural and cultural resources may not be developed. Under the “no project” alternative cultural resource protection would be limited. Development of a systematic assessment process to determine the future treatment of cultural resources within the park would be unlikely because implementation of new programs would require adoption of a general plan.

Demand for recreation facilities and programs are increasing along with population increases in the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley. However, without a general plan, the Department would not have the authority to develop or enhance facilities to respond to this demand, especially for day and overnight use, increased opportunities for access to the coast, and establishing formal access facilities for the inland areas. Recreational and interpretive improvements that could enhance the visitor experience at the park’s current level of use or anticipated future needs would not be developed.

Under the “no project” alternative a comprehensive evaluation of park, regional, and statewide trail systems may not be accomplished. Opportunities would be missed to create a higher quality visitor experience through trail linkages to the California Coastal Trail, to regional state parks and

recreation and natural lands such as POST's Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property, and to local or regional community destinations or mass-transit stops.

Also under the "no project" alternative, land use management may not be evaluated on a parkwide basis, and the park's potential for planned and integrated land use, positive visitor experiences, recreational facility development, and possible future acquisitions may not occur. Without organized land use or management plans and development guidelines, incremental cumulative impacts may adversely impact the park in the future.

Traffic and circulation improvements may not be accomplished with the "no project" alternative. Improvements to traffic flow at the existing Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone may not be accomplished. Improvements to informational and directional signage may not occur. Improvements to existing day use coastal parking areas as well as trail connections along State Highway 1 may not be accomplished. As a result, highway traffic movement may be affected as projected park visitation increases. The existing visual and aesthetic character of the park may not be improved under the "no project" alternative, or enhanced in an important way, and existing scenic and other aesthetic resources may be affected.



Historic bridge on old Highway 1

Table 5-1 Plan Alternatives			
Planning Zone	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1 –Moderate Facility Improvements and Increased Resource Protection	Alternative 2 – Disperse Visitor Access and Increase Resource Protection
Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone	<p>Desired facilities and improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide visitor orientation and interpretation center ▪ Upgrade entrance and area parking ▪ Protect and rehabilitate the historic Dickerman-Steele Ranch buildings and provide interpretive programs, staging areas, visitor services and day use facilities ▪ Continue provide employee residences ▪ Formalize Año Nuevo Bay access trail and southern Caltrans roadside parking area ▪ Establish viewpoint near the historic highway bridge and preserve coastal views <p>Potential impacts from facility development and visitor use. Impacts will be minimized or avoided through the implementation of plan goals and guidelines ensuring protection of significant resources, appropriate facility location, and application of the adaptive management process.</p>	Same as the preferred plan.	<p>Facility improvements same as the preferred plan except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No improvements to southern Caltrans roadside parking area, Año Nuevo Bay access trail, and Año Nuevo Bay overlook <p>Less potential for impacts and improved resource protection due to fewer park facilities.</p>

Table 5-1 Plan Alternatives			
Planning Zone	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1 –Moderate Facility Improvements and Increased Resource Protection	Alternative 2 – Disperse Visitor Access and Increase Resource Protection
Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone	<p>Desired facilities and improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a Natural Preserve sub-classification that will include the existing “Wildlife Protection Area” ▪ Provide greater resource protection ▪ Protect and restore sensitive habitats in the northern coastal dune complex ▪ Provide access on trails and trail connections between the Año Nuevo Pt. and Franklin Pt. ▪ Explore trail connections ▪ Establish 100 foot buffer area between Natural Preserve and State Highway 1 ▪ Provide maritime interpretive programs ▪ Provide school group staging areas ▪ Coordinate with Caltrans State Highway 1 day use parking areas and trail connections ▪ Coordinate with the Dept. of Fish and Game improved access ▪ Coordinate with the Peninsula Open Space Trust trail and visitor facilities ▪ Maintain park boundary signage ▪ Accommodate research activities <p>Potential impacts from facility development and visitor use. Impacts will be minimized or avoided through the implementation of plan goals and guidelines ensuring protection of significant resources, appropriate facility location, and application of the adaptive management process.</p>	Same as the preferred plan.	<p>Facility improvements same as the preferred plan except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No expansion of Gazos parking area ▪ No shared development of inland trailhead and interpretive facilities with Cloverdale Coastal Ranches (at Gazos Creek Road). <p>Less potential for impacts than the preferred alternative due to fewer proposed visitor facilities (trailheads, trails, and expanded parking), no additional regional trail connections, and less potential visitor use. Improved resource protection due to fewer park facilities.</p>

Table 5-1 Plan Alternatives			
Planning Zone	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1 –Moderate Facility Improvements and Increased Resource Protection	Alternative 2 – Disperse Visitor Access and Increase Resource Protection
Cascade Ranch Zone	<p>Desired facilities and improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retain historic character ▪ Initiate management plans ▪ Develop day use facilities ▪ Provide multi-use trail connection to Lake Elizabeth ▪ Consider either developing day use access facilities or establishing operations facilities south of ranch complex <p>Potential impacts from facility development and visitor use. Impacts will be minimized or avoided through the implementation of plan goals and guidelines ensuring protection of significant resources, appropriate facility location, and application of the adaptive management process.</p>	<p>Facility improvements same as the preferred plan except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new day use access facilities ▪ No new park operations facilities ▪ No new adaptive uses of Cascade Ranch buildings <p>Less potential for impacts than the preferred alternative due to fewer proposed visitor facilities (day use facilities) and less potential visitor use. Improved resource protection due to fewer park facilities.</p>	<p>Facility improvements same as the preferred plan except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No park operations facilities ▪ No new adaptive uses of Cascade Ranch buildings <p>Less potential for impacts than the preferred alternative due to no proposed operations facilities resulting in improved resource protection due to fewer park facilities.</p>

Table 5-1 Plan Alternatives			
Planning Zone	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1 –Moderate Facility Improvements and Increased Resource Protection	Alternative 2 – Disperse Visitor Access and Increase Resource Protection
Lake Elizabeth Zone	<p>Desired facilities and improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop day use areas ▪ Consider alternative day use parking ▪ Minimize visual impacts ▪ Provide multi-use trail connection to Cascade Ranch <p>Potential impacts from facility development and visitor use. Impacts will be minimized or avoided through the implementation of plan goals and guidelines ensuring protection of significant resources, appropriate facility location, and application of the adaptive management process.</p>	Same as the preferred plan.	Same as the preferred plan.

