

# VENTURA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

# COASTAL AREA PLAN



Last Amended 9-16-08

Ventura County Planning Division

# Acknowledgements

**1978-1982**

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## **For Copies/More Info:**

To purchase the Ventura County Coastal Area Plan:  
Call 805/654-2805  
or go to the Resource Management Agency receptionist  
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<http://www.ventura.org/planning>

# VENTURA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN COASTAL AREA PLAN

<b>Ventura County Board of Supervisors</b>	<b>California Coastal Commission</b>
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# Coastal Plan Appendices

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Appendix 2 Archaeological Guidelines (1980)

Appendix 3 Paleontological Guidelines (1980)

Appendix 4 Guidelines for Implementation of the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (The Williamson Act) (2000)

Appendix 5 California Department of Navigation and Ocean Development, Survey of Ventura County Beaches (1977)

Appendix 6 Policy for the Location of Onshore Oil Facilities (1968)

## Ventura County Coastal Area Plan Digital Maps

Some of the maps in the Ventura County Coastal Area Plan (listed below) have been updated in digital format. Because these maps reflect more current data, they may not exactly reflect the corresponding map in the Coastal Area Plan. **These maps are not the official maps.** These maps are available for viewing at [http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/General\\_Plan/gallery.html](http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/General_Plan/gallery.html)

### North Coast

Figure 2: Rincon Creek

Figure 6: Agricultural Preserves and Prime Soils

Figure 7A: Hazards – Faults

Figure 7B: Hazards – Tsunami Inundation

Figure 7C: Hazards – Non-Earthquake Induced Landslides

Figure 7D: Hazards – Earthquake Induced Landslides

Figure 7E: Hazards – Liquefaction Areas

Figure 7F: Hazards – Groundshaking Acceleration

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Figure 16.2: Land Use Map

### Central Coast

Figure 18: Santa Clara River Mouth

Figure 19: McGrath Lake

Figure 23: Agricultural Preserves and Prime Soils

Figure 26.2: Land Use Map

Figure 26.3: Land Use Map: Harbor

The following Central Coast figures are not part of the adopted Coastal Area Plan, however are provided for informational purposes:

Hazards – Faults

Hazards – Tsunami Inundation



Hazards – Liquefaction Areas

Hazards – Groundshaking Acceleration

### **South Coast**

Figure 30: Agricultural Preserves and Prime Soils on the South Coast

Figure 31A: Hazards – Faults

Figure 31B: Hazards – Tsunami Inundation

Figure 31C: Hazards – Non-Earthquake Induced Landslides

Figure 31D: Hazards – Earthquake Induced Landslides

Figure 31E: Hazards – Liquefaction Areas

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Figure 32.1: Land Use Map

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## Abstract

The essence of Ventura County's Local Coastal Program, mandated by the California Coastal Act of 1976, is the Land Use Plan for the unincorporated portions of the coastal areas of Ventura County. It addresses the County's significant coastal issues with a combination of land use designations, resource protection, and development policies. The coastal zone was divided into three sub-areas: the North Coast, the Central Coast and the South Coast, each with its respective issues.

Specific issues evaluated in each sub-area included environmentally sensitive habitats, archaeological and paleontological resources, agriculture, commercial fishing, recreation and access, hazards, beach erosion, energy and industrial facilities, public works, housing and the location and planning of new development. *Objectives* are offered for each issue along with County *Policies* to achieve each objective. All recommendations are founded on policies set forth in the California Coastal Act of 1976.

## Preamble

The relationship among the County of Ventura's Coastal Area Plan, the County's General Plan and the County's Zoning Ordinance for the Coastal Zone are as follows.

1. Ventura County's Coastal Area Plan is intended to serve as the County's "land use plan" and "local coastal element" applicable to the unincorporated portions of the Coastal Zone as required by the California Coastal Act of 1976, Public Resources Code Section 30000 et seq.
2. The Coastal Area Plan is also an Area Plan for the unincorporated coastal portions of Ventura County and, as such, is part of the County's General Plan. The purpose of the County's General Plan is to meet the local government General Plan requirements of Division I of the Planning and Zoning Law, Government Code Section 65000 et seq.
3. The purpose of the County's Zoning Ordinance for the Coastal Zone, Ventura County Ordinance Code Section 8171-1 et seq., is to implement the policies of the County's General Plan (as it applies to the Coastal Zone), and of the Coastal Area Plan. The Coastal Area Plan and the County's Zoning Ordinance for the Coastal Zone together constitute the "Local Coastal Program" (LCP) required for the unincorporated portions of the Coastal Zone by the California Coastal Act of 1976. The local coastal program specifically applies to development undertaken and proposed to be undertaken in the unincorporated portions of the Coastal Zone of Ventura County.

The *Goals, Policies and Programs* of the Ventura County General Plan are cumulative and, as such, individual goals, policies and programs should be used and interpreted in context of other applicable goals, policies and programs. In the case of overlapping goals, policies and programs, the more restrictive shall govern.

All components of the Ventura County General Plan (as they apply to the Coastal Zone), including the Coastal Area Plan, are intended to be consistent with the provisions of the California Coastal Act of 1976. Any ambiguities in the General Plan, as they apply to the Coastal Zone, including the Coastal Area Plan, shall be resolved in favor of the interpretation most likely to implement the mandated *goals, policies and programs* of the Coastal Act.

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# Introduction

## Legislative History

The significance and diversity of the nation's coastal zone was first recognized in 1972, when Congress passed the Coastal Zone Management Act (PL92-583). The Act directed coastal states to develop and implement coastal management programs. Administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, thirty states are eligible to receive federal aid for eighty percent of the costs to develop their coastal management strategies. Amendments to the Act, passed in 1976 (PL94-370), further clarified the management development and administrative grants, and established the Coastal Energy Impact Program.

The California Coastal Zone Act was also passed in 1972, a result of the citizen-initiated Proposition 20. It provided for preparation of a long-range coastal resources management plan, an interim development permit plan, and created the State and regional Coastal Commissions.

In December of 1975, after two years of public input and preparation, the Commission presented the legislature with the California Coastal Plan. This statewide comprehensive effort detailed the natural resources of the California coast, and identified the need for overall management of not only the natural resources, but human development as well.

These first two acts, one federal and one state, paved the way for the California Coastal Act of 1976. It set forth a permanent coastal management program and is the enabling legislation for the Local Coastal Program. This lengthy Act embodies 10 chapters and 900 sections. The State's fundamental goals for coastal management are declared in Section 30001.5:

- “(a) Protect, maintain, and where feasible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the coastal zone environment and its natural man-made resources.
- (b) Assure orderly, balanced utilization and conservation of coastal zone resources, taking into account the social and economic needs of the people of the state.
- (c) Maximize public access to and along the coast, and maximize public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resource conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners.
- (d) Assure priority for coastal-dependent development over other development on the coast.
- (e) Encourage state and local initiative in implementing coordinated planning and development for mutually beneficial uses, including educational uses, in the coastal zone.”

To accomplish its goals the Coastal Act details a comprehensive set of policies in Chapter 3 - Coastal Resources Planning and Management Policies. Other chapters provide definitions, structure the commissions, detail development controls, enforcement and penalty procedures, and, in general, set forth specific criteria to be met by all coastal plans. Together, the goals and policies of the Act provide a framework for protection of coastal lands and the orderly management of development. As specified in Section 20333, some types of development have priority over others, with primary consideration given to agriculture and coastal-dependent industry.

## Ventura County's Local Coastal Program History

The Local Coastal Program is envisioned in the 1976 Act to be the main vehicle for resolving issues on the use of coastal areas. While local jurisdictions are still essentially responsible for coastal planning, they must bring all plans and regulations into alignment with Coastal Act policies.

Preparation of the County's Local Coastal Program involved four phases:

1. Major issues were identified and a work program was prepared.
2. Information was then gathered, issues were analyzed, and the results were consolidated into individual working papers.

3. This Coastal Area Plan was prepared from the working papers and citizen input.
4. Implementing actions, including zoning ordinances and district maps, were then prepared and reviewed by the Coastal Commission for approval.

The formal process began in Ventura County on June 27, 1978, when the Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing on the County's Local Coastal Program Issue Identification and Work Program. At the hearing the Board adopted a resolution that approved the program and requested State financial assistance. Focal points of the Local Coastal Program Work Program were coastal resources, such as agriculture, and undeveloped coastal areas. Coastal issues in the County included archaeology, sensitive habitats, shoreline structures, hazards, agriculture, recreation and shoreline access, commercial fishing and recreational boating, public works, energy, new development and housing.

Existing information was gathered and updated for each issue and then consolidated as a series of "working papers." Preliminary policies were developed to resolve differences within each issue. The 1976 Coastal Act and existing regional plans provided guidance for each recommendation. As the papers emerged they were circulated for public review and comment. The State mandates that certain public agencies automatically receive copies. Other public entities, such as libraries, various interest groups, individuals, and property owners also received copies. Notices of the availability of the papers were sent to approximately 4,200 people. The comments received were reflected as appropriate in the Land Use Plan. Additional and continuing input also came from the Citizen's Advisory Committee, which met on a regular basis.

The proposed policies that emerged from each of the working papers form the basis of this Coastal Area Plan. The Plan focuses on the County's coastal issues and is a framework by which each can be addressed using land use designations and resource protection, and development policies. Based on various findings, Coastal Act constraints, and jurisdictional limitations, the land uses most directly aligned with the Coastal Act were proposed and subsequently adopted.

In summary, the major objectives of the County's Coastal Area Plan are four fold:

1. To integrate the pertinent and reasonable policies that evolved from the working papers.
2. To establish a plan that clearly designates areas for agriculture, recreation, residential, other coastal dependent uses, and resource protection consistent with the Coastal Act.
3. To make recommendations for implementation of the Plan.
4. Identify amendments needed to align the County General Plan and Zoning Ordinances with the Local Coastal Program (LCP) Land Use Plan.

The foundation of Ventura County's Local Coastal Program is the California Coastal Act, along with past County decisions, development trends, and Board of Supervisor's policies. As the Local Coastal Program was developed, the significant issues were analyzed and a structure for specific implementations evolved. This process has guided the directions of this Coastal Area Plan.

## **Federal Lands and Activities**

The County may choose to review and comment in an advisory capacity to the Coastal Commission on federal activities which affect the coastal zone at such time as the Commission reviews federal consistency determinations on such activities to assure their conformity with the California Coastal Management Program. Policies are provided in this Coastal Area Plan to assist the County in this advisory role and to advise the Commission and federal agencies of the County's policy positions. Examples of such activities for which the County may review and comment upon any consistency determinations include:

- Purchases or disposition of land.
- New development which could significantly increase the amount of water usage or the disposal of waste water.
- Changes in use of the Mugu Lagoon.

- Major flood control measures.
- Institution of dual civilian/military use of the Point Mugu airport.
- Recreational development in the Santa Monica Mountains (e.g., development of a General Management Plan for the Santa Monica Mountains NRA).
- Major changes in Soil Conservation Service programs.

Appropriate procedures shall be developed in Phase III to enable the County to carry out its advisory review of federal consistency determinations. This review process will build upon the experience the County has already had in working with federal agencies. To encourage cooperative planning, mechanisms such as cooperative planning, joint preparation of environmental documents, and use of "good offices" of agencies such as the Office of Permit Assistance (OPA) are favored.

All proposed developments within the coastal zone shall be reviewed to determine if they are likely to affect the Mugu Lagoon or the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. If potential adverse effects are identified, appropriate mitigation measures shall be developed in coordination with the affected federal agency and required as part of the permit approval.

In the Santa Monica Mountains, when lands are acquired by the federal government (i.e., Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area), the County encourages land uses, locations and intensities to be compatible with the Open Space land use designation. However, industrial and energy facilities which may be allowed as conditional uses in open space areas are not considered compatible with recreational and resource protection purposes of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. The various resource and hazard constraints found in the South Coast section of this Land Use Plan may be used in any County review of federal activities. These constraints include, primarily, circulation and public works capacities and, secondly, hazards, archaeology, environmentally sensitive habitats, and visual quality.

## **Relationship to Other County General Plan Documents**

The Ventura County General Plan is the Plan by which the unincorporated portions of Ventura County will develop in the future.

The Ventura County General Plan consists of:

- (a) Countywide Goals, Policies and Programs document containing four chapters (Resources, Hazards, Land Use, and Public Facilities and Services)
- (b) Four appendices (Resources, Hazards, Land Use, and Public Facilities and Services), which contain background information and data in support of the Countywide Goals, Policies and Programs, and
- (c) Several Area Plans which contain specific Goals, Policies and Programs for specific geographic areas of the County.

The Coastal Area Plan is the Area Plan for the Coastal areas of the County.

The following general statement provide, in part, the framework for the Coastal Area Plan, and for the more specific objectives and policies found at the end of each section. These statements or requirements apply to all areas of the County's coastal zone:

## **General Statements**

1. The Coastal Area Plan has been developed with brevity and clarity so that everyone can understand what the Plan entails.
2. The maximum amount of prime agricultural land is preserved for agricultural use.
3. Development within environmentally sensitive areas, archaeologically sensitive, and hazardous areas is discouraged.

Existing County procedures and ordinances are not adequate to protect environmentally sensitive habitats to the extent required by the Coastal Act. Consequently, an overlay designation will be developed as part of the Open Space zone with additional requirements for the protection of such habitats. This overlay will cover areas designated in the Plan as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitats" and buffer areas where necessary. Permitted uses within such habitats will be limited to those consistent with the Coastal Act. Examples of such uses include nature study, habitat enhancement and restoration, and other uses dependent on habitat values. Also, uses allowed in buffer areas will be more limited than those allowed in the "C-O-S" (Coastal Open Space) zone, and feasible mitigation measures will be required consistent with Sections 30230 and 30231 of the Act.

4. While recreational opportunities in the Ventura County coastal zone are sufficient, the County encourages the California Department of Parks and Recreation to acquire those coastal areas currently proposed for acquisition. The County also encourages the State to consider additional coastal areas for acquisition, or less-than-fee acquisition.
5. No significant visual or scenic problems were identified in most of the unincorporated parts of the County during the issue identification phase of the LCP, thus no specific scenic or visual policies are included, except in the Santa Monica Mountains.
6. Additional studies, initiation of new programs, or the acquisition of land or easements required by Coastal Area Plan policies will only be developed as staff and funding are available.

## **Energy Facilities**

7. For all new oil and gas development activities within areas covered by existing Conditional Use Permits which do not contain specified time limits for expiration, a permit is required. However, if the applicant has been granted a claim of vested rights on the subject property by the California Coastal Commission, no such permit is required.
8. All oil operators with existing Conditional Use Permits are expected to follow best available oil field safety practices for all existing well operations and new wells drilled under the existing permits.
9. All drilling/production facilities, oil and gas transportation facilities, access roads, as well as all accessory facilities, will be consolidated to the maximum extent feasible.
10. Major oil and gas processing facilities and electrical generating facilities, which require a "Coastal Industrial" (C-M) zone, are restricted to locations within areas designated as "Industrial" by this Plan.