Table 5-1 Plan Alternatives			
Planning Zone	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1 –Moderate Facility Improvements and Increased Resource Protection	Alternative 2 – Disperse Visitor Access and Increase Resource Protection
Quiroste Valley Zone	<p>Desired facilities and improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a Cultural Preserve ▪ Consult and pursue agreements with Native California Indian groups ▪ Provide visitor access to Native California Indian activities ▪ Limit signage ▪ Research village structures ▪ Allow Native California Indian activities ▪ Provide some new limited access road and trailhead parking ▪ Allow for appropriate trails ▪ Provide interpretive programs <p>Potential impacts from facility development and visitor use. Impacts will be minimized or avoided through the implementation of plan goals and guidelines ensuring protection of significant resources, appropriate facility location, and application of the adaptive management process.</p>	<p>Less development and visitor opportunities than the preferred plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new access road improvements into the valley or trailhead parking <p>Less potential for impacts than the preferred alternative due to fewer proposed visitor facilities (trails and trailheads), no additional regional trail connections, and less potential visitor or special event use. Improved resource protection due to fewer park facilities.</p>	<p>Same development and visitor opportunities as the preferred plan, less emphasis on Quiroste culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Cultural Preserve sub-classification, cultural resource protection provided by parkwide goals and guidelines and Department policies. <p>Some increased potential for impacts as the preferred alternative due to lack of Cultural Preserve sub-classification protections and Quiroste cultural resource emphasis.</p>

Table 5-1 Plan Alternatives			
Planning Zone	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 1 –Moderate Facility Improvements and Increased Resource Protection	Alternative 2 – Disperse Visitor Access and Increase Resource Protection
Backcountry Zone	<p>Desired facilities and improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide trailhead access and parking ▪ Develop multi-use camps ▪ Coordinate with the Peninsula Open Space Trust trail and staging areas ▪ Interpretive shuttle tours of the backcountry <p>Potential impacts from facility development and visitor use. Impacts will be minimized or avoided through the implementation of plan goals and guidelines ensuring protection of significant resources, appropriate facility location, and application of the adaptive management process.</p>	<p>Less development and visitor opportunities than the preferred plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less additional trail camps; trailheads and multi-use trails to regional trails; ▪ No interpretive shuttle tours of backcountry <p>Less potential for impacts than the preferred alternative due to fewer proposed visitor facilities (trails and trailheads), no additional regional trail connections, and less potential visitor or special event use. Improved resource protection due to fewer park facilities.</p>	<p>Same as the preferred plan.</p>



6 PUBLIC REVIEW

Photo on reverse: General plan team on trail to Franklin Point

CHAPTER 6: PUBLIC REVIEW

6.1 INTRODUCTION

On March 28, 2008 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) released to the general public and public agencies the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo SP, which also incorporated state lands that were classified as Año Nuevo State Reserve.

In accordance with PRC Section 21091 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR was provided. The public was advised of the availability of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR through public notices (Notice of Availability) and notification on the Department's web site. The Notice of Availability was also posted with the San Mateo County Clerk. Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR were available for review at the following locations: California State Parks - San Mateo Coast Sector Office, Año Nuevo State Park Office, Santa Cruz District Office, Planning Division (Sacramento); San Mateo County libraries - Half Moon Bay Library, Pacifica-Sharp Park Library, Portola Valley Library, Woodside Library; Santa Cruz County libraries - Central Branch, Boulder Creek Branch, Scott's Valley Branch, Felton Branch; Santa Clara County libraries - Cupertino Library, Los Altos Library, Saratoga Library; and on the State Parks web site.

The public review period ended May 12, 2008. During the public review period comments on the plan and the environmental issues evaluated in the Draft EIR were received from agencies and individuals. This section provides a list of the agencies and people commenting, copies of the original comment letters, and the Department responses to written comments received during the 45-day public review period.

The focus of the response to comments is on the disposition of environmental issues that have been raised in the comments, as specified by CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), but also includes responses to pertinent planning considerations of the General Plan.

6.2 LIST OF COMMENTERS

This section provides a list of all public comments received on the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR during the public review period. **Table 6-1** indicates the commenter/organization that prepared written comments and the date the comment(s) were received.

Table 6-1: List of Written Comments Received

Letter Number	Commenter	Agency/ Organization/ Individual Represented	Date Received
1	Sandra Finegan	Caltrans	April 8, 2008 (email)
2	Valentin Lopez et. al.	Amah Mutsun Tribal Band	May 11, 2008
3	Lisa Carboni	Caltrans	May 12, 2008
4	Joel Perlstein	Individual	May 12, 2008 (email)
5	Kaitilin Gaffney	Ocean Conservancy	May 12, 2008
6	Tod Neil Page	Individual	May 16, 2008 (email)
7	Tod Neil Page	Individual	June 25, 2008 (email)

6.3 COMMENT LETTERS & RESPONSES

This section provides a complete copy of the written comments received on the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR for Año Nuevo SP, and presents responses to significant environmental issues raised in the comments, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15132, as well as comments pertaining to the Preliminary General Plan.

Each letter is reproduced in its entirety, including attachments. Each letter and comment corresponds to Table 6-1. The responses to comments follow each letter. Revisions to text in the General Plan and EIR are shown with a strikethrough or underline. Text that has a ~~strikethrough~~ has been deleted from the General Plan and EIR. Text that has been added is presented as single underlined.