## **Industrial Facilities**

11. All industrial facilities which require a "Coastal Industrial" (C-M) zone are restricted to locations within areas designated "Industrial" by this Plan.

## **Commercial Facilities**

12. All commercial facilities which require a "Coastal Commercial" (C-C) zone are restricted to locations within areas designated "Commercial" by this Plan.

## **Access Management**

13. The County will accept offers of dedication which will increase opportunities for public access and recreation consistent with the County's ability to assume liability and maintenance costs.
14. The County will actively encourage other private or public agencies to accept offers of dedication, to assume liability and maintenance responsibilities, and initiate legal action to pursue beach access.
15. The County will continue to seek funding sources to improve existing access points.



16. The County will coordinate and supervise programs with other private and public organization to improve existing access, provide additional access, provide signing, parking, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and the like.
17. Consistent with the availability of staff and funds, the County will initiate action to acquire easements to and along beaches and along access corridors for which potential prescriptive rights exist.

## **Grading Operations**

18. Grading plans shall minimize cut and fill operations. If it is determined a project is feasible with less alteration of the natural terrain than is proposed, that project shall be denied.
19. All development shall be designed to minimize impacts and alterations of physical features and processes of the site (i.e., geological, soils, hydrological, water percolation and runoff) to the maximum extent feasible.
20. For permitted grading operations on hillsides, the smallest practical area of land shall be exposed at any one time during development, and the length of exposure shall be kept to the shortest practicable amount of time. The clearing of land shall be precluded during the winter rainy season (November 15 - April 15) and all measures for removing sediments and stabilizing slopes shall be in place prior to or concurrent with any on-site grading activities.
21. Where appropriate, best management practices (BMPs) for erosion control (including, but not limited to, sediment basins, debris basins, desilting basins, or silt traps) shall be installed on the project site prior to or concurrent with the initial grading operations and maintained by the applicant through the development process to remove sediment from runoff waters. All sediment shall be retained on-site unless removed to an appropriate approved dumping location.
22. Where construction will extend into the rainy season, temporary vegetation, seeding, mulching, or other suitable stabilization methods shall be used to protect soils subject to erosion. The appropriate methods shall be prepared by a licensed landscape architect, and approved by the County.
23. Cut and fill slopes shall be stabilized at the completion of final grading. To the greatest extent feasible, planting shall be of native grasses and shrubs or appropriate non-native plants using accepted planting procedures. Such planting shall be adequate to provide 90% coverage within 90 days, and shall be repeated if necessary to provide such coverage. This requirement shall apply to all disturbed soils.
24. Provisions shall be made to conduct surface water to storm drains or suitable watercourses to prevent erosion. Drainage devices shall be designed to accommodate increased runoff resulting from modified soil and surface conditions as a result of development. Where feasible and appropriate, water runoff shall be retained on-site to facilitate groundwater recharge, unless to do so would require significant grading or brush removal not otherwise necessary and the cumulative impacts of such on-site retention would be greater than the cumulative impacts of not facilitating recharge, within the same drainage area.
25. Degradation of the water quality of groundwater basins, nearby streams, wetlands or coastal waters shall not result from development of the site. Pollutants, such as chemicals, fuels, lubricants, raw sewage, and stormwater runoff that has not met the requirements of the State and County NPDES permits/regulations and other harmful waste shall not be discharged into or alongside coastal streams or wetlands either during or after construction.
26. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the State Department of Fish and Game shall be consulted for grading of hillsides and brush clearance in excess of 1/2 acre. In all cases best management practices shall be used.

## Grading (Hillside)

27. Hillside (defined as land with slopes over 20%) grading and brush clearance shall be regulated to maintain the biological productivity of coastal water, protect environmentally sensitive areas and park and recreation areas, and to minimize the alteration of natural land forms.
28. For all substantial hillside grading (over 50 cu. yds. of cut or fill) or brush clearance (greater than 1/2 acre), including that related to agricultural activities, a development permit shall be required. The application for the permit shall contain an erosion control plan. Such plan shall be prepared by a licensed engineer qualified in soil mechanics and hydrology and approved by appropriate County agencies to ensure compliance with this Coastal Area Plan and all other County ordinances. Additionally, for agricultural related activities such plan shall also be reviewed by the Resource Conservation District.

## Environmentally Sensitive Habitats

### Buffer Areas

29. Within a buffer zone, no new principal structures will be permitted unless prohibition of the structure from the buffer will preclude the utilization of the larger parcel for its designated use. When it is necessary to allow structures within the buffer they shall be located as far from the habitat resources as possible and mitigations shall be required to eliminate or reduce their impacts to an insignificant level. If a principal structure exists as of the adoption of this Plan, it may be rebuilt within the buffer zone if it is destroyed by fire or a natural disaster. If it is an otherwise non-conforming use it shall not be rebuilt within the buffer.
30. New development in buffer zones shall be limited to access paths, fences, necessary to protect environmentally sensitive areas, and similar uses which have either beneficial effects on wildlife or no significant adverse effects.

## Land Use Plan Designations

The land use designations in the Coastal Area Plan are designed to reflect the policies, existing and proposed land uses, existing General Plan land use designations, and zoning categories. This was done to preclude a significant amount of changes to the General Plan and Zoning Code. In some cases only one or two zoning categories are consistent with a land use designation (see [Figure 33](#)). All existing zoning categories applied to the coastal zone have been modified as necessary to meet the policies in the Plan.

The land use categories listed below describe the type and intensity of land use permitted within each category. Summary Tables ([Figures 16.1, 26.1 & 32](#)) list each land use designation and its total area, building intensity, population and employment capacity, and population and employment density. The purpose of each of the land use categories is described below.

The following are descriptions of each land use designation and the principal permitted uses for each.

- **Open Space** - The purpose of this designation is to provide for the preservation and enhancement of valuable natural and environmental resources while allowing reasonable and compatible uses of the land. Also to protect public safety through the management of hazardous areas such as flood plains, fire prone areas, or landslide prone areas. Principal permitted uses are one dwelling unit per parcel, agricultural uses as listed as principal permitted uses in "Agricultural" designation, and passive recreational uses that do not alter physical features beyond a minimal degree and do not involve structures. Minimum lot size in the "Open Space" designation is 10 acres.
- **Agriculture** - The purpose of this designation is to identify and preserve agricultural land for the cultivation of plant crops and the raising of animals. Lands placed in this designation include those in existing agricultural use, existing agricultural preserves (Land Conservation Act Contracts), and land with prime soils. Principal permitted uses are: crops for food and

fiber; orchards and vineyards; field or row crops; drying and storage of crops, hay, straw, and seed; growing and harvesting of flowers, ornamentals, and turf; and animal breeding, pasturing, or ranching. Minimum lot size in the "Agriculture" designation is 40 acres.

- **Recreation** - This designation identifies those facilities in the Coastal Zone which provide recreational opportunities or access to the shoreline. Principal permitted uses are active and passive recreation including parks with facilities for picnicking, camping, riding, and hiking, on a day use or longer use basis. Structures or other facilities are limited to those necessary to support the recreational uses.
- **Residential Designations** - The building intensities listed below indicate the maximum number of dwelling units allowed on a given parcel of land. These intensities are reflective of existing lot sizes and zoning categories. Principal permitted uses in all residential areas, in addition to those listed below, are churches, fire stations, public parks and playgrounds, and home occupations.

**Rural Intensity** - The lowest intensity residential designation with one dwelling unit per two acres. Principal permitted uses are a single-family dwelling and those uses listed under "Agriculture" except animal breeding, pasturing, or ranching.

**Low Intensity** - Principal permitted use is single-family dwelling. The intensity is 1 - 2 dwelling units per acre.

**Medium Intensity** - Again, the principal permitted use is a single-family dwelling. The intensity is 2.1 to 6 dwelling units per acre.

**High Intensity** - The majority of residential development in the unincorporated Coastal Zone is within this intensity. Principal permitted uses are one- and two-family dwellings per parcel. The intensity is 6.1 to 36 dwelling units per acre.

- **Commercial** - Mainly used for neighborhood commercial uses, but because of certain locations close to beach or other recreational areas this land use designation may also serve visitor needs. Generally property under this designation contains small lots suitable only for small neighborhood-serving uses. Principal permitted uses are grocery stores, delicatessens, meat markets, bakeries, drug stores, fruit and vegetable stores, hardware stores, restaurants and cafes, shoe repair shops, and other uses normally considered as neighborhood serving. Also, dwelling units above the stores occupied only by the proprietor are permitted if the entire ground floor is retail business.
- **Industrial** - The main intent of this designation is to recognize industrial uses found in the unincorporated Coastal Zone or areas where expansion of existing industrial uses is logical. Most of the uses now found in this designation are coastal-dependent such as the Rincon and La Conchita oil and gas processing facilities that service offshore oil. Any vacant parcels shown as "Industrial" should be annexed prior to any development. Principal permitted uses are oil processing facilities or expansion of said facilities, associated administrative or executive offices, and oil and gas exploration, production, and temporary storage.
- **Stable Urban Boundary Line** - This line on the land use maps generally separates areas intended for agricultural use from areas intended for uses more urban in nature.

## Zoning Compatibility

The specific land use regulations are established by zoning. The Zoning Compatibility Matrix ([Figure 33](#)) identifies which zones are compatible with the various Land Use Designations.

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## Summary of Coastal Act Policies

Integrating the Coastal Act policies with County needs is an important aspect of developing the Land Use Plan. County policies must be aligned with mandated State policies so the course of coastal development is clear, balanced, and in concert with the intent of the Act: "That to promote the public safety, health, and welfare, and to protect public and private property, wildlife, marine fisheries, other ocean resources, and the natural environment, it is necessary to protect the ecological balance of the coastal zone and prevent its deterioration and destruction" [§ "30001(c)].

Sections of the Coastal Act, as amended from time to time by the State, immediately relevant to each of the issues are provided in the following pages. For purposes of this land use Plan, the definitions found in the Coastal Act will be utilized.

The California State legislature recognized that there was a potential for conflicts between the policies. Section 30007.5 states that when conflicts do arise, they will be resolved by taking a balanced direction that is most protective of significant coastal resources.

### Environmentally Sensitive Habitats

#### § 30230

"Marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and where feasible, restored. Special protection shall be given to areas and species of special biological or economic significance. Uses of the marine environment shall be carried out in a manner that will sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters and that will maintain healthy populations of all species of marine organisms adequate for long-term commercial, recreational, scientific, and educational purposes."

#### § 30231

"The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes appropriate to maintain optimum populations of marine organisms and for the protection of human health shall be maintained and, where feasible, restored through, among other means, minimizing adverse effects of waste water discharges and entrainment, controlling runoff, preventing depletion of ground water supplies and substantial interference of ground water flow, encouraging waste water reclamation, maintaining natural vegetation buffer areas that protect riparian habitats, and minimizing alteration of natural streams."

#### § 30233

- (a) "The diking, filling, or dredging of open coastal waters, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes shall be permitted in accordance with other applicable provisions of this division, where there is no feasible less environmentally damaging alternative, and where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects and shall be limited to the following:
- (1) New or expanded port, energy, and coastal-dependent industrial facilities, including commercial fishing facilities.
  - (2) Maintaining existing, or restoring previously dredged, depths in existing navigational channels, turning basins, vessel berthing and mooring areas, and boat launching ramps.
  - (3) In wetland areas only, entrance channels for new or expanded boating facilities; and in a degraded wetland, identified by the Department of Fish and Game pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 30411, for boating facilities if, in conjunction with such boating facilities, a substantial portion of the degraded wetland is restored and maintained as a biologically productive wetland. The size of the wetland area used

for boating facilities, including berthing space, turning basins, necessary navigation channels, and any necessary support service facilities, shall not exceed 25 percent of the degraded wetland.

- (4) In open coastal waters, other than wetlands, including streams, estuaries, and lakes, new or expanded boating facilities and the placement of structural pilings for public recreational piers that provide public access and recreational opportunities.
  - (5) Incidental public service purposes, including, but not limited to, burying cables and pipes or inspection of piers and maintenance of existing intake and outfall lines.
  - (6) Mineral extraction, including sand for restoring beaches, except in environmentally sensitive areas.
  - (7) Restoration purposes.
  - (8) Nature study, aquaculture, or similar resource-dependent activities."
- (b) "Dredging and spoils disposal shall be planned and carried out to avoid significant disruption to marine and wildlife habitats and water circulation. Dredge spoils suitable for beach replenishment should be transported for such purposes to appropriate beaches or into suitable longshore current systems."
- (c) "In addition to the other provisions of this section, diking, filling, or dredging in existing estuaries and wetlands shall maintain or enhance the functional capacity of the wetland or estuary. Any alteration of coastal wetlands identified by the Department of Fish and Game, including, but not limited to, the 19 coastal wetlands identified in its report entitled "Acquisition Priorities for the Coastal Wetlands of California" shall be limited to very minor incidental public facilities, restorative measures, nature study, commercial fishing facilities in Bodega Bay, and development in already developed parts of South San Diego Bay, if otherwise in accordance with this division."

"For the purposes of this section, "commercial fishing facilities in Bodega Bay" means that not less than 80 percent of all boating facilities proposed to be developed or improved, where such improvement would create additional berths in Bodega Bay, shall be designed and used for commercial fishing activities."

- (d) "Erosion control and flood control facilities constructed on watercourses can impede the movement of sediment and nutrients which would otherwise be carried by storm runoff into coastal waters. To facilitate the continued delivery of these sediments to the littoral zone, whenever feasible, the material removed from these facilities may be placed at appropriate points on the shoreline in accordance with other applicable provisions of this division, where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects. Aspects that shall be considered before issuing a coastal development permit for such purposes are the method of placement, time of year of placement, and sensitivity of the placement area."

### **§ 30236**

"Channelizations, dams, or other substantial alterations of rivers and streams shall incorporate the best mitigation measures feasible, and be limited to (1) necessary water supply projects, (2) flood control projects where no other method for protecting existing structures in the floodplain is feasible, and where such protection is necessary for public safety or to protect existing development, or (3) developments where the primary function is the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat."

### **§ 30240**

- (a) "Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on such resources shall be allowed within such areas."

- (b) "Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade such areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas."

### **§ 30607.1**

"Where any dike and fill development is permitted in wetlands in conformity with this division, mitigation measures shall include, at a minimum, either acquisition of equivalent areas of equal or greater biological productivity or open up equivalent areas to tidal action; provided, however, that if no appropriate restoration site is available, an in-lieu fee sufficient to provide an area of equivalent productive value or surface areas shall be dedicated to an appropriate public agency, or such replacement site shall be purchased before the dike or fill development may proceed. Such mitigation measures shall not be required for temporary or short-term fill or diking, provided that a bond or other evidence of financial responsibility is provided to assure that restoration will be accomplished in the shortest feasible time."