From: Sandra Finegan [mailto:sandra_finegan@dot.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 1:13 PM
To: General, Plan
Subject: Traffic Impact Study for General Plans

Letter 1**1A**

I recently received the Año Nuevo State Park Preliminary General Plan and DEIR. Have you prepared a traffic study? If so, I will need a copy of the study and its technical appendices including the synchro output sheets. If a traffic study has not been prepared I will need a written explanation of why it is not warranted.

<http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/files/pdf/TrafficImpactStudy.pdf>

Thank you.

Sandy Finegan
Transportation Planner - IGR/CEQA Coordinator
Office of Transit and Community Planning
Caltrans -District 4
111 Grand Avenue, MS 10-D
Oakland, CA 94623
(510) 622-1644
(510) 286-5559 FAX

Response to Letter 1 – Caltrans District 4, Sandra Finegan

1A - A traffic study has not been prepared as a part of the Preliminary General Plan and DEIR. The General Plan is broad and conceptual and is primarily a land use document. The design and magnitude of specific proposed facilities is determined at the specific development project level and not determined in the General Plan. The Transportation and Traffic section of the Environmental Analysis Chapter does analyze transportation and circulation impacts of broad General Plan proposals on a programmatic level. When specific development projects are determined, the Department will be able to estimate potential traffic increases, as well as identify any other contributing factors from outside the park, that could occur on State Highway 1 or

on Gazos Creek Road as a result of future park development and visitor use.

Guideline **Access 7** (formerly **Trails 8**) recommends a Roads and Trails Management Plan evaluate and determine parkwide roads and trails circulation in a detailed manner. Affects on traffic and State Route 1 resulting from park access and development proposals would be examined in the preparation of the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

The Access and Circulation Guidelines **Access 1** and **Access 2** would require the coordination with Caltrans and San Mateo County to ensure the roadways in and around Año Nuevo SP would be maintained and improved, to the extent feasible, in order to provide safe and convenient roadway conditions for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Potential improvements that would be considered in a comprehensive roadway management plan include adding turning lanes to reduce congestion related to turning movements to avoid hazardous conditions.

The Parking Guidelines **Parking 1** and **Parking 2** would facilitate the development of new parking areas to meet increased demand for parking, as well as removing parking where hazardous conditions exist or where there may be impacts to adjacent sensitive resources. These guidelines would maintain traffic at an acceptable level to the extent feasible and would increase traffic safety.

**AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND
3015 EASTERN AVENUE #40
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
(916) 743-5833**

Mr. Alan Tang
General Plan Section
California State Parks
Planning Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

May 11, 2008

Dear Mr. Tang,

I am pleased to submit comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park (ANSP) and State Natural Reserve on behalf of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (AMTB).

AMTB is comprised of the documented descendants of the areas surrounding Missions Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista. The ANSP is within the northernmost portion of Amah Mutsun's traditional territory and, as such, we have great interest in the outcome of planning and management activities undertaken in this area.

Our tribe has been quite pleased with the relationship we've developed with State Parks in the recent years leading up to the development of the Draft General Plan. We've found Park representatives to be extraordinarily welcoming of our input and participation in matters concerning our cultural resources and traditional lifeways. Our research partnership with State Parks and UC Berkeley is progressing very well and is uncovering tremendous information that will inform both our efforts to restore ceremony and dance to the Quiroste Valley, as well as important information for the restoration of the pre-Spanish ecology of Valley. Through the designation of Quiroste Valley as a State Cultural Preserve, we are eager to continue this research and formalize our relationship with Parks toward sustainable management of this new Preserve.

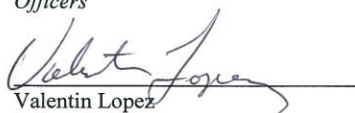
The Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park and Natural Reserve has the potential to be a ground-breaking document. It reflects a new and very progressive relationship between a tribal government and State Parks, and includes numerous provisions for future activities with the tribe. It goes beyond measures taken by other Parks and state institutions in their attitude toward tribe, providing for our participation in not only interpretive elements of the new Preserve, but it also recognizes the long legacy of environmental management practiced by our ancestors. The Plan provides the framework for rigorous study of the historic, culturally-managed environment, as well as mechanisms to restore both cultural and ecological functionality to this precious place.

2A




We strongly encourage the Parks Commission to approve this new Cultural Preserve designation, and remain actively involved in the implementation of its provisions. This Preserve, and the important partnerships that will arise from its creation have the potential to serve as a new model of cooperative management of both cultural and natural resources in the state.
Sincerely,

Officers


Valentin Lopez
Tribal Chairman


Paul Mondragon
Tribal Vice-Chairman


Approves in absence of MC
Lisa Carrier
Tribal Secretary


Denise Espinosa
Tribal Treasurer

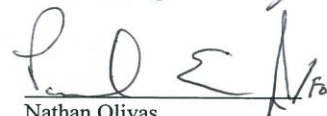
Members-at-Large


Mary Carrier


Isabel Diaz


Ed Ketchum


Mark Mondragon


Nathan Olivas


Sonya Pineida

Response to Letter 2 – Valentin Lopez, et al.

2A - The Department appreciates the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's positive participation in the general planning process. The Department agrees that the cooperative and mutually supportive relationship has resulted in a unique General Plan for Año Nuevo State Park and also the proposed establishment and designation of the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve which all participants can be proud of. The Department looks forward to continuing this positive relationship by working with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band on implementing the General Plan in general and specifically on the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve.