## **Archaeological and Paleontological Resources**

### **§ 30244**

"Where development would adversely impact archaeological or paleontological resources as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer, reasonable mitigation measures shall be required."

## **Shoreline Access**

### **§ 30210**

"In carrying out the requirement of Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution, maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people consistent with public safety needs and the need to protect public rights, rights of private property owners, and natural resource areas from overuse."

### **§ 30211**

"Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea where acquired through use or legislative authorization, including, but not limited to, the use of dry sand and rocky coastal beaches to the first line of terrestrial vegetation."

### **§ 30212**

(a) "Public access from the nearest public roadway to the shoreline and along the coast shall be provided in new development projects except where (1) it is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or the protection of fragile coastal resources, (2) adequate access exists nearby, or (3) agriculture would be adversely affected. Dedicated accessway shall not be required to be opened to public use until a public agency or private association agrees to accept responsibility for maintenance and liability of the accessway."

(c) "Nothing in this division shall restrict public access nor shall it excuse the performance of duties and responsibilities of public agencies which are required by Sections 66478.1 to 66478.14, inclusive, of the Government Code and by Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution."

### **§ 30214**

"Implementation of public access policies; legislative intent."

- (a) The public access policies within this “Shoreline Access” section of the LCP in the Summary of Coastal Act Policies, shall be implemented in a manner that takes into account the need to regulate the time, place, and manner of public access depending on the facts and circumstances in each case including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (1) Topographic and geologic site characteristics.
  - (2) The capacity of the site to sustain use and at what level of intensity.
  - (3) The appropriateness of limiting public access to the right to pass and repass depending on such factors as the fragility of the natural resources in the area and the proximity of the access area to adjacent residential uses.
  - (4) The need to provide for the management of access areas so as to protect the privacy of adjacent property owners and to protect the aesthetic values of the area by providing for the collection of litter.
- (b) These public access policies shall be carried out in a reasonable manner that considers the equities and that balances the rights of the individual property owner with the public’s constitutional right of access pursuant to Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution. Nothing in this section or any amendment thereto shall be construed as a limitation on the rights guaranteed to the public under Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution.
- (c) In carrying out the public access policies within this “Shoreline Access” section of the LCP, the County shall consider and encourage the utilization of innovative access management techniques, including, but not limited to, agreements with private organizations which would minimize management costs and encourage the use of volunteer programs.”

## **Recreation**

### **§ 30213**

“Lower cost visitor and recreational facilities; encouragement and provision; overnight room rentals.

Lower cost visitor and recreational facilities shall be protected, encouraged, and, where feasible, provided. Developments providing public recreational opportunities are preferred.”

### **§ 30220**

"Coastal areas suited for water-oriented recreational activities that cannot readily be provided at inland water areas shall be protected for such uses."

### **§ 30221**

"Oceanfront land suitable for recreational use shall be protected for recreational use and development unless present and foreseeable future demand for public or commercial recreational activities that could be accommodated on the property is already adequately provided for in the area."

### **§ 30222**

"The use of private lands suitable for visitor-serving commercial recreation facilities designed to enhance public opportunities for coastal recreation shall have priority over private residential, general industrial, or general commercial development, but not over agriculture or coastal-dependent industry."

### **§ 30223**

"Upland areas necessary to support coastal recreational uses shall be reserved for such uses, where feasible."



### **§ 30250(c)**

"Visitor-serving facilities that cannot feasibly be located in existing developed areas shall be located in existing isolated developments or at selected points of attractions for visitors."

## **Agriculture**

### **§ 30241**

"The maximum amount of prime agricultural land shall be maintained in agricultural production to assure the protection of the areas' agricultural economy, and conflicts shall be minimized between agricultural and urban land uses through all of the following:

- (a) By establishing stable boundaries separating urban and rural areas, including, where necessary, clearly defined buffer areas to minimize conflicts between agricultural and urban uses.
- (b) By limiting conversions of agricultural lands around the periphery of urban areas to the lands where the viability of existing agricultural use is already severely limited by conflicts with urban uses or where the conversion of the lands would complete a logical and viable neighborhood and contribute to the establishment of a stable limit to urban development.
- (d) By developing available lands not suited for agriculture prior to the conversion of agricultural lands.
- (e) By assuring that public service and facility expansions and nonagricultural development do not impair agricultural viability, either through increased assessment costs or degraded air and water quality."

### **§ 30242**

"All other lands suitable for agricultural use shall not be converted to nonagricultural uses unless (1) continued or renewed agricultural use is not feasible, or (2) such conversion would preserve prime agricultural land or concentrate development consistent with Section 30250. Any such permitted conversion shall be compatible with continued agricultural use on surrounding lands."

### **§ 30243**

"The long-term productivity of soils and timberlands shall be protected, and conversions of coastal commercial timberlands in units of commercial size to other uses or their division into units of noncommercial size shall be limited to providing for necessary timber processing and related facilities."

### **§ 30250(a)**

"New residential, commercial, or industrial development, except as otherwise provided in this division, shall be located within, contiguous with, or in close proximity to, existing developed areas able to accommodate it or, where such areas are not able to accommodate it, in other areas with adequate public services and where it will not have significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources. In addition, land divisions, other than leases for agricultural uses, outside existing developed areas shall be permitted only where 50 percent of the usable parcels in the area have been developed and the created parcels would be no smaller than the acreage size of surrounding parcels."

### **§ 30411(c)**

"The Legislature finds and declares that salt water or brackish water aquaculture is a coastal-dependent use which should be encouraged to augment food supplies and to further the policies set forth in Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 825) of Division 1. The Department of Fish and Game may identify coastal sites it deems appropriate for aquaculture facilities. If

the department identifies such sites, it shall do so by October 1, 1980, and shall by the same date transmit information identifying such sites to the commission and the relevant local government agency. The commission, and where appropriate, local governments shall, consistent with the coastal planning requirements of this division, provide for as many coastal sites identified by the Department of Fish and Game for such uses as are consistent with the policies of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) of this division."

## **Commercial Fishing and Recreational Boating**

### **§ 30224**

"Increased recreational boating use of coastal waters shall be encouraged, in accordance with this division, by developing dry storage areas, increasing public launching facilities, providing additional berthing space in existing harbors, limiting non-water-dependent land uses that congest access corridors and preclude boating support facilities, providing harbors of refuge, and by providing for new boating facilities in natural harbors, new protected water areas, and in areas dredged from dry land."

### **§ 30234**

"Facilities serving the commercial fishing and recreational boating industries shall be protected and, where feasible, upgraded. Existing commercial fishing and recreational boating harbor space shall not be reduced unless the demand for those facilities no longer exists or adequate substitute space has been provided. Proposed recreational boating facilities shall, where feasible, be designed and located in such a fashion as not to interfere with the needs of the commercial fishing industry."

### **§ 30234.5**

"The economic, commercial, and recreational importance of fishing activities shall be recognized and protected."

### **§ 30255**

"Coastal-dependent developments shall have priority over other developments on or near the shoreline. Except as provided elsewhere in this division, coastal-dependent development shall not be sited in a wetland. When appropriate, coastal-related developments should be accommodated within reasonable proximity to the coastal-dependent uses they support."

## **Hazards**

### **§ 30253**

"New development shall:

- (1) Minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazards.
- (2) Assure stability and structural integrity, and neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or surrounding area or in any way require the construction of protective devices that would substantially alter natural landforms along bluffs and cliffs."

### **§ 30236**

"Channelizations, dams, or other substantial alterations of rivers and streams shall incorporate the best mitigation measures feasible, and be limited to (1) necessary water supply projects, (2) flood control projects where no other method for protecting existing structures in the floodplain is feasible and where such protection is necessary for public safety or to protect existing development, or (3) developments where the primary function is the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat."

## **Energy**

### **§ 30101**

"Coastal-dependent development or use" means any development or use which requires a site on, or adjacent to, the sea to be able to function at all.

### **§ 30001.2**

"The Legislature further finds and declares that, notwithstanding the fact electrical generating facilities, refineries, and coastal-dependent developments, including ports and commercial fishing facilities, offshore petroleum and gas development, and liquefied natural gas facilities, may have significant adverse effects on coastal resources or coastal access, it may be necessary to locate such development in the coastal zone in order to ensure that inland as well as coastal resources are preserved and that orderly economic development proceeds within the state."

### **§ 30101.3**

"Coastal-related development" means any use that is dependent on a coastal-dependent development or use.

### **§ 30232**

"Protection against the spillage of crude oil, gas, petroleum products, or hazardous substances shall be provided in relation to any development or transportation of such materials. Effective containment and cleanup facilities and procedures shall be provided for accidental spills that do occur."

### **§ 30250(b)**

"Where feasible, new hazardous industrial development shall be located away from existing developed areas."

### **§ 30255**

"Coastal-dependent developments shall have priority over other developments on or near the shoreline. Except as provided elsewhere in this division, coastal-dependent developments shall not be sited in a wetland. When appropriate, coastal-related developments should be accommodated within reasonable proximity to the coastal-dependent uses they support."

### **§ 30260**

"Coastal-dependent industrial facilities shall be encouraged to locate or expand within existing sites and shall be permitted reasonable long-term growth where consistent with this division. However, where new or expanded coastal-dependent industrial facilities cannot feasibly be accommodated consistent with other policies of this division, they may nonetheless be permitted in accordance with this section and Sections 30261 and 30262 if (1) alternative locations are infeasible or more environmentally damaging; (2) to do otherwise would adversely affect the public welfare; and (3) adverse environmental effects are mitigated to the maximum extent feasible."

## **Oil and Gas Development**

### **§ 30262**

"Oil and gas development shall be permitted in accordance with Section 30260, if the following conditions are met:

- (a) The development is performed safely and consistent with the geologic conditions of the well site.

- (b) New or expanded facilities related to such development are consolidated, to the maximum extent feasible and legally permissible, unless consolidation will have adverse environmental consequences and will not significantly reduce the number of producing wells, support facilities, or sites required to produce the reservoir economically and with minimal environmental impacts.
- (c) Environmentally safe and feasible subsea [sic] completions are used when drilling platforms or islands would substantially degrade coastal visual qualities unless use of such structures will result in substantially less environmental risks.
- (d) Platforms or islands will not be sited where a substantial hazard to vessel traffic might result from the facility or related operations, determined in consultation with the United States Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- (e) Such development will not cause or contribute to subsidence hazards unless it is determined that adequate measures will be undertaken to prevent damage from such subsidence.
- (f) With respect to new facilities, all oilfield brines are reinjected into oil-producing zones unless the Division of Oil and Gas of the Department of Conservation determines to do so would adversely affect production of the reservoirs and unless injection into other subsurface zones will reduce environmental risks. Exceptions to reinjections will be granted consistent with the Ocean Waters Discharge Plan of the State Water Resources Control Board and where adequate provision is made for the elimination of petroleum odors and water quality problems.

Where appropriate, monitoring programs to record land surface and near-shore ocean floor movements shall be initiated in locations of new large-scale fluid extraction on land or near shore before operations begin and shall continue until surface conditions have stabilized. Costs of monitoring and mitigation programs shall be borne by liquid and gas extraction operators."

## § 30265

"The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) Offshore oil production will increase dramatically in the next 10 years from the current 80,000 barrels per day to over 400,000 barrels per day.
- (b) Transportation studies have concluded that pipeline transport of oil is generally both economically feasible and environmentally preferable to other forms of crude oil transport.
- (c) Oil companies have proposed to build a pipeline to transport offshore crude oil from central California to southern California refineries, and to transport offshore oil to out-of-state refiners.
- (d) California refineries would need to be retrofitted if California offshore crude oil were to be used directly as a major feedstock. Refinery modifications may delay achievement of air quality goals in the southern California air basin and other regions of the state.
- (e) The County of Santa Barbara has issued an Oil Transportation Plan which assesses the environmental and economic differences among various methods for transporting crude oil from offshore California to refineries.
- (f) The Governor should help coordinate decisions concerning the transport and refining of offshore oil in a manner which considers state and local studies undertaken to date, which fully addresses the concerns of all affected regions, and which promotes the greatest benefits to the people of the state.

## **§ 30265.5**

- (a) The Governor, or the Governor's designee, shall coordinate activities concerning the transport and refining of offshore oil. Coordination efforts shall consider public health risks, the ability to achieve short- and long-term air emission reduction goals, the potential for reducing California's vulnerability and dependence on oil imports, economic development and jobs, and other factors deemed important by the Governor, or the Governor's designee.
- (b) The Governor, or the Governor's designee, shall work with state and local agencies, and the public, to facilitate the transport and refining of offshore oil in a manner which will promote the greatest public health and environmental and economic benefits to the people of the state.
- (c) The Governor, or the Governor's designee, shall consult with any individual or organization having knowledge in this area, including, but not limited to, representatives from the following:
  - (1) State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission.
  - (2) State Air Resources Board.
  - (3) California Coastal Commission.
  - (4) Department of Fish and Game.
  - (5) State Lands Commission.
  - (6) Public Utilities Commission.
  - (7) Santa Barbara County.
  - (8) Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.
  - (9) Southern California Association of Governments.
  - (10) South Coast Air Quality Management District.
  - (11) Oil industry.
  - (12) Public interest groups.
  - (13) United States Department of the Interior.
  - (14) United States Department of Energy.
  - (15) United States Environmental Protection Agency.
  - (16) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
  - (17) United States Coast Guard.
- (d) This act is not intended, and shall not be construed, to decrease, duplicate, or supersede the jurisdiction, authority, or responsibilities of any local government, or any state agency or commission, to discharge its responsibilities concerning the transportation and refining of oil.

## **Tanker Facilities**

### **§ 30261**

"Multi-company use of existing and new tanker facilities shall be encouraged to the maximum extent feasible and legally permissible, except where to do so would result in increased tanker operations and associated onshore development incompatible with the land use and environmental goals for the area. New tanker terminals outside of existing terminal areas shall be situated as to avoid risk to environmentally sensitive areas and shall use a mono-

buoy system, unless an alternative type of system can be shown to be environmentally preferable for a specific site. Tanker facilities shall be designed to (1) minimize the total volume of oil spilled, (2) minimize the risk of collision from movement of other vessels, (3) have ready access to the most effective feasible containment and recovery equipment for oil spills, and (4) have onshore de-ballasting facilities to receive any fouled ballast water from tankers where operationally or legally required."

## **Refineries and Petrochemical Facilities**

### **§ 30263(a)**

"New or expanded refineries or petrochemical facilities not otherwise consistent with the provisions of this division shall be permitted if (1) alternative locations are not feasible or are more environmentally damaging; (2) adverse environmental effects are mitigated to the maximum extent feasible; (3) it is found that not permitting such development would adversely affect the public welfare; (4) the facility is not located in a highly scenic or seismically hazardous area, on any of the Channel Islands, or within or contiguous to environmentally sensitive areas; and (5) the facility is sited so as to provide a sufficient buffer area to minimize adverse impacts on surrounding property."

(b) "New or expanded refineries or petrochemical facilities shall minimize the need for once-through cooling by using air cooling to the maximum extent feasible and by using treated waste waters from in plant processes where feasible."

## **Electrical Generation Facilities**

### **§ 30413(b)**

"The commission shall, prior to January 1, 1978, and after one or more public hearings, designate those specific locations within the coastal zone where the location of a facility as defined in Section 25110 would prevent the achievement of the objectives of this division; provided, however, the specific locations that are presently used for such facilities and reasonable expansion thereof shall not be so designated. Each such designation shall include a description of the boundaries of such locations, the objectives of this division which would be so affected, and detailed findings concerning the significant adverse impacts that would result from development of a facility in the designated area. The Commission shall consider the conclusions, if any, reached by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission in its most recently promulgated comprehensive report issued pursuant to Section 25309. The Commission shall transmit a copy of its report prepared pursuant to this subdivision to the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission."

### **§ 30264**

"Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, except subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 30413, new or expanded thermal electric generating plants may be constructed in the coastal zone if the proposed coastal site has been determined by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to have greater relative merit pursuant to the provisions of Section 25516.1 than available alternative sites and related facilities for an applicant's service area which have been determined to be acceptable pursuant to the provisions of Section 25516."

## **Beach Erosion and Shoreline Structures**

### **§ 30235**

"Revetments, breakwaters, groins, harbor channels, seawalls, cliff retaining walls, and other such construction that alters natural shoreline processes shall be permitted when required to

serve coastal-dependent uses or to protect existing structures or public beaches in danger from erosion and when designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline sand supply. Existing marine structures causing water stagnation contributing to pollution problems and fish kills should be phased out or upgraded where feasible."

### **§ 30253**

"New development shall:

- (1) Minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazard.
- (2) Assure stability and structure integrity, and neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or surrounding area or in any way require the construction of protective devices that would substantially alter natural landforms along bluffs and cliffs."

## **Public Works**

### **§ 30241**

"The maximum amount of prime agricultural land shall be maintained in agricultural production to assure the protection of the areas' agricultural economy, and conflicts shall be minimized between agricultural and urban land uses through the following:

- (e) By assuring that public service and facility expansions and nonagricultural development do not impair agricultural viability, either through increased assessment costs or degraded air and water quality."

### **§ 30250(a)**

"New residential, commercial, or industrial development, except as otherwise provided in this division, shall be located within, contiguous with, or in close proximity to, existing developed areas able to accommodate it or, where such areas are not able to accommodate it, in other areas with adequate public services and where it will not have significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources. In addition, land divisions, other than leases for agricultural uses, outside existing developed areas shall be permitted only where 50 percent of the usable parcels in the area have been developed and the created parcels would be no smaller than the average size of surrounding parcels."

### **§ 30251**

"The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alteration of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of the surrounding area and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas such as those designated in the California Coastline Preservation and Recreation Plan prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation and by local government shall be subordinate to the character of its setting."

### **§ 30252**

"The location and amount of new development should maintain and enhance public access to the coast by (1) facilitating the provision or extension of transit service, (2) providing commercial facilities within or adjoining residential development or in other areas that will minimize the use of coastal access roads, (3) providing nonautomobile circulation within the development, (4) providing adequate parking facilities or providing substitute means of serving the development with public transportation, (5) assuring the potential for public transit for high intensity uses such as high-rise office buildings, and by (6) assuring that the recreational needs of new residents will not overload nearby coastal recreation areas by

correlating the amount of development with local park acquisition and development plans with the provision of onsite recreational facilities to serve the new development."

### **§ 30254**

"New or expanded public works facilities shall be designed and limited to accommodate needs generated by development or uses permitted consistent with the provisions of this division; provided, however, that it is the intent of the Legislature that State Highway Route 1 in rural areas of the coastal zone remain a scenic two-lane road. Special districts shall not be formed or expanded except where assessment for, and provision of, the service would not induce new development inconsistent with this division. Where existing or planned public works facilities can accommodate only a limited amount of new development, services to coastal dependent land use, essential public services and basic industries vital to the economic health of the region, state or nation, public recreation, commercial recreation and visitor-serving land uses shall not be precluded by other development."

## **Housing**

### **§ 30250(a)**

"New residential, commercial, or industrial development, except as otherwise provided in this division, shall be located in, contiguous with, or in close proximity to, existing development areas able to accommodate it or, where such areas are not able to accommodate it, in other areas with adequate public services and where it will not have significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources. In addition, land divisions, other than leases for agricultural uses, outside existing development areas shall be permitted only where 50 percent of the usable parcels in the area have been developed and the created parcels will be no smaller than the average size of surrounding parcels."

### **§ 30253**

"New development shall:

- (1) Minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazard.
- (2) Assure stability and structural integrity, and neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or surrounding area or in any way require the construction of protective devices that would substantially alter natural landforms along bluffs and cliffs.
- (3) Be consistent with requirements imposed by an air pollution control district or the State Air Resources Control Board as to each particular development.
- (4) Minimize energy consumption and vehicle miles traveled.
- (5) Where appropriate, protect special communities and neighborhoods which, because of their unique characteristics, are popular visitor destination points for recreational uses."

## **Locating and Planning New Development**

### **§ 30244**

"Where development would adversely impact archaeological or paleontological resources as identified by the State Historic Preservation Officer, reasonable mitigation measures shall be required."

### **§ 30250(a)**

"New residential, commercial, or industrial development, except as otherwise provided in this division, shall be located within, contiguous with, or in close proximity to, existing developed areas able to accommodate it, or where such areas are not able to accommodate it, in other



areas with adequate public services and where it will not have significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources. In addition, land divisions, other than leases for agricultural uses, outside existing developed areas shall be permitted only where 50 percent of the usable parcels in the area have been developed and the created parcels would be no smaller than the average size of surrounding parcels."

### **§ 30252**

"The location and amount of new development should maintain and enhance public access to the coast by (1) facilitating the provision or extension of transit service, (2) providing commercial facilities within or adjoining residential development or in other areas that will minimize the use of coastal access roads, (3) providing nonautomobile circulation within the development, (4) providing adequate parking facilities or providing substitute means of serving the development with public transportation, (5) assuring the potential for public transit for high intensity uses such as high-rise office buildings, and (6) by assuring that the recreational needs of new residents will not overload nearby coastal recreation areas by correlating the amount of development with local park acquisition and development plans with the provisions of onsite recreational facilities to serve the new development."

# The North Coast

## Area Summary

The North Coast spans 12 miles from the northern County line at Rincon Point southward to the Ventura River. It encompasses coastal cliffs, formed by eroding marine terraces, a portion of the Santa Inez Mountains, narrow sandy beaches, rocky tidepools, and a perennial stream.

Approximately 90 percent of the area inland of Highway 101 is open space or agriculture. Most of the land is owned in large parcels of 20 to 40 acres, or more. Oil wells and related facilities are scattered throughout the area. U.S. Highway 101 and the tracks of the Southern Pacific Railroad wind along the narrow strip of land at the base of the mountains.

Six residential (1-6 below) and two (7 and 8 below) industrial "Existing Communities," as designated by the County in 1978, are located on the North Coast ([Figure 1](#)). The purpose of the "Existing Community" designation is to recognize the existing urban development along the coast, and to allow those specific areas to infill using prevailing zoning categories. The communities are:

1. Rincon Point - A 9.4 acre residential area with controlled access. It is zoned "C-R-1" (Coastal One-Family Residential, 7,000 square foot minimum lot size).
2. La Conchita - An older residential community, about two miles south of the Santa Barbara-Ventura County Line, east of U.S. Highway 101, that encompasses 19.0 acres and is zones "R-B" (Residential-Beach) and "C-C" (Coastal Commercial).
3. Mussel Shoals - A 5.6 acre mixed-density residential area. It is located west of U.S. Highway 101 and the Old Coast Highway, and is zoned "R-B" (Residential-Beach) and "C-C" (Coastal Commercial).
4. Seacliff - An area of 11.34 acres bounded on the north by freeway right-of-way, east by the Old Coast Highway, and to the south by Hobson County Park. The homes are single-family and zoning is "R-B".
5. Faria - A residential area west of U.S. Highway 101 and about 5.5 miles north of the City of San Buenaventura. It encompasses 20.7 acres. The area is zoned "R-B".
6. Solimar - Also zoned "R-B", this residential community is located between Old Coast Highway and the beach, approximately 3.75 miles north of the City of San Buenaventura.
7. Rincon - One of two industrial communities on the North Coast, it is approximately 395 acres in size, with 158 acres still potentially developable. It contains two processing facilities: the Rincon oil and gas processing facility and, what has been historically called, the Chanslor-Western/Coline facility. The major portion of development is inland of the freeway, and is zoned "C-M" (Coastal Industrial).
8. La Conchita - The oil and gas processing plant at La Conchita is the second industrial community. It encompasses 9.8 acres that are fully developed under "C-M" (Coastal Industrial) zoning.

Portions of the North Coast are set aside for recreation. Emma Wood State Beach, about seven miles south of Solimar, has 150 overnight campsites and also includes the popular surfing area at Rincon Point, Hobson County Park Faria County Park, and the Rincon Parkway have additional opportunities for camping and beach access. A fire station is located north of, and immediately adjacent to, the community of Seacliff.

## Policies

1. All zoning and development shall be in conformance with the Land Use Plan map ([Figure 16.2](#)), which has been designed to reflect these goals and policies. The Zoning Compatibility Matrix ([Figure 33](#)) indicates the zones which are consistent with the various land use categories.

2. In case of reasonable doubt as to the precise alignment of land use boundaries on the Land Use Plan Maps, the Planning Director is authorized to determine the precise boundary locations. Such determinations must comply with the goals and policies which are set forth in the written text of the Coastal Area Plan. Determinations shall be graphically portrayed on the adopted Land Use Plan Map. In granting the Planning Director such powers, it is understood that any interested party may appeal the Director's decision to the Planning Commission and subsequently to the Board of Supervisors (Ventura County Ordinance Code, Division 8, Chapter 1.1, Article 11) and, upon exhaustion of these local appeals, as follows:
  - a. The dispute or question of determination may be appealed to the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. The Executive Director shall expediently transmit to the interested parties his or her determination as to the precise boundary location.
  - b. Where the Executive Director's determination is not in accordance with the local government determination, the Commission shall hold a hearing for purposes of determining the appropriate boundaries for the area. The Commission shall schedule the hearing on the determination for the next Commission meeting consistent with its Administrative Regulations Section 13569.

## **Environmentally Sensitive Habitats**

### **A. Tidepools and Beaches**

Tidepools occur at Faria, Mussel Shoals, Seacliff and Emma Wood State Beach ([Figure 1](#)). Subtidal rock outcrops provide anchorage for kelp, which in turn provides habitat for a multitude of organisms. Intertidal and subtidal diversity creates feeding habitat for a variety of water birds. The sandy beach adjacent to the rocky areas serves as resting habitat for shorebirds, and is important for shellfish and as grunion spawning grounds.

#### **Objective**

The protection of tidepools.

#### **Policies**

1. Shoreline interpretive programs will be coordinated by all appropriate agencies for existing recreation sites, including Hobson and Faria County Parks, and Emma Wood State Beach. Coastal ecology should be included into interpretive programs as they are developed for new State recreation areas and parks.
2. Provisions will be made for the proper disposal of recreation generated wastewater effluent and solid waste at public sites along the North Coast. County Service Area (CSA) 29 will help provide an acceptable wastewater disposal system for portions of the North Coast.
3. Shoreline protection structures, such as revetments, seawalls, groins, or breakwaters, are allowed when they are necessary to protect existing developments, coastal-dependent land uses, and public beaches. Any structures built under these conditions will incorporate mitigation measures that reduce intertidal or nearshore habitat losses and impacts on local shoreline and sand supply.
4. Placement of any fill or dredged material along the North Coast beach intertidal area shall be carried out in consultation with the State Department of Fish and Game, in order to ensure that the timing and location of such activities does not disrupt the life cycles of intertidal or sandy beach species.
5. An applicant for any coastal project, including shoreline protective devices, will show that their proposal will not cause long-term adverse impacts on beach or intertidal areas. Impacts include, but are not limited to, destruction of the rocky substrate, smothering of organisms, contamination from improperly treated waste water or oil,

and runoff from streets and parking areas. Findings to be made will include, but not be limited to, proper waste water disposal.

6. Policies 2 through 5 are also applicable to projects involving alterations to existing shoreline protection structures.
7. The adopted State "Guidelines for Wetlands and Other Wet, Environmentally Sensitive Habitats" will be used when analyzing any projects that may impact or alter tidepools.

## **B. Creek Corridors**

Rincon Creek is the only perennial riparian corridor on the North Coast ([Figure 2](#)). However, other stream or creek corridors are considered to be watercourses, either perennial or intermittent, as shown on USGS quadrangle maps, as measured between the high water mark, or the break in each bank. Maintenance of native vegetation will help diffuse floods and runoff, minimize soil erosion, and retard sedimentation.

### **Objective**

To maintain creek corridors in as natural a state as possible while still accommodating the needs of public health and safety.

### **Policies**

1. All projects on land either in a stream or creek corridor or within 100 feet of such corridor (buffer area), shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade riparian habitats, and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitats.
2. Substantial alterations (channelizations, dams, etc.) to river, stream, or creek corridors are limited to:
  - a. necessary water supply projects;
  - b. flood control projects where no other method for protecting existing structures in the flood plan is feasible, and where such protection is necessary for public safety or to protect existing development; or
  - c. developments where the primary function is the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.
3. Projects allowed per the above policies will incorporate the best mitigation measures feasible.
4. Criteria set forth in the adopted Coastal Commission's "Statewide Interpretive Guidelines for Wetlands and Other Environmentally Sensitive Wet Habitats" will be used in evaluating projects proposed within the Rincon Creek corridor.

## **Archaeological and Paleontological Resources**

### **A. Archaeology**

The Ventura County coast is archaeologically and culturally significant to a variety of different groups. Earlier, it was the site of one of the densest Native American populations in North America. The promontories of Punta Gorda and Pitas Point on the North Coast were the focus of many activities of the Chumash, a sophisticated coastal people. Later came active maritime and mission periods. Much of the County's coastal zone, while archaeologically sensitive, has not been well surveyed (S. Callison, pers. comm.).

Recent research indicates that knowledge of the distribution and location of earlier human habitation sites will add yet another dimension to our understanding of climatic and environmental cycles, since villages throughout the southwest were closely associated with water sources, many of which are now dry (Euler et al. 1979).

The County's Public Works Agency reviews all major development applications for archaeological resources. Specific sites, however, are not named to avert disturbance or destruction.