Letter 3

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 GRAND AVENUE
P. O. BOX 23660
OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660
PHONE (510) 622-5491
FAX (510) 286-5559
TTY 711



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

May 12, 2008

SM001319
SM-01-3.285
SCH# 2003102088

Mr. Alan Tang, Project Manager
Planning Division, General Plan Section
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Tang

**ANO NUEVO STATE PARK PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN – DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Department) in the environmental review process for the Año Nuevo State Park Preliminary General Plan project. The following comments are based on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

As the lead agency, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to state highways. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures. Required roadway improvements should be completed prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy. Since an encroachment permit is required for work in the state Right of Way (ROW), and the Department will not issue a permit until our concerns are adequately addressed, we strongly recommend that the DPR work with the Department to ensure that our concerns are resolved during the CEQA process, and in any case prior to submittal of a permit application. Further comments will be provided during the encroachment permit process; see the end of this letter for more information regarding encroachment permits.

Maintenance Services

The Department requests that the DPR continue to involve and partner with the Department in the development of the General Plan since implementation of many of the proposed projects will impact the operation, design, and maintenance of State Route (SR) 1. The Department will need to monitor trees and other vegetation along SR 1 adjacent to DPR land for liability and safety issues. As well, liability issues associated with five coastal trailheads with informal parking need to be addressed.

Advance Planning

The Department recognizes the importance of the General Plan process to Año Nuevo State

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"

3A

3B



Mr. Alan Tang
May 12, 2008
Page 2

Park's effective planning for future conditions including the overall increase to the San Francisco Bay Area population and resulting increase in park visitor usage. Issues regarding safe and convenient access to the park for an increasing population need to be addressed in greater detail. Also, transit, bicycle, and other multi modal accessibility to and from the park need to be evaluated to a greater degree.

3C

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Please provide a map that clearly shows pedestrian, bicycle, and handicap access from parking areas to trailheads in the proximity of SR 1, particularly any trail configurations that might encourage the crossing of SR 1.

3D

Cultural Resources

The Department is in agreement with the sensitivity for both prehistoric and historic sites in the Año Nuevo State Park addressed in the Preliminary General Plan DEIR that may lie adjacent to or within the state ROW and the resource guidelines set forth. However, if future construction activities are proposed within the state ROW, pursuant to CEQA, PRC 5024, and the Department's Standard Environmental Reference, Vol. 2, Office of Cultural Resource Studies, <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/vol2/vol2.htm>, the Department will require a cultural resource study prepared by a qualified, professional archaeologist that includes the following before an encroachment permit can be issued:

3E

1. An effects evaluation of potential impacts to the archaeological/historical site,
2. A mitigation plan per CEQA Guidelines 15126.4(b)(3),
3. Evidence of consultation with the territorial Native American group for the area pursuant to PRC 5097.

If a cultural resource evaluation results in the finding of a historically or culturally significant resource, based on project impacts to this resource, a Data Recovery Plan may be necessary. This plan would need to be approved by the Department's Office of Cultural Resource Studies before action is taken.

Traffic Analysis

The Department would like to review any traffic studies, left-turn lane warrants, queuing analyses, improvement plans, graphics, etc. for planned improvements within SR 1 ROW. Improvements that may be warranted at key access points to the park on SR 1 include left-turn lanes to reduce conflicting movements, shoulder widening, and acceleration/deceleration lanes. Please include any proposed pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements.

3F

The Department's "Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies" should be reviewed prior to initiating any traffic analysis for the project; it is available at the following website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/operationalsystems/reports/tisguide.pdf>

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that work that encroaches onto the state ROW requires an encroachment permit that is issued by the Department. To apply, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans, clearly indicating state ROW, must be submitted to the address below. Traffic-related mitigation measures will be incorporated into the

3G

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"



Mr. Alan Tang
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Page 3

construction plans during the encroachment permit process. See the following website link for more information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

3G (cont.)

Michael Condie, Chief
Office of Permits
California DOT, District 4
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Please feel free to call or email Sandra Finegan of my staff at (510) 622-1644 or sandra_finegan@dot.ca.gov with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Carboni
for
LISA CARBONI
District Branch Chief
IGR/CEQA

c: State Clearinghouse

Response to Letter 3 – Caltrans District 4, Lisa Carboni

- 3A** – If specific park projects encroach on State Route 1 (SR 1) rights-of-way, California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) will coordinate with California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and comply with the encroachment permit process and associated requirements as necessary. State Parks will provide for mitigation directly associated with specific proposed park projects when necessary. At this time, financing, scheduling, and implementation responsibilities cannot be discussed because specific park development projects have not been selected or proposed. When projects have been determined, State Parks will coordinate and discuss all pertinent issues with Caltrans.
- 3B** - *Maintenance Services:* State Parks will continue to coordinate and confer with Caltrans involving issues on SR 1 and Año Nuevo State Park including implementation of General Plan proposals as well as liability and safety issues. This interagency coordination is referenced in the **Access 1** guideline as follows: “Coordinate with Caltrans and San Mateo County to insure that road construction and maintenance will result in safe, convenient, and enjoyable driving experiences as they access the park. If necessary, provide appropriate warning of potential hazards”. The **Wildlife and Dune 10** guideline stipulates the following: “Coordinate with Caltrans to improve the function and safety of day use parking areas and coastal access along SR 1. Enhancements could include resurfacing, striping, signs, screening, restroom facilities, and highway turnouts. Also provide appropriate and safe trail connections across SR 1 between coastal and inland park properties as well as appropriate trail markers and maps”.
- 3C** – *Advance Planning:* State Parks will also coordinate and cooperate with Caltrans on future projects involving SR 1. Guideline **Access 7**

provides for a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan (prepared subsequent to the General Plan completion) that will evaluate and recommend proposals for comprehensive parkwide circulation. Circulation considerations would include vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, equestrians, group transit, and other multi-model accessibility. The General Plan emphasizes this with Access and Circulation Guidelines **Access 1** and **Access 2** which require coordination with Caltrans and San Mateo County to ensure the roadways in and around Año Nuevo SP would be maintained and improved, to the extent feasible, in order to provide safe and convenient roadway conditions for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Also Planning Zone Guideline **Wildlife and Dune 10** and **Cascade Ranch 7** require coordination with Caltrans to improve the function and safety of day use parking areas and coastal access along SR 1. These enhancements could include resurfacing, striping, signs, screening, restroom facilities, highway turnouts, and establish public access to Cascade Ranch. Also required would be provision of appropriate and safe trail connections across SR 1 between coastal and inland park properties as well as appropriate trail markers and maps. Coordination with Caltrans will be included in all of these improvements along SR 1. State Parks will perform required mitigation and comply with permit requirements on all of its projects as necessary.