### **Objective**

To recognize that archaeological sites in the County's coastal zone are as significant to an understanding of human and environmental history. To protect Coast archaeological sites from destruction to the maximum extent feasible.

### **Policies**

1. Based upon the location of a proposed project, Public Works may require the following work be performed as a permit condition:
  - a. High sensitivity area - Field survey and test pits
  - b. Medium to high sensitivity area - Field survey
  - c. Moderate to negligible - No fieldwork necessary

For projects located in an area (a) or (b), the applicant will have a qualified archaeologist assess the development impacts and cultural significance of the site. As may be appropriate, the Northridge Archaeological Research Center at Cal State Northridge should be contacted for a Native American Monitor or Native American approved archaeologist to observe and aid the work during excavation of auger holes, test pits, trenches or exposures (Appendix 2).

2. A summary of the qualifications of the archaeologist who performs the applicant's study will be presented with the rest of the required information.
3. Human burials should not be removed from the ground without specific authorization, and under direction of, a Native American Monitor or Native American approved archaeologist.
4. Where significant archaeological resources have been identified on a site, a qualified archaeologist may be required to be present, at the applicant's expense, during all excavating, grading and other earth-moving activities.
5. Location of all coastal zone archaeological sites will be kept confidential to avert disturbance or destruction.
6. Archaeological, historical and ethnobotanical interpretation of native peoples in Ventura County should be incorporated into existing interpretive programs as feasible and into future interpretive programs at public recreation areas as funds become available.
7. Where new development would adversely impact archaeological resources, reasonable mitigation measures will be required. Such measures may involve covering the site, moving the structure(s) to another site on the parcel, or not constructing on the site, depending on the severity of the impacts and the significance of the resources.
8. If previously unknown resources are discovered after construction starts, all work shall cease and the Public Works Agency shall be notified. After review of the site by the Agency, or other qualified personnel, additional reasonable mitigation measures may be required.

## **B. Paleontology**

The geological and biological history of the Ventura County coast is significant. The coastal zone contains areas with marine fossils that are among the best in Southern California (B. Welton, pers. comm.). Records in the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History show extensive fossil sites in Ventura County. The coastal zone has yielded many "type"

specimens, used as the example specimen against which all other finds of the same animal are compared. Groups of fossils in the marine terraces of the North Coast are currently being used to help geologists unravel patterns of seismic movement in the area (J. Valentine, pers. comm.).

Unlike archaeological sites, paleontological sites are not necessarily destroyed by grading and construction. In fact, grading will often expose additional rock layers and increase the potential for new finds.

### **Objective**

To recognize the current and potential significance of coastal fossils to geological and biological knowledge of the County, and of popular interest in fossils. To preserve significant paleontological sites to the fullest extent possible, and to take steps to preserve the information a site may yield.

### **Policies**

1. Based upon the location of a proposed project on the Paleontological Sensitivity Map, to be prepared by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, an evaluation of impacts on paleontological resources will be a consideration in the environmental review process.
2. Consider adopting guidelines similar to those developed by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History for the City of Los Angeles as paleontology becomes part of the environmental review process.
3. Significant fossil discoveries will be reported to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History of appropriate scientists to ensure preservation of the information a site may yield.
4. Fossil discoveries will also be reported to the County Cultural Heritage Board to ensure maintenance of the information in Ventura County.
5. Where new development would adversely impact paleontological resources, reasonable mitigation measures will be required. Such measures may involve covering the site, moving the structure(s) to another site on the parcel, or not constructing on the site, depending on the severity of the impacts and the significance of the resources.
6. If previously unknown resources are discovered after construction starts, all work shall cease and the Public Works Agency shall be notified. After review of the site by the Agency, or other qualified personnel, additional reasonable mitigation measures may be required.

## **Recreation and Access**

### **A. Recreation**

There are several developed, accessible recreation areas on the North Coast. [Figure 3](#) is a chart depicting both developed and undeveloped recreation and parking facilities, and [Figure 4](#) is a map showing the location of these facilities. A parking lot and broad accessway, maintained as an extension of Emma Wood State Beach, is located at Rincon Point. The area's waves attract a large number of surfers. Excellent rocky tidepools are another of the Point's attractive resources. The major segment of Emma Wood State Beach is found between Solimar and the Ventura River. The County maintains two park areas, Hobson and Faria County Parks. Both Hobson and Faria have sanitation difficulties and an acceptable way of disposing liquid waste from recreational vehicles must be found. Other popular North Coast recreation sites include the beach along Mussel Shoals and segments of U.S. Highway 101. There are no public conveniences or parking at Mussel Shoals, and many popular sections of

U.S. 101 are not officially designated for use and therefore are not maintained. Trash and sanitation are major problems, and illegal camping and parking are frequent.

Parking and camping facilities are more than adequate for only 12 shoreline miles. Day use facilities, both marked and unmarked but now utilized, are sufficient to accommodate over 850 vehicles. Also, over 500 camping spaces are now available with the recent addition of 289 overnight spaces along the Rincon Parkway.

Over 70 percent of the shoreline (8.6 miles) is now owned and controlled by either the State (8.3 miles) or the County (0.3 miles). All the developed facilities shown on [Figure 3](#) have adopted development plans which have already been carried out or are being carried out. The State should augment existing facilities as deemed necessary and provide new facilities when and where appropriate.

### **Objective**

To provide direction to the State, and local agencies as appropriate, for improving and increasing public recreational opportunities on the North Coast consistent with public health and safety, and the protection of private property rights.

### **Policies**

#### ***General***

1. Any state plans to augment existing facilities or develop new recreational facilities in unincorporated territory must first be submitted to the County for review and approval.

#### ***U.S. Highway 101***

2. Camping should be restricted to areas where proper facilities are available.
3. Caltrans should provide trash cans where needed, and increase the frequency of trash pick-up along areas of the highway being used for recreational access to the beach.
4. Caltrans should provide at least one portable toilet along the segment of the highway that extends from Rincon Point to Punta Gorda.

#### ***Rincon Point State Surfer Access***

5. Encourage the California Department of Fish and Game to work with State Parks to place a modest interpretive tidepool exhibit and collection prohibition sign in the parking lot or along the accessway at Rincon Point.

#### ***Hobson County Park and Faria County Park***

6. Both parks are in County Service Area 29, but at this time are not scheduled for connection to the sewer system. Future consideration should be given to connecting to the sewer if on-site or self-contained systems prove infeasible.
7. Because of their extensive use by non-County residents, the County will continue to pursue transfer of both parks to the State Parks system.

#### ***Old Coast Highway (Rincon Parkway)***

8. The State should continue to implement the Rincon Parkway Plan as adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

### **Emma Wood State Beach**

9. The Property Administration Agency will continue to work with State Parks toward an agreement that extends the boundaries of Emma Wood State Beach to include the Rincon Parkway.
10. State Parks should construct additional camping spaces as planned in the Emma Wood State Beach General Plan.

## **B. Access**

The narrowness of the North Coast shoreline, its vulnerability to coastal processes, plus consideration of private rights, prescribe public access to the area. People make their way to the beach primarily through Hobson and Faria County Parks, Emma Wood State Beach, the State-managed parking lot and accessway at Rincon Point, and the Rincon Parkway.

Public shoreline access is considerable on the North Coast. [Figure 5](#) is an inventory of access. Again, over 70 percent of the shoreline (8.6 miles) is now accessible via State or County-owned land. Additionally, good vertical access (within 1/2 mile) exists to the shoreline in front of all residential areas. These residential areas have very tight boundaries and cannot be expanded without an amendment to this Plan.

The County has received two grants through the Coastal Conservancy Accessway Program to improve access on the north coast. The first was for the purchase and installation of six galvanized steel ladders over the two seawalls along the Old Coast Highway, and one concrete stairway over the riprap at the edge of one of the seawalls. The second grant was for construction of another concrete stairway over the riprap at the edge of the other seawall.

As other necessary improvements to existing accessways are identified, the County will seek funding to complete those improvements. Funding sources include the Coastal Conservancy and the California Conservation Corps.

### **Objective**

To maximize public access to the North Coast sub-area consistent with private property rights, natural resources and processes, and the Coastal Act. Also, to maintain and improve existing access, as funds become available.

### **Policies**

#### **Vertical**

1. For all new development between the first public road and the ocean, granting of an easement to allow vertical access to the mean high tide line shall be mandatory unless:
  - a. Adequate public access is already available within a reasonable distance of the site measures along the shoreline, or
  - b. Access at the site would result in unmitigable adverse impacts on areas designated as "sensitive habitats" or tidepools by the land use plan, or
  - c. Findings are made, consistent with Section 30212 of the Act, that access is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or that agriculture would be adversely affected, or
  - d. The parcel is too narrow to allow for an adequate vertical access corridor without adversely affecting the privacy of the property owner, or

#### **Lateral**

2. For all new development between the first public road and the ocean, granting of lateral easements to allow for public access along the shoreline shall be mandatory unless subsection (a) below is found. In coastal areas, where the bluffs



exceed five feet in height, all beach seaward of the base of the bluff shall be dedicated. In coastal areas where the bluffs are less than five feet, the area to be dedicated shall be determined by the County. At a minimum, the dedicated easement shall be adequate to allow for lateral access during periods of high tide. In no case shall the dedicated easement be required to be closer than 10 feet to a residential structure. In addition, all fences, no trespassing signs, and other obstructions that may limit public lateral access shall be removed as a condition of development approval.

- a. Findings are made, consistent with Section 30212 of the Act that access is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or that agriculture would be adversely affected.

### ***Sensitive Habitats***

3. The applicant of a proposed recreational facility in, or adjacent to, areas designated "sensitive habitats" shall develop a management program to control the kinds, intensities, and locations of uses to preserve the habitat resources to the maximum extent feasible. This program shall be part of development approval.

### ***Rincon Point State Surfer Access***

4. While the parking lot provided by State Parks is adequate at this time, it is full at the peak of surfing times. State Parks should anticipate the additional parking burden on the area as recreational demands increase in the next few years, and make appropriate accommodations. Long-range potential for the extension of bus service from Ventura and Oxnard along the Rincon Parkway to Rincon Point should also be explored by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and South Coast Area Transit.

### ***U.S. Highway 101***

5. Caltrans should provide trash containers and sufficient pick-up, and at least one toilet for day-use.
6. When funds become available, the County will work with Caltrans to resolve the access problems from the communities of La Conchita and Mussel Shoals.

### ***Mussel Shoals***

7. As new funds are available for continuing maintenance, the County will assume responsibility for lateral accessway dedication attached to existing Coastal Development Permits issued by the Coastal Commission in Mussel Shoals.

### ***Emma Wood State Beach***

8. Emma Wood State Beach should be extended to include the Rincon Parkway so that access is maintained for the maximum number of people.

### ***General***

9. In accordance with Sec. 30214(a), the time, place, and manner of access will depend on individual facts and circumstances; including topographic and site characteristics, the capacity of the site to sustain use at the intensity proposed, the proximity to adjacent residential uses, the privacy of adjacent owners, and the feasibility to provide for litter collection.
10. In accordance with Sec. 30214(b), the requirement of access shall be reasonable and equitable, balancing the rights of the individual property owner and the public.

## Agriculture

The Coastal Act states that a maximum of prime agricultural land, as originally defined by the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, will be preserved in the coastal zone. According to the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service, there are approximately 1,130 acres of prime soils on the North Coast ([Figure 6](#)).

Much of the sub-area is agricultural. According to the County Assessor's 1978 land use data and a site survey by staff, there are approximately 3,350 acres of agricultural land. Because many of the parcels are split by the coastal zone boundary, this figure is an estimate of the acres falling within the boundary. Agricultural uses include orchards and avocados, flowers, row crops, and pasture and range.

About 70 percent, or 2,300 acres, of the North coast agricultural lands are in four agricultural preserves under the California Land Conservation Act (a.k.a., the Williamson Act). The four preserves are:

1. Rincon Del Mar Preserve - Consists of three preserves, 409 acres of which are in the zone. The steep slopes have been graded to accommodate avocado orchards. The area is zoned "C-A" (Coastal Agricultural, 40 acre minimum lot size).
2. La Conchita Preserve - Immediately inland from the community of La Conchita, 342 acres of this preserve are in the coastal zone. The property has steep slopes, and avocado production is the primary agricultural use. The zoning for the 342 acres is "C-A".
3. Faria Family Partnership -Consists of a single parcel of 249.76 acres almost entirely within the coastal zone. A portion of the land is used for nursery and field crops, with the rest open field and hilly terrain. The zoning for the portion of the property within the coastal zone is "C-A".
4. Claeyssen (Taylor) Ranch Preserve - Seven parcels with coastal zone portions ranging in size from 15 to 290 acres, totaling about 1,320 acres. Grazing and row crops near the Ventura River are the primary agricultural uses. The zoning for the lands within the coastal zone is "C-A". On its southern boundaries, the Claeyssen Ranch is adjacent to the City of San Buenaventura. Both the City and the County have agreed to maintain a stable urban boundary at the Ventura River levee.

There is approximately 1,000 acres of non-preserve agricultural lands located in the North Coast area. Prime soils occur on about 130 of the 1,000 acres ([Figure 6](#)). Most of the 130 acres is zones "C-A" (Coastal Agricultural, 40 acre minimum). The rest of the non-preserve agricultural acreage is primarily zoned "C-O-S" (Coastal Open Space, 10 acre minimum). These other agricultural lands occur in parcel sizes of seven to 65 acres.

### Objective

To preserve agricultural lands on the North Coast to the maximum extent feasible.

### Policies

1. Soils will be conserved and erosion minimized by the use of best grading management practices as set forth by the Soil Conservation Service.
2. Land divisions in, or adjacent to, agricultural areas, will not be allowed to affect agricultural productivity.
3. The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) should exclude agricultural lands outside of the Coastal Area Plan's "stable urban boundary" line ([see Figure 16.2](#)), from any new or expanded service districts that could negatively impact agricultural viability.
4. New or expanded public works facilities will be sited or designed to mitigate environmental impacts on agricultural lands.
5. As aquaculture develops it will be considered as a potential agricultural use in appropriate areas.

6. Non-prime agricultural land defined as agricultural land, other than prime agricultural lands (as defined in Public Resources Section 30113), used or suitable for crops or grazing shall be designated as Agriculture with a minimum acreage size of 200 acres (1 DU/200 acres).

## Hazards

The North Coast skirts the edge of a geologically complex and active area. Within coastal zone boundaries is a portion of the Santa Ynez Mountains, formed by thrust faulting and east-west fold. Sedimentary Miocene marine terraces reach from the mountains to the ocean, where they have been eroded to prominent sea cliffs.

Underlying the area is the Red Mountain Thrust Fault and its branches, including the Padre Juan Fault ([Figure 7](#)). There has been seismic activity in this fault zone within the past 20,000 years. Under the Alquist-Priolo Act of 1972, the California Division of Mines and Geology designated the Red Mountain Fault as a "special studies zone" ([Figure 8](#)). This means that engineering geology reports may be required for some new coastal zone development within the designated area. Included within the special studies zone is a portion of the La Conchita Community, the La Conchita oil and gas processing facility, and the Rincon oil and gas processing facility. Ventura County has adopted an ordinance that implements the Act.

Short periods of low to moderate groundshaking are a potential North Coast hazard. Low coastal terraces could be subject to liquefaction where groundwater is less than 15 feet from the surface. Tsunamis could occur along the North Coast where elevations are less than 30 feet above mean sea level. Landslides and mass earth movement pose severe hazard potential where slopes are greater than 25 percent ([Figure 7](#)). Construction, grading, seismicity, irrigation, septic tanks and intense rainfall all contribute to erosion and slope failure. Moderate to highly expansive soils interlaced throughout the area also contribute to slope instability. Slides closed the North Coast northbound segment of Highway 101 during the winter storms of 1978 and 1980.

Five creeks wind through the steep canyons and empty into the ocean on the North Coast. Rincon Creek is the only perennial stream. Madriano, Javon, Padre Juan and Line Creeks are intermittent. The flood plain of the Ventura River forms the eastern boundary of the area. The Ventura County Flood Control District does not have any proposals for flood control projects in this portion of the coastal zone.

Nevertheless, the drainages present some hazards, including erosion and slope failure along stream banks, rapid runoff and sheet flooding, and seepage along lower coastal terraces.

Also of concern as a hazard is the fire-adapted chaparral vegetation of some steep slopes. Particularly during the summer droughts, many of the plants dry out and become dormant. If the dead plant material is allowed to accumulate over a number of years the stage is set for explosive wild fire (Barbour and Major 1977). Emergency access to the more mountainous areas is extremely limited. A major portion of the area around the North Coast's Rincon and Red Mountains is recognized as an "extreme" fire hazard area in the County's General Plan Hazards Appendix.

The General Plan Hazards Appendix provides extensive information on various hazards, including fault zones, fire hazard areas, landslides, and flood plains. It is one of the principal documents consulted by Planning and the Public Works Agency when formulating an Initial Study on a proposed project to determine the need for an EIR. Should an EIR be required, the General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (Chapter 2) and Hazards Appendix are used in evaluating the various impacts of the projects.

### Objective

To protect public safety and property from naturally-occurring and human-induced hazards as provided in County ordinances.

## Policies

1. The County's existing General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (Chapter 2) and Hazards Appendix provides direction for geologic, seismic, flood and fire hazard.
2. New development shall be sited and designed to minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazards.
3. All new development will be evaluated for its impacts to, and from, geologic hazards (including seismics safety, landslides, expansive soils, subsidence, etc.), flood hazards, and fire hazards. Feasible mitigation measures shall be required where necessary.
4. The County may require the preparation of a geologic report at the applicant's expense. Such report shall include feasible mitigation measures which will be used in the proposed development.
5. Structures for human habitation (regularly, habitually, or primarily occupied by humans) shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from an active fault. This setback may be increased when geologic conditions warrant.
6. New development shall be sited and designed so as not to cause or contribute to flood hazards, or lead to the expenditure of public funds for flood control works.
7. The North Coast portion of the Santa Ynez Mountains requires special attention, and the following formula and minimum lot sizes will be utilized as new land divisions are proposed in the "Open Space" or "Agricultural" designations:

- a. The following slope/density formula will be used to compute the average slope of property proposed to be subdivided:

$$S = \frac{(100)(I)(L)}{A}$$

where:

- S = average slope (%)  
I = contour interval (ft.)  
L = total length of all contour lines (ft.)  
A = total area of the lot (sq. ft.)

- b. Once the average slope has been computed, the following table will be used to determine a minimum lot size for newly proposed lots:

0% - 15%	=	10 acres
15.1% - 20%	=	20 acres
20.1% - 25%	=	30 acres
25.1% - 35%	=	40 acres
35.1% & above	=	100 acres

8. A landscaping plan for fire and erosion control will be submitted for any new development located in Fire Zone 4. As many native plants as feasible should be used. Information on kinds and sources of these plants are available through the County.

## Beach Erosion

The North Coast beaches are highly vulnerable to erosion and wave damage. Dredging operations in Santa Barbara Harbor alter sand transport down coast. Without adequate replacement sand, high tides and waves erode the beaches. Beachside designated "Existing Communities" are losing beach front during these times, and seawalls are being undermined, critically endangering residences. Affected areas are:

## **I. Mussel Shoals**

Exhibits seasonal fluctuations in the amount of sand. A seawall had to be constructed during the 1978 winter storms. Erosion is gradual now, but may accelerate later. The California Department of Navigation and Ocean Development (DNOD) has noted the area to be "Present Use Critical," which means that existing shoreline facilities are subject to erosion from wave action (Appendix 5).

## **II. Seacliff**

Homes flood during storms and high tides. Construction of the U.S. Highway 101 overpass north of the colony obstructed sand transport and beach replenishment. To retard erosion at Seacliff and Hobson County Park, Caltrans built a seawall that is now deteriorating. Current zoning allows for the construction of further beach residential units. However, unless the seawall is reviewed for structural adequacy, more flooding may occur.

## **III. Hobson County Park**

Severe beach erosion prompted Caltrans to build a revetment. The intensity of wave action in the area has led to concerns about the wall's structural adequacy - it may need additional improvements.

## **IV. Faria Beach Park**

Has been severely damaged by erosion at the rate of about 1.3 feet of shoreline per year and the park has been closed several times because of storm debris (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1978). The Department of Navigation and Ocean Development has also classified this area as "Present Use Critical". At the current rate of erosion, protective structures will be needed to preserve the recreation area. The County's Property Administration Agency is in the process of initiating these improvements.

## **V. Faria Beach Colony**

Erosion and flooding at high tide are continuing problems. Seawalls are being undermined. The Department of Navigation and Ocean Development sees this area as "Future Use Critical".

## **VI. Solimar Beach Colony**

Erosion is weakening the existing seawalls. If homes are to be protected, then improvements will have to be made. This area is "Present Use Critical".

## **VII. Old Coast Highway**

Waves top the revetment and create intermittent hazards for motorists.

## **VIII. Emma Wood State Beach**

The beach is eroding 0.6 feet annually, and recent winter storms have caused extensive damage and led to closure. The Department of Navigation and Ocean Development recognizes a portion of the park as "Future Use Critical" and another segment as "Present Use Critical".

### **Objective**

To protect public safety and property from beach erosion as provided in existing ordinances, and within the constraints of natural coastal processes.

### **Policies**

1. Proposed shoreline protective devices will only be approved and/or located in conformance with Coastal Act Sections 30235 and 30253.
2. All shoreline protective structures which alter natural shoreline processes will be designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline sand supply.

3. A building permit will be required for any construction and maintenance of protective shoreline structures, such as seawalls, jetties, revetment, groins, breakwaters and related arrangements.
4. The County's Building and Safety Department will routinely refer all permits for seawalls, revetments, groins, retaining walls, pipelines and outfalls to the Flood Control and Water Resources Division of the Public Works Agency to be evaluated not only for structural soundness, but environmental soundness as well whenever necessary. This includes a survey of potential environmental impacts, including (but not limited to) the project's effects on adjacent and downstream structures, net littoral drift, and downcoast beach profiles.
5. If the potential environmental impacts of the proposed structure are considered significant by the Public Works Agency, the applicant will then be required to obtain an engineering report that specifies how those impacts will be mitigated.
6. Permitted shoreline structures will not interfere with public rights of access to the shoreline.

## Energy and Industrial Facilities

### I. Oil and Gas Facilities:

Three onshore oil fields in production on the North Coast of Ventura County are either within or very close to the coastal zone ([Figure 9](#)):

- Rincon Field - Located north of Pitas Point, with both onshore and offshore portions. The onshore portion comprises about 75 percent of the proven acreage of the field. While the Rincon Field is one of the largest producing fields in the County, its production has declined in recent years, as has the production of all County fields.
- San Miguelito Field - Located south of Pitas Point, and extending into the mountainous area outside the coastal zone. There have been various operators in this field over time. Only a portion of this lease is within the coastal zone. There is a seawater treatment facility within this field, south of Pitas Point adjacent to the 101 Freeway which is in the coastal zone.
- Ventura Field - The Ventura Field is entirely outside the coastal zone boundary, but nevertheless close to the sub-area.

Ventura County has issued several Conditional Use Permits for oil drilling and related activities on the North Coast ([Figure 10](#)). Existing and anticipated future onshore oil drilling/production activities within the coastal zone are confined to the known limits of the above oil fields. It is not the intention of the Plan to preclude oil and gas exploration and development outside the limits of these fields, except as otherwise noted in the energy policies.

There are six separation and treatment facilities on the North Coast, one of which is outside the coastal zone. Two, the Rincon Oil and Gas Processing Facility and the La Conchita Oil and Gas Processing Facility, are used exclusively to process production from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leases. These facilities are within the North Coast "Existing Community" designation, which allows expansion of the facilities per the existing zoning on the sites ([Figures 9](#) and [10](#)).

- Rincon Oil and Gas Processing Facility - This separation treatment facility has a net design capacity of 110,000 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) and 15 million cubic feet of natural gas per day (MMCF/D). Currently, there is about 98,000 BOPD and 7 MMD/D of unused capacity. Approximately 15 acres adjacent to the existing 32 acre facility could be utilized for plant expansion with a minimum of grading. The site is zoned "C-M" (Coastal Industrial). Also located on the site is a 268,000 barrel storage tank.
- La Conchita Oil and Gas Processing Facility - Also a separation treatment facility, it covers a total of 16 acres, 11 of which are developed. The site is zoned "C-M" (Coastal

Industrial). Net design capacity is 27,000 BOPD and 22 MMCF/D. Currently, there are about 3,000 BOPD and 20 MMCD/D of unused capacity. About five acres of the site can be used for expansion.

The other separation treatment facilities on the North Coast are located at the base of the mountains below the Rincon Oil and Gas Processing Facility, inland of the U.S. Highway 101. Historically, these facilities have been called the Mobil-Ferguson, Cabot-Rincon, and Chanslor/Coline facilities. These facilities' expansion possibilities are extremely limited due to the size of the sites and the marginal amount of usable land.

The coastal onshore oil and gas fields have been experiencing declining production in recent years, thus there is sufficient capacity within existing separation/treatment facilities to handle onshore production. Additionally, the current unused capacity of the Rincon and La Conchita oil and gas processing facilities is projected to be sufficient to accommodate all anticipated future production from known reserves in the eastern Santa Barbara Channel. Furthermore, the Rincon facility has enough available land to expand its throughput to accommodate all projected future production in the Channel. Therefore, no new separation/treatment facilities are necessary on the North Coast.

## **II. Pipelines**

There are two offshore pipelines and landfall sites on the North Coast. These are the Dos Cuadros Pipeline that transports OCS oil and gas to the Rincon facility. The landfall site is just north of the Seacliff Community in the Rincon area. The other offshore pipeline is the Carpinteria OCS Pipeline with a landfall site about 0.25 miles northwest of the community of La Conchita.

In addition to the two offshore pipelines there are six onshore pipelines. Five of these are "private carriers" while the sixth is a "common carrier" and subject to regulation by the PUC. The "common carrier" is a pipeline that connects the La Conchita oil and gas processing facility with the Rincon oil and gas processing facility.

The Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance sets forth the regulations for pipelines and facilities in the Coastal Zone.

## **III. Other Facilities**

During the exploratory drilling phase of offshore oil development, temporary service bases, known as staging areas, are needed areas for shipping equipment, supplies, and personnel to offshore sites. All are small operations that require limited acreage and are leased on a short-term basis. Staging areas should be allowed in all areas subject to industrial zoning and a CUP to ensure compliance with this Plan. No existing industrial or energy facilities, except pipelines, are located between the U.S. Highway 101 and the shoreline. In addition, no electrical facilities are sited on the North Coast. Southern California Edison Company identified a potential need back in the early 1980's for an electrical generating substation, near La Conchita. There is a relatively flat parcel of sufficient size for a substation just northerly of La Conchita.

## **IV. Industrial Facilities**

The Coastal Act offers only limited guidance in siting coastal-dependent industrial facilities in "Urban" versus "Rural/Open Space" areas. For purposes of this Plan, new industrial development requiring a "Coastal Industrial" (C-M) zone, will be considered urban development. Oil drilling activities have not been considered "Urban" in nature, and are therefore allowed in most County areas by Conditional Use Permit. Additionally, industrial facilities are permitted in unincorporated areas if they are within "Existing Community" areas designated by the Board of Supervisors. The only industrial facilities on the North Coast are those energy-related facilities previously described.

## Objective

To allow continued exploration and production of oil and gas in most of the North Coast sub-area, and to allow the necessary expansion of major, existing processing facilities while meeting Coastal Act and County objectives and maintaining environmental quality.

## Policies

1. All land between U.S. Highway 101 (Ventura Freeway) and the shoreline; or land designated "Residential," "Recreational," or shown as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat," will be considered as unacceptable for new energy and industrial facilities of any kind. Pre-existing facilities and oil/gas/communication pipelines, and repair of such will be considered acceptable.
2. Within the land area between U.S. Highway 101 (Ventura Freeway) and the landward coastal zone boundary, oil drilling and directly related facilities are permitted by Conditional Use Permit consistent with Section 30260 of the Coastal Act. No new major facilities, which require a "Coastal Industrial" (C-M) zone, or expansion of existing facilities will be permitted, unless located in an area designated "Industrial."
3. All surface activities, including those regulated by the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources related to the development of onshore oil and gas resources in the coastal zone are considered to be projects that require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and a Coastal Development Permit. Both permits will be issued simultaneously through one CUP process. See the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (including, but not limited to Section 8175-8.7) for a list of standard oil development design and operational criteria applied to all new permits for expanded or new oil activities. Additional conditions may be required depending on the specific request and the location.
4. A Development Plan shall accompany the application for a CUP for those activities stated in Policy 3, and shall include:
  - a. The location of drilling and/or production sites, storage tanks, pipelines and access roads.
  - b. Plans for the consolidation, to the maximum extent feasible, of drilling and/or production facilities, as well as accessory facilities.
  - c. A phasing plan for the staging of development that indicates the approximate anticipated timetable for project installation, completion and decommissioning.
  - d. A plan for eliminating or substantially mitigating adverse impacts on habitat areas, prime agricultural lands, recreational areas, scenic resources and archaeological sites due to siting, construction, or operation of facilities.
  - e. Grading plans for all facilities requiring the movement of greater than 50 cubic yards of dirt. For any development requiring a grading permit, either (1) a Storm Water Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Ventura County Municipal Storm Water Permit, Order No. 00-108, Part 4 - Special Provisions, D. Programs for Construction Sites, or (2) a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the State General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, whichever is applicable.
  - f. A description of means by which all oil and gas will be transported off-site to a marketing point. Pursuant to Policy 7 (below), transshipment of crude oil and gas shall be through on-shore pipeline.
  - g. A description of the procedures for the transport and disposal of all solid and liquid wastes.
  - h. Oil spill prevention and control measures.