The General Plan allows for new park development within various planning zones in order to provide new park visitor opportunities, disperse visitor use, and serve continuous and growing park visitation. The extent of park facilities development is governed by further site analysis in determining appropriate location, size, and configuration of proposed park facility development. This site analysis includes more detailed resource evaluations and allows for project adjustments in response to site specific resource sensitivities or conditions.



- 3D - Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety:** Parking and park trail locations are shown in Figure 13 Coastal Proposals and Figure 14 Inland Proposals. At this time, no SR 1 trail crossings or specific inland development proposals that would encourage highway pedestrian or bicycle trail crossings have been determined or selected. Establishment of the inland trail system and any potential crossing of SR 1 will be evaluated and determined by the future parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan (**Access 7** guideline) and future specific project proposals such as parking and trailhead development in the Lake Elizabeth Planning Zone. The **Access 2** guideline requires coordination with Caltrans on park development proposals such as this.
- 3E - Cultural Resources:** State Parks will comply with Caltrans right-of-way encroachment permit requirements on proposed park projects as needed. State Parks intent in regard to project proposals affecting prehistoric and historic resources policies and procedures is stated in both the General Plan's **Prehistoric Resources** and **Historic Resources** Goals and **Historic 4** Guideline. The surveys, information gathering, evaluations, and mitigation determinations that State Parks normally performs can be applied to fulfilling encroachment permit requirements.

It is the policy of State Parks that construction activities resulting from park project proposals within Año Nuevo State Park or adjacent SR-1 right-of-way will be required to comply with both State and Federal laws and regulations concerning the treatment of significant archeological and historic resources. For most State Park projects, archeological and historic resources will be reviewed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CEQA Guidelines, and Public Resources Code 5024 and 5024.5. When there is federal involvement, State Park projects must be compliance with federal regulations concerning historic resources, specifically Section 106 of the National Historic

Preservation Act, which provides the regulatory procedures for historic resources in the planning process.

The cultural resource policies, practices, and mitigations that State Parks applies to its own properties will be applied to Caltrans property as applicable in regard to proposed park projects that affect Caltrans property. Consistent with State Park's Mission Statement to preserve and protect cultural resources, and in accordance with DPR's Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with the Office of Historic Preservation, avoidance of impacts to all cultural resources is sought on park projects. If adverse effects are identified during the course of project review then proper mitigation procedures will be adhered to. It is also State Parks policy to consult with appropriate local Native California Indian groups that have been identified and listed by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) during the planning phase of all projects that will potentially impact cultural resources. These tasks will be conducted by a qualified, professional archaeologist and all required studies and necessary plans will be provided to responsible agencies.

- 3F -** *Traffic Analysis:* At this time State Parks cannot predict traffic increases that could occur on SR-1 as a result of future park development and visitor use, as well as other possible contributing factors from outside the park, because specific development projects have not yet been selected or proposed. The **Access and Circulation Goal** recognizes the need to provide adequate and safe access to all park areas. The **Access 7** guideline requires a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan guiding placement and use of park roads and trails. Preparation of the management plan would comprehensively evaluate and provide for safe parkwide vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access. Road and/or traffic studies would be included where applicable. Implementation of these goals and guidelines is intended to balance the provision of

safe adequate access, efficient park circulation, park operations needs, and visitor enjoyment of the park.

- 3G - Encroachment Permit:** If any proposed park project encroaches on SR 1 right-of-way, State Parks will coordinate with Caltrans and appropriately obtain and comply with encroachment permits and associated requirements as necessary. As stated in responses 3A and 3G, at this time State Parks specific development projects have not been selected or proposed.

From: Joel Perlstein [mailto:joelperl@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2008 12:18 AM
To: General, Plan
Subject: Comments on Ano Nuevo plan

Letter 4

To Mr. Alan Tang, Project Manager:

The following are my comments on the draft general plan for Ano Nuevo State Park:

I recommend that maps 1 and 2 be revised to show: (i) the BART mitigation property; and (ii) the American Land Conservancy easement over a portion of the Costanoa Resort property.

4A

I further recommend that the plan specifically discuss the desirability (or not) of adding the BART mitigation property to the State Park

4B

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely

Joel T. Perlstein

Response to Letter 4 – Joel T. Perlstein

4A – The BART mitigation properties will be noted on Maps 1 and 2 as suggested by the commenter. The Department does not have any information on the American Land Conservancy easement over Costanoa Resort's private property.

4B – The Plan recognizes the coastal BART property on pages 2-1 and 2-2 in Chapter 2: Existing Conditions. The Plan's intent and purpose in regard to future property or easement acquisition opportunities would only be from willing sellers as stated in the **Special Agreements Goal B** and Guidelines **Special Agreements B-1, Regional Habitat 2** and **Recreation 7**. The Plan's general land use intent for the coastal portions of the park is described in the management intent narratives for the Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone and Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone. Any future acquisitions would need to be compatible with these stated management intents.

55 C Municipal Wharf
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Ocean Conservancy
Start a Sea Change

Letter 5

831.425.1363 Telephone
831.425.5604 Facsimile
www.oceanconservancy.org

Delivered via electronic mail to: generalplan@parks.ca.gov

May 12, 2008

General Plan Section
Alan Tang, Project Manager
California State Parks
Planning Division,
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: Comments Regarding Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve & Año Nuevo State Park Preliminary General Plan

Dear Mr. Tang:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of Ocean Conservancy and our more than 40,000 California members. Ocean Conservancy is a national environmental conservation organization dedicated to promoting healthy and diverse ocean ecosystems and opposing practices that threaten ocean life. We have worked for decades to help protect the ocean wildlife and habitats of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the California coast.