- i. Fire prevention procedures.
  - j. Emission control equipment.
  - k. Procedures for the abandonment and restoration of the site, including a timeline, and clarification as to whether or not the abandonment will be in place or the infrastructure will be removed.
  - l. Compliance with any other requirement of the Ventura County Zoning Ordinance for the Coastal Zone related to oil and gas development.
  - m. All facilities supporting oil and gas development must comply with the terms and requirements of the State General Industrial Activities Storm Water Permit, including the development and submittal of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
5. All energy and industrial facilities in the Plan shall be so sited and designed to eliminate or reduce, to the maximum extent feasible, impacts to biological, geological, archaeological, agricultural, visual and recreational resources.
  6. All anticipated future offshore oil and gas production in the eastern Santa Barbara Channel to be processed in Ventura County shall utilize the Rincon or La Conchita oil and gas processing facilities for onshore separation/treatment, unless it is not technically or economically feasible.
  7. Transshipment of crude oil through an onshore pipeline for refining shall be a condition of approval for expansion of existing processing facilities or construction of new facilities.
  8. When feasible, pipelines shall be routed to avoid important coastal resources, including recreation, sensitive habitats and archaeological areas. Unavoidable routing through recreation, habitat, or archaeological areas, or other areas of significant coastal resource value, shall be done in a manner that minimizes the impacts of a spill, should it occur, by considering spill volumes, duration, and projected path. Where new liquid pipeline segments pass through sensitive resource areas, recreation areas or archaeological areas, the segment shall be isolated, in the case of a break, by automatic shutoff valves.
  9. The County shall determine whether spacing of automatic shutoff valves at intervals less than the maximum set by the U.S. Department of Transportation - Office of Pipeline Safety (DOT-OPS), or the California State Fire Marshall is required to protect sensitive coastal resources, and if so, shall require spacing at intervals which provide appropriate protection.
  10. In sensitive resource areas the extent of construction and ground surface disturbance shall be reduced to a minimum by restricting construction activities and equipment within narrow, limited and staked work corridors and storage areas.
  11. All offshore to onshore pipelines shall, where feasible, be located at existing pipeline landfall sites, and shall be buried from a point offshore commencing where wave action first causes significant bottom disturbance. In addition, landfall sites are prohibited from areas designated as "Residential" or shown as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat."
  12. Except for pipelines exempted from coastal development permits under Section 30610 of the Coastal Act as defined by the State Coastal Commission's Interpretive Guidelines, a survey shall be conducted along the route of any pipeline in the coastal zone to determine what, if any, coastal resources may be impacted by construction and operation of a pipeline and any feasible mitigation measures. The costs of this survey shall be borne by the applicant, and may be conducted as part of environmental review if an Environmental Impact Report or Mitigated Negative Declaration is required for a particular project.

13. Owners/operators shall notify both the County of Ventura Planning Division and any other designated affected State agencies (e.g. DOGGR, CSFM, SLC, LARWQCB) of any intent to decommission and/or remove any pipelines and/or facilities. Upon completion of pipeline construction or removal of pipelines and/or facilities, the site shall be restored to the approximate previous grade and condition. Upon removal or decommissioning of pipelines and/or facilities, an assessment of the surrounding soils shall be conducted by a qualified licensed expert, e.g. a licensed geologist or registered professional civil engineer, to determine whether or not those soils are contaminated. If the soils are found to be contaminated, a soil remediation plan delineating the method and timing of remediation shall be prepared and submitted to the County Planning Division and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for their review and approval. All excavated materials shall be replaced in reverse order with topsoil replaced at grade level and compacted if necessary. All sites previously covered with native vegetation shall be re-seeded with the same or recovered with the previously removed vegetation materials and shall include other measures as deemed necessary to prevent erosion until the vegetation can become established.
14. Geologic investigations shall be performed by a qualified geologist or engineering geologist where a proposed petroleum pipeline route crosses potential fault zones, seismically active areas, or moderately high to high risk landslide areas. This report shall investigate the potential risk and recommend such mitigation measures as pipeline route changes and/or engineering measures to help assure the integrity of the pipeline and minimize erosion, geologic instability, and substantial alterations of the natural topography. New pipeline corridors shall be consolidated with existing pipeline or electrical transmission corridors where feasible, unless there are overriding technical constraints or significant social, aesthetic, environmental, or economic concerns.
15. Transmission line rights-of-way shall be routed to minimize impacts on the viewshed in the coastal zone, especially in scenic rural areas, and to avoid locations which are on or near habitat, recreational, or archaeological resources, whenever feasible. Scarring, grading, or other vegetative removal shall be repaired, and the affected areas re-vegetated with plants similar to those in the area to the extent safety and economic considerations allow.
16. In important scenic areas, where above-ground transmission line placement would unavoidably affect views, under grounding shall be required where it is technically and economically feasible unless it can be shown that other alternatives are less environmentally damaging. When above-ground facilities are necessary, design and color of the support towers shall be compatible with the surroundings to the extent safety and economic considerations allow.
17. Pursuant to section 307(f) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 USC § 1456(f)), the adopted Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan shall be used as a criterion in determining consistency of federal actions on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) with the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP). Pursuant to Section 328 of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 USC § 7627), all activities on the OCS must comply with the Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations as specified in 40 CFR Part 55.
18. Experimental uses that provide energy from alternative sources, such as wind or solar, may be permitted by Conditional Use Permit in areas designated "Open Space."
19. Upon decommissioning of off-shore facilities that contain on-shore facilities and/or pipelines (or "components"), a phasing plan shall be submitted delineating the timeline for disposition of the on-shore facilities.
20. Coastal Act sections 30101, 30101.3, 30255, and 30260, will be used as the criteria by the County to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether onshore or offshore oil and gas development and an energy-related industrial facility supporting such development is defined as "coastal-dependent development" or "coastal-related development",

based on the specific geographic, technological, and economic characteristics of the project being proposed.

## **Public Works**

The North Coast has a variety of service constraints. While the Casitas Municipal Water District can provide water to the area for at least the next 20 years, sanitation is a significant problem. Subsurface sewage disposal at Faria Beach, Seacliff, Solimar, and Mussel Shoals is limited by soils, inadequate lot sizes for leach field expansion, out-dated facilities that do not meet current septic tank design standards, high groundwater, high rate septic tank failure, and increased pumping rates. The Board of Supervisors has authorized the formation of County Service Area No. 29, and a sewer system is being designed for those portions of the North Coast.

Transportation issues include providing adequate, safe access to and from U.S. Highway 101 for the communities of La Conchita and Mussel Shoals, and road construction or improvement that does not adversely impact agricultural lands. Ocean View Road is the only public access to agricultural lands along the bluff tops. It is a County road, but does not meet design and fire standards. On July 12, 1979, the Board of Supervisors approved a Public Works Agency recommendation to develop an assessment district to finance proposed improvements, and a County Service Area for road maintenance.

If traffic continues to increase on U.S. Highway 101 as projected in the Los Angeles Regional Transportation Study, then some of the North Coast communities will have even more restricted access, particularly where the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks have to be crossed at La Conchita. Additionally, U.S. Highway 101 has been proposed as a State Scenic Highway from its junction with Highway 1, near the City of Ventura, to the Santa Barbara County Line.

### **Objective**

To maintain current service levels for existing developments.

### **Policies**

1. New or expanded public works facilities (including roads, flood control measures, water and sanitation) will be designed to serve the potential population within the subarea's boundaries, and to mitigate impacts on agricultural, open space lands, or environmentally sensitive habitats.
2. Services are limited to existing areas defined in the Coastal Commission permit for the North Coast sewer (Regional Application 208-03). Any changes or extension of services will require a new permit.
3. When funds become available the State should improve the potentially dangerous highway crossings at Mussel Shoals and La Conchita.
4. New service extensions required beyond the stable urban boundary will be designed to mitigate any effects on agricultural viability.

## **Locating and Planning New Development**

### **Residential**

Residential development in the North Coast sub-area will occur mainly within the "Existing Communities" as approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1978. Those communities are: Rincon Point, La Conchita, Mussel Shoals, Seacliff, Faria, and Solimar.

Under the "Existing Community" designation, the areas are allowed to build out to the building intensity permitted under the prevailing zoning.

Presently, all development utilizes individual septic tank systems; however, the Ventura Regional County Sanitation District (VRCSD) has received a federal grant to develop a sewage system consisting of: 1) a low pressure sewer line to serve the areas of Mussel Shoals,

Seacliff, Faria, and Solimar; and 2) an On-Site Wastewater Management Zone (OSWMZ) for Rincon Point and La Conchita. In December 1978, County Service Area (CSA) 29 was formed and on July 3, 1979, the Board of Supervisors approved the Environmental Impact Report and authorized the filing of a Step II grant for the facilities design. The low pressure sewer line would connect with the City of San Buenaventura's sewage treatment plant.

## **Commercial**

Commercial development in the North Coast sub-area occurs in the La Conchita "Existing Community." Four parcels in La Conchita are zoned "C-C" (Coastal Commercial). These parcels are located north of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks at Santa Barbara Avenue.

Within the Mussel Shoals "Existing Community" area is "Cliff House," an 18-unit multi-family residential dwelling facility. This parcel is zoned "C-C" (Coastal Commercial).

Future commercial development in La Conchita or Mussel Shoals could impact traffic and left turn movements on Highway 101. For this reason and because of the limited amount of new residential development anticipated, more commercial development is not necessary.

### **Objective**

To allow the continued build-out of the "Existing Community" areas consistent with the County's General Plan and regional goals within the AQMP and "208" Plan.

### **Policies**

1. The six residential "Existing Communities" of Rincon Point, La Conchita, Mussel Shoals, Seacliff, Faria, and Solimar will be allowed to build-out according to their land use designations and prevailing base zoning. [Figures 11-16](#) depict these areas.
2. Any new development in "Open Space" or "Agriculture" designated areas on slopes greater than 15 percent will conform with the policies and slope/density formula developed in the Hazards Section of this Coastal (Area) Plan.
3. The Cliff House property in Mussel Shoals (APN 060-0-090-195) shall be restricted to visitor-serving commercial uses, including overnight accommodations.