Ocean Conservancy is very supportive of the California State Parks generally and of the mission of and vision for the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve & Año Nuevo State Park specifically. We believe that Año Nuevo is a true gem in the State Park system that provides both important protection to coastal resources and wildlife and unique educational opportunities for visitors. We commend State Parks for its efforts to update and improve management of this area. To ensure the most effective long-term management of the Año Nuevo ecosystem, we urge State Parks to revise the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve & Año Nuevo State Park

Preliminary General Plan (Preliminary General Plan) to more explicitly integrate conservation and protection of marine resources into its existing focus on coastal and terrestrial resources.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

Ocean Conservancy urges careful review of the Preliminary General Plan to ensure adequate reference to and coordination with both the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) - particularly in reference to the newly adopted Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area (Año Nuevo SMCA). Although both the MBNMS and Año Nuevo SMCA are mentioned very briefly in the Preliminary General Plan, we believe that greater attention is warranted in the document to the considerable synergies that exist amongst the various Año Nuevo management units in terms of protection, restoration, education, interpretation, monitoring and enforcement.

The existence of both the MBNMS and the Año Nuevo SMCA contribute significantly to the overall protection provided to the coastal and marine resources of Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve & Año Nuevo State Park. We recognize that the MBNMS and Año Nuevo SMCA are beyond the direct jurisdiction of California State Parks and are managed by sister federal and state agencies. However, DFG's management goals for the Año Nuevo SMCA, under the Marine Life Protection Act, are fully compatible with the State Parks mission for Año Nuevo Natural Reserve and State Park and will enhance the ability of State Parks to achieve its natural resource protection goals for the area. Similarly, the MBNMS and the regulatory protections it offers are a benefit to the State Park unit. We urge revision of the Preliminary General Plan to more explicitly discuss coordination between State Parks, DFG, and the MBNMS and integration of management, education and enforcement efforts by the three agencies at this site.

Such integration makes sense from multiple perspectives. As noted in the Preliminary General Plan, the sea heavily influences the Año Nuevo ecosystem. Wildlife such as Año Nuevo's iconic elephant seals and seabirds use both the land and the ocean and depend on effective and coordinated management and protection in both realms. Furthermore, as all resource management agencies face constantly shrinking budgets and are forced to do more with less financial and

5A

staffing resources, it makes sense to pool resources wherever possible. Finally, visitors are both generally unaware of and largely uninterested in the jurisdictional boundaries of management agencies. The importance of close agency coordination is evident when you recognize that for most visitors, a trip to the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve is the only chance they will have for a direct interaction with the newly created Año Nuevo SMCA.

5A
cont.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN

- Page 1-2 of the Introduction under “Site Characteristics”: The Preliminary General Plan should be modified to note that the offshore Año Nuevo SMCA extends the protections of the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve to the marine environment by prohibiting all take of marine species except for kelp harvest under an existing lease.
- Page 2-101 in Regional Planning: This section includes general language about the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the Fish and Game Code language relevant to the statute. This section should be revised to also include the specific regulations for the Año Nuevo SMCA, notably that this area prohibits all take of marine species except for kelp harvest under a current lease. The specific regulatory language that applies to the SMCA is extremely relevant to the State Parks wildlife and ecosystem protection mission for the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve.
- Page 3-2 in Planning Assumptions: This section notes the importance of coordinating “with planning efforts in adjacent state parks and with other open space providers and agencies to evaluate potential connectivity and compatibility of recreational and interpretive opportunities and resource management programs.” This text should be revised slightly to make clear that it also applies to the Department of Fish and Game and to the National Marine Sanctuary Program vis-à-vis marine resources and marine resource interpretive opportunities.
- Page 3-6 in Park Planning and Management in a Regional Context: This section should be revised to note that the Año Nuevo SMCA and marine education programs associated with California’s marine protected areas are needed.

5B

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5E



- Page 4-9 in Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone: The text should note that much of this zone is located adjacent to the Año Nuevo SMCA where take of marine species is prohibited with the exception of kelp under current lease. **5F**
- Page 4-42 in Visitor Use and Opportunities“ Potential uses listed in this section include fishing. It might be useful to note that fishing is not allowed in the Año Nuevo SMCA. **5G**
- Page 4.51 on Interpretive Significance, Mission and Vision: This section should be revised to include specific language regarding broad marine ecology and marine ecosystem protection themes. For example, the text could include mention of the value and importance of overall ecosystem protection via the Marine Life Protection Act and the concept of networks of marine protected areas providing a statewide system of protection for all key representative ocean habitats and the full suite of species that inhabit them. **5H**
- Page 4-53, A-2 could include both State Parks and the Department of Fish and Game’s use of marine protected areas including the Año Nuevo SMCA to help achieve the Park’s goal of protecting its unique natural resources. **5I**
- Page 4-60 on Interpretive Themes: This section should explicitly include language about the Año Nuevo SMCA and its goal of preservation of marine resources as central to the unifying ‘ocean’ theme. **5J**
- Page 4-62 on Recreation and Preservation should include treatment of the fact that a portion of the offshore area has been closed to fishing to protect marine resources for the future. **5K**
- Page 4-63 the discussion of the “area public lands links theme” should include regional offshore protected units including the Año Nuevo SMCA, Greyhound Rock SMCA, Natural Bridges State Marine Reserves and the MBNMS. **5L**

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.



Kaitilin Gaffney
Pacific Ecosystem Protection Program Director

Response to Letter 5 – Ocean Conservancy, Kaitilin Gaffney

5A – The Department agrees that there is a symbiotic relationship between Año Nuevo State Park (particularly the coastal State Natural Preserve) and the Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA). The classification and designation of both the terrestrial and marine areas are similar in their emphasis on special protections of unique and sensitive wildlife, resources, and habitats. The Department appreciates the support of the Ocean Conservancy for Año Nuevo State Park and the Department's mission.

5B – The Department agrees that there should be coordinated resource management, resource protection, and interpretation between the terrestrial Año Nuevo State Park and the offshore Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area. The commenter has made suggestions in various locations of the General Plan document to reference resource protections in the State Marine Conservation Area. Specific reference is made in regard to take of marine species is prohibited with the exception of kelp in the adjacent State Marine Conservation Area. The suggested additions will be incorporated where appropriate into the final General Plan.

5C – In recognition of regulations for the Año Nuevo SMCA, the following language will be added to Central Coast Marine Protected Area section on page 2-102:

Among the specific protective regulations now in place is the prohibition on take of marine species except for kelp harvest. CDFG's marine wardens will patrol and enforce the new MPAs and will continue to monitor fishing activities in other open areas of state waters (shore to three miles).

5D – The following language will be added to Planning Assumptions section on page 3-2:

- Coordinate with planning efforts in adjacent state parks and with other open space

providers and agencies to evaluate potential connectivity and compatibility of recreational and interpretive opportunities and resource management programs. This also applies to the Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Sanctuary Program regarding management of marine resources marine interpretation opportunities.

5E – The following language acknowledging needed marine education programs associated with marine protected areas will be added to Park Planning and Management in a Regional Context section on page 3-6:

Cloverdale Coastal Ranch property and the Coast Dairies property. The close proximity of these properties and the similarity of natural, cultural and recreational resources provide opportunities to manage these lands in a coordinated and integrated way. Coordination among the region's open space and park agencies as well as with adjacent private property owners can strengthen natural and cultural resource protection, enhance park operations, improve recreational and educational opportunities and protect private property interests. Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA) and marine education programs associated with California's marine protected areas are also needed. Coordinate and collaborate with agencies and regional partners is especially important on regional conservation actions such as DFG's Wildlife Action Plan recommendations for the Central Coast Region and the Marine Region as noted in the Section 3.1 Planning Assumptions.

5F – In order to recognize the Año Nuevo SMCA, the following language will be added to Wildlife and Dune Protection Management Intent section on page 4-11:

Park rules and regulations are more restrictive in this zone than in other management areas to ensure a high level of resource protection. This zone is also adjacent to the Año Nuevo SMCA where take of marine species is prohibited except



for kelp. Visitors will continue to enjoy the tours led by California State Parks volunteer naturalists to view the elephant seals during peak season, and self-guided hiking by visitor permit during other seasons.

5G – In response to the recently established prohibition on take of marine species and non-existent inland fishing opportunities, reference to fishing as a recreation opportunity will be deleted from the **Recreation 3** guideline on page 4-42:

Recreation 3: Provide recreation opportunities that respond to the specific characteristics of the Santa Cruz Mountain and San Mateo coast region. Include activities at the park that reveal the sights, sounds, and experiences of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Pacific Coast. Appropriate activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, biking, surfing, horseback riding, ~~fishing~~, picnicking, camping, nature study, photography, and the enjoyment of solitude. Consider accommodating new and emerging outdoor activities, such as geocaching and orienteering, that provide different ways to experience and enjoy the park's environments and resources.

5H – To recognize broad marine ecology and marine ecosystem protection themes, revise the fifth paragraph of interpretive significance on page 4-51 as follows:

Important natural resources for interpretation include pinniped rookeries and other significant wildlife habitats on Año Nuevo Island, the mainland, and the adjacent Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and three vegetation types that have been recognized as rare natural communities. The park and the adjacent marine areas provide habitat for several species of special concern, including coast wallflower, Steller sea lion, northern elephant seal, steelhead trout, coho salmon, San Francisco garter snake, southwestern pond turtle and red-legged frog;

and [make](#) up part of important regional ecological corridors and linkages.

5I – To recognize that the interpretive perspective for Año Nuevo SP also encompasses surrounding areas, guideline **Interpretation A-2** will be revised on page 4-53 to read:

Interpretation A-2: Interpret management programs to restore and preserve the park [and surrounding area](#)'s unique natural and cultural resources.

5J – Noting the SMCA goals amongst other bulleted themes is too specific for this section's purpose, which is to provide the background for the unifying theme. However the following theme will be added general terrestrial and marine interpretive theme as follows to recognize terrestrial and marine connections on page 4-53:

- [The conservation and protection of the land affects marine area protection and conservation, and vice versa.](#)

5K – Revise interpretive theme language as follows to reference visitor activity restrictions that may be needed for resource protection on page 4-62:

Recreation and Preservation Theme

We can enjoy Año Nuevo State Park today and preserve its many values for tomorrow.

This theme addresses visitors' need for wayfinding information and orientation to the park and its recreational opportunities, as well as tips on how to enjoy a safe and low impact visit. [Low impact visitation messages may include restrictions on visitor activity needed for resource protection such as closure of offshore areas to fishing to protect marine resources.](#)

5L – The following language will be added to “area public lands links theme” on page 4-63:

Area Public Land Links Theme

Año Nuevo State Park connects to recreation, aesthetic, resource management, and interpretation opportunities in neighboring public lands and marine areas.

This theme highlights the trail connections proposed between Año Nuevo SP, Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and Butano SP, and any other future cooperating, physical or thematic connections between area public lands. Año Nuevo also connects to adjacent marine areas that include Año Nuevo SMCA, Greyhound Rock SMCA, Natural Bridges Marine Reserve, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

From: TodNeilPage@aol.com [mailto:TodNeilPage@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2008 10:04 PM
To: General, Plan
Subject: Ano Nuevo General Plan

Letter 6

Dear Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of myself and Mrs Beatrice Rossi concerning the general plan for the Ano Nuevo State Park. Please know that we are upset and confused at the idea of putting additional facilities in the lake Elizabeth Area. Mrs Rossi's husband built the lake as an agricultural water resource and we oppose any public access to the important agricultural resource. I as the food Safety Officer for the Cascade Ranch also strongly oppose the plan for a number of important federal and state food safety requirements. Please do not allow the lake Elizabeth development as part of the general plan. We just read teh article in the Snata Cruz Sentinal and are at odds with the stated vision to keep the area as "open space". We like the open space but judging from the last decade track record can't reconcile your intent against your stated vision. The new developments which have been constructed in the last couple of years , with State park support, have disected the park and benefited very few. I'm sure your must agree that trophy houses don't belong in the middle of state parks in this day and age. The vision and general plan failure for the Ano Nuevo Park as a result of this misguided project will bitter till Mrs Rossi's last days. She is in her early nineties, going on 19 and has seen more of this section of coast that and other living resident.

Bea adds that the complaints of lack of staff are additionally hard to swallow knowing the specific workloads of the Rangers involved.....I am not touching that one personally. 😞

We believe developing the south end of the existing park , where the old bridge is a safer more credible vision for Ano Nuevo's future and would result in the long term preservation public parkland. This southern access is a hugely rewarding and educational area and is basically unknown to all except a few local surfers and the local ranger who lives there.

We are ardent supporters of the state park and have invested much with their general vision, Let's take it a bit slower and get a some truly educated, non-biased local opinions and ideas before launching another well intended but totslly misguided plan.

Very Truly Yours,

Mrs. Beatrice Rossi
3100 Cabrillo hwy
Pescadero, CA 94060

6A

6B

6C

6D



and

Mr. Tod Neil Page
PO Box 122
Pescadero, CA 94060

Response to Letter 6 – Tod Neil Page

6A - One of the key issues that the General Plan set out to address was to provide new recreation opportunities in inland areas where formal park access and facilities have not yet been established. The inland area is approximately 2,900 acres, which is over twice the size of the coastal portion of the park. The General Plan allows for modest park access and development at the most feasible inland location in the park. Potential use of Lake Elizabeth Zone parking facilities by RVs is intended for enroute camping or overnight stops. The approval of the General Plan does not authorize the Department to immediately begin construction of new facilities. The subsequent planning process for establishing or developing park access, trailheads, trails, and park facilities will involve further site-specific studies and evaluations (as identified in the Facilities Goal and Guidelines **Facilities 2, Facilities 3, Facilities 7, Access 7, Utilities 2, Utilities 4**), CEQA analysis and public review, and regulatory permit compliance. There will be no public access or recreational use of Lake Elizabeth in accordance with existing water rights agreements.

6B – Public safety is always a concern and consideration in park planning and management. Public safety considerations are addressed in the **Visitor Safety** Goals and Guidelines; **Access 1 and 7** Guidelines; **Facilities 7, 8, and 9** Guidelines; **Parking 1** Guideline; **Recreation 2** Guideline; **Geology/Hydrology** Goal and **Geology/Hydrology 2, Geology/Hydrology 3, Geology/Hydrology 4, and Geology/Hydrology 5** Guidelines; and **Regional Planning 5** Guideline. The Department is not aware of any General Plan proposal impacts on food safety concerns.

6C - The General Plan process has not been involved in development of trophy houses. To the best of the

Department's knowledge, new significant residences in the region existed prior to the preparation of the General Plan. The General Plan addresses residences in the park in regard to assuring continuation of park staff housing as appropriate uses of existing buildings (as identified in Guidelines **Facilities 5, Cascade Ranch 4, Wildlife and Dune 2**). The Department will review and comment on the potential impacts of proposed developments on the park and region through established review processes such as CEQA public review.

6D – The Department appreciates the commenter's support for the General Plan's proposals to improve public access at the southern end of the park near Año Nuevo Creek. This proposed access improvement is intended as an additional park access to the existing main entrance to the park visitor center/marine education center.

Letter 7

From: TodNeilPage@aol.com [mailto:TodNeilPage@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2008 11:38 AM
To: General, Plan
Subject: Ano Nuevo General Plan

Dear Sir or Madame:

In an effort to better explain the point of my previous emotional response to the Park Ano Nuevo General Plan, I would like to say;

I am not an expert on land management, just a single concerned citizen. I have been a large supporter of California State Parks and many local land conservation efforts. I have spent several years observing the wildlife and ecosystem of the area and unfortunately have come to believe that private land conservation is more effective in actually preserving the land. More people, albeit school kids on a field trip or RV's from Nebraska are likely going to have a heavy hand in the changing of the Ano Nuevo coastal mountains. I think mother nature rarely needs it's hand held, as you folks have helped many to understand.

The idea to develop the south entrance to the Ano Nuevo is based on the observation that most people who come to the coast want to be on a beach or an oceanfront trail. The folks who make the trek here have come through the mountains and forests or come *from* the mountains and forest. They want the marine aspects of Ano Nuevo. The budget to develop such a site seems well below the proposed development at Lake Elizabeth and would seem to serve the public's park needs much better.

Again, this is solely my personal opinion as a citizen in a publicly sought out response to the General Plan. My sincere apologies to any staff or others

7A



whom I have wrongly included in my previous response.

Very Truly,

Tod Neil Page@aol.com

Response to Letter 7 – Tod Neil Page

7A – The Department believes the General Plan's proposals for the Lake Elizabeth Zone are reasonable for establishing appropriate public access to the inland area of the park. Direct and safe access from State Highway 1 can be established at this location, there is a sufficient developable site for access facilities, and there is good potential for trail connections to the inland mountains, Cascade Ranch, and across the highway to coastal trails. Other potential inland park access locations that were considered had more site constraints and less direct access from State Highway 1. Also see response **6A** for explanations of Lake Elizabeth proposals. The commenter's further clarification of concerns about the General Plan is noted.





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Photo on reverse: Quiroste Valley

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