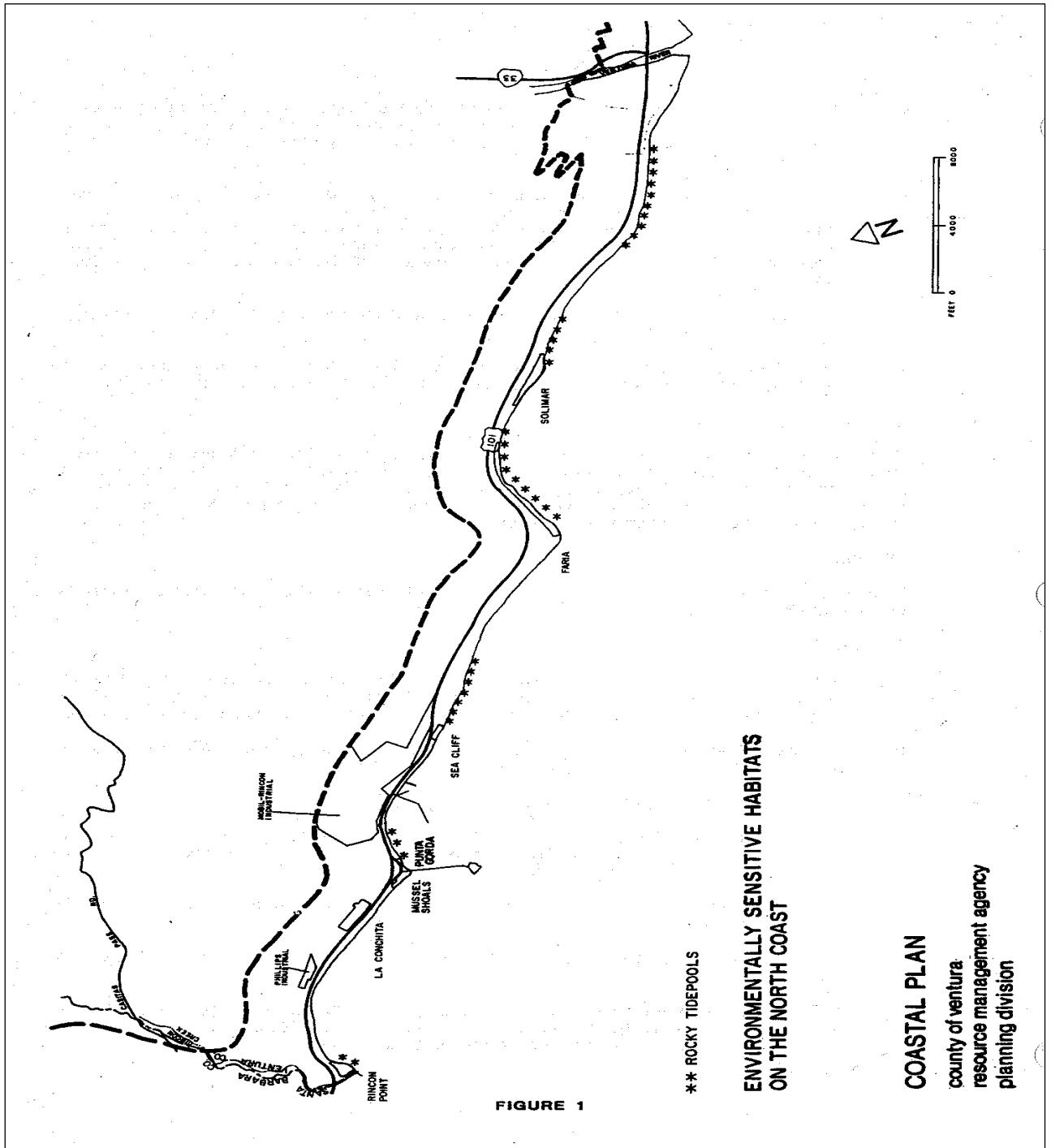
## **Potential Conflicts**

### **Unincorporated Lands in City Area of Interest:**

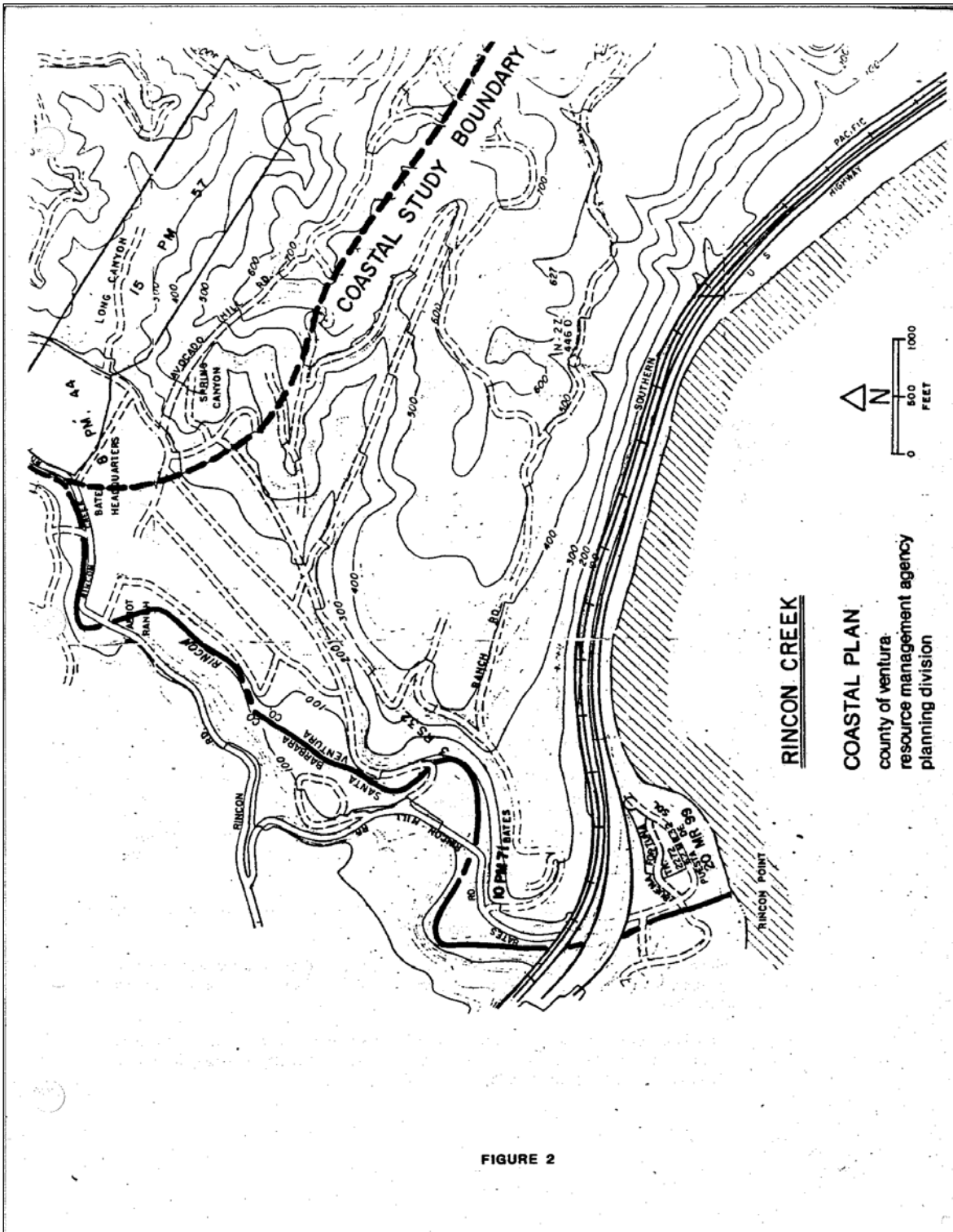
The extension of the City of San Buenaventura's urban boundary northwesterly into the Taylor Ranch, an unincorporated agricultural preserve northerly from Hwy. 101, has historically been a potential source of conflict. Section 30241 of the Coastal Act is most specific about maintaining a maximum amount of prime agricultural land and delineating stable urban-rural boundaries. Further expansion of the City Sphere of Influence could induce development not only on the ranch, but on adjacent agricultural lands as well.

The potential land use conflicts in this instance have been averted. Both the City and the County have recognized the Ventura River levee and the city's westerly city limits as a logical, stable urban boundary in their Local Coastal Programs, and the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has designed the Sphere of Influence boundaries to conform to those boundaries indicated in both the City's and County's Coastal Plans.

**Figure 1  
Environmentally Sensitive Habitats on the North Coast**



**Figure 2  
Rincon Creek**



**FIGURE 2**

**Figure 3  
North Coast Recreation and Parking Facilities**

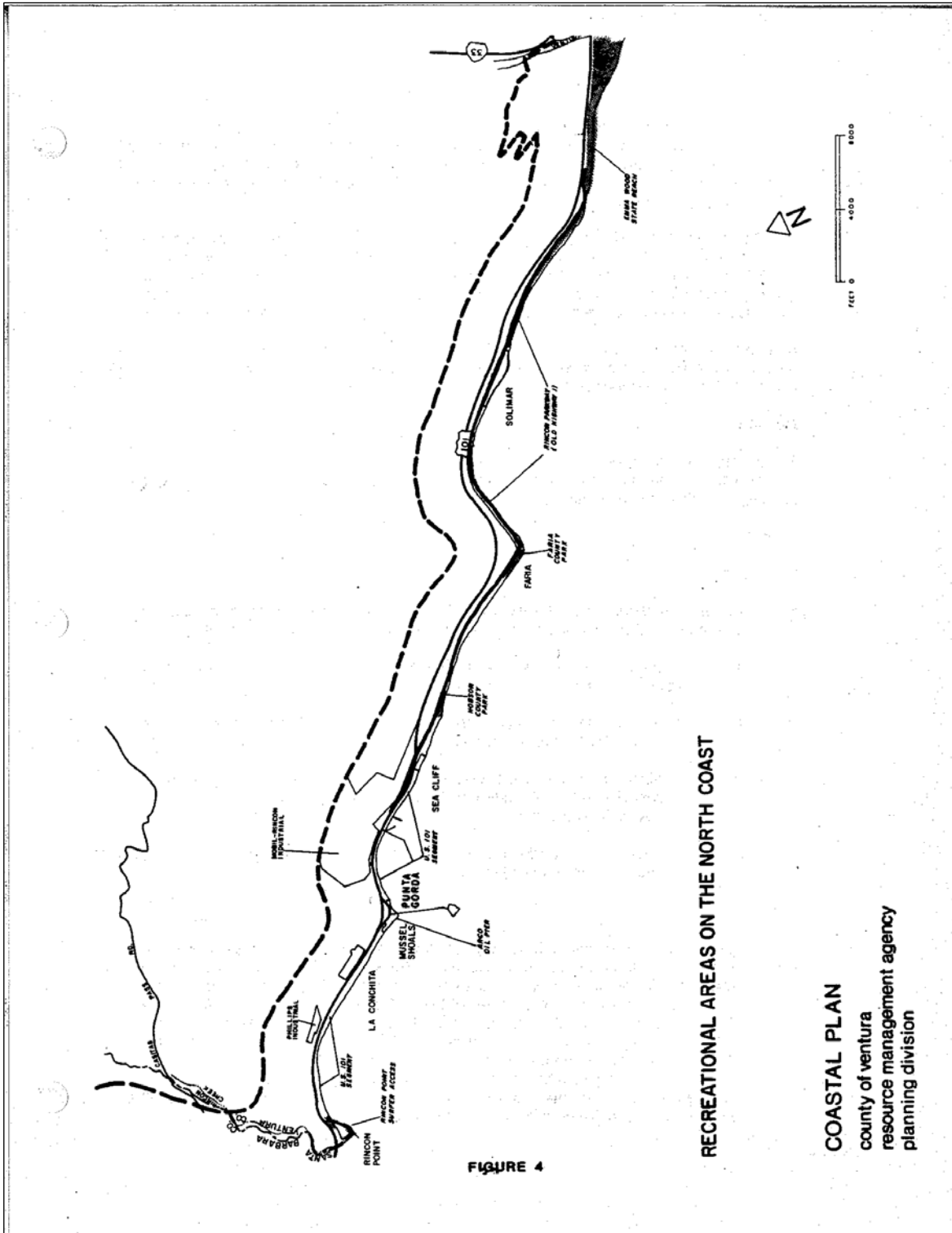
Facilities	Total Acreage	Linear Frontage (Ft.)	Number Of Parking Spaces	Number Of Camping Spaces
<b>Developed Facilities</b>				
Rincon Point State Surfer Access	2.67	75	67	-
Hobson County Park	1.17	679	-	29
Faria County Park	2.4	684	-	45
Rincon Parkway	-	11,700	180	289
Emma Wood State Beach	100.94	16,000	100 (within City of San Buenaventura)	150
<b>Undeveloped Facilities</b>				
Highway 1 - Rincon Point to Punta Gorda	-	8,200	270*	
Highway 1 - Punta Gorda to Seacliff	-	8,000	260*	
<b>TOTALS</b>	45,338 linear ft. (8.6 miles)	877	513	

Source: Recreation and Access LCP Issue Paper, Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 1980

Footnotes:

\* Unmarked spaces - assumed 30 ft. per space

**Figure 4  
Recreational Areas on the North Coast**





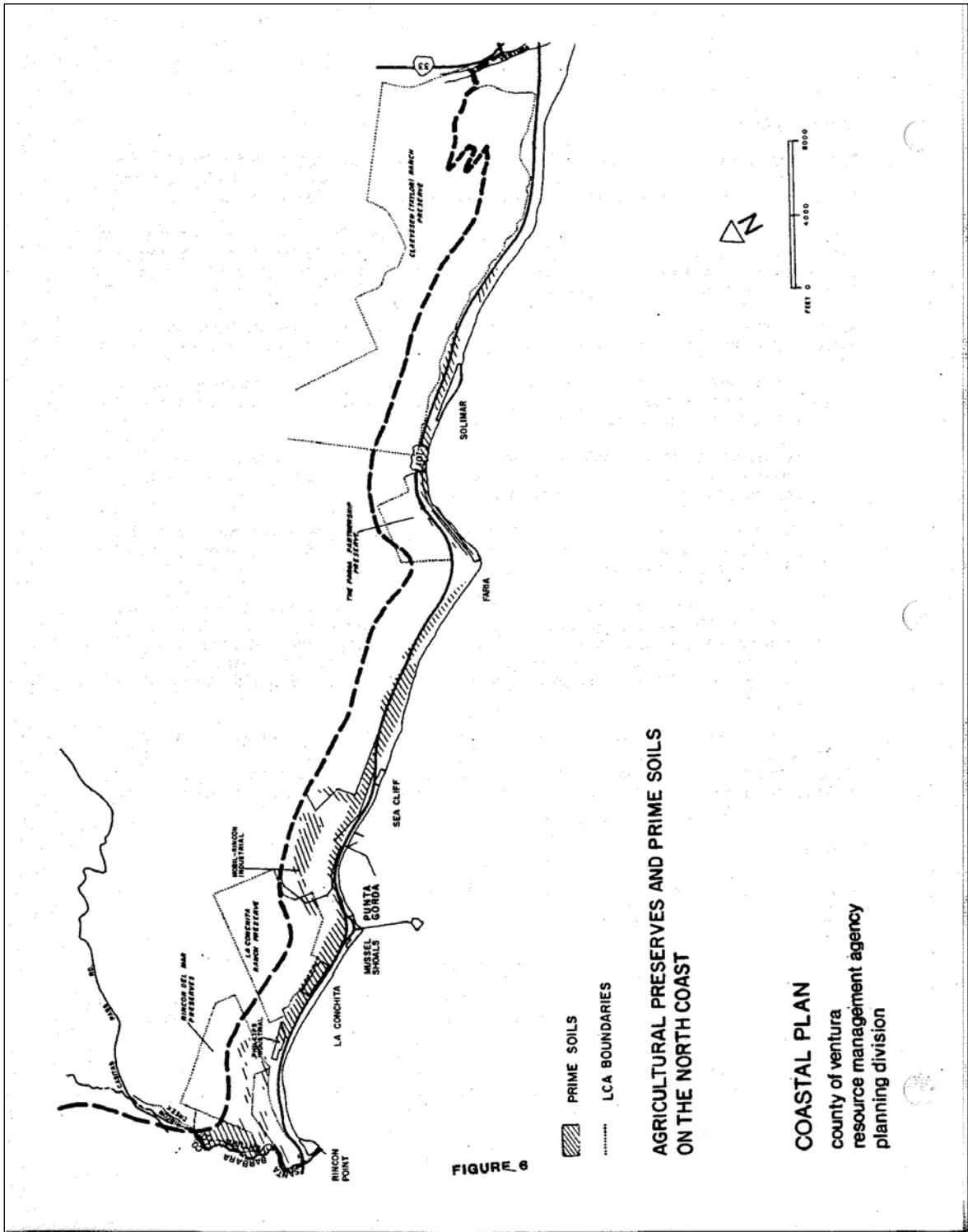
**Figure 5  
North Coast Access Inventory**

NO. *	Name & Location	Access Type	Size	Frontage	Open	Signed	Owned By	Managed By	Remarks
1.	Rincon Point State Surfer Park, West of 101 at County Line	Park	2.67 ac.	75 ft.	Yes	---	State Parks	State Parks	
2.	Highway 1 Rincon Point to Punta Gorda	Parking	---	8,200 ft.	Yes	No	Caltrans	Caltrans	Undeveloped facility - consists of unmarked parking along Old Coast Highway.
		Lateral							
		Vertical							
3.	Highway 1 Punta Gorda to Seacliff	Parking	---	8,000 ft.	Yes	No	Caltrans	Caltrans	Same as above.
		Lateral							
		Vertical							
4.	Hobson County Park West of 101, South of Seacliff	Park	1.7 ac	679 ft.	Yes	Yes	County	County	
5.	Rincon Parkway	Parking	---	11,700 ft.	Yes	Yes	Caltrans	Caltrans	Includes two improvements to beach seawall to construct ladders to improve vertical access. Ladders maintained by Ventura Co.
		Lateral							
		Vertical							
6.	Faria Co. Park South of 101, 5.5 miles west of Ventura	Park	2.4 ac.	684 ft.	Yes	Yes	County	County	
7.	4270 Faria Road Faria Tract	Lateral	To Seawall	43 ft.	Yes	No	Private	Owner	Pass and Repass only.
8.	3912-3024 Pacific Coast Highway, Faria Tract	Lateral	To Seawall	150 ft.	Yes	No	Private	Owner	Pass and Repass only.
9.	3488 Pacific Coast Highway, Faria Tract	Lateral	To Seawall	27 ft.	Yes	No	Private	Owner	Pass and Repass only.
10.	3438 Pacific Coast Highway, Faria Tract	Lateral	To Seawall	35 ft.	Yes	No	Private	Owner	Pass and Repass only.
11.	3974 Pacific Coast Highway, Faria Tract	Lateral	To Seawall	50 ft.	Yes	No	Private	Owner	Pass and Repass only.
12.	Emma Wood State Beach West of 101, 3 miles north of Ventura	Park	100 ac.	16,000 ft.	Yes	Yes	State Parks	State Parks	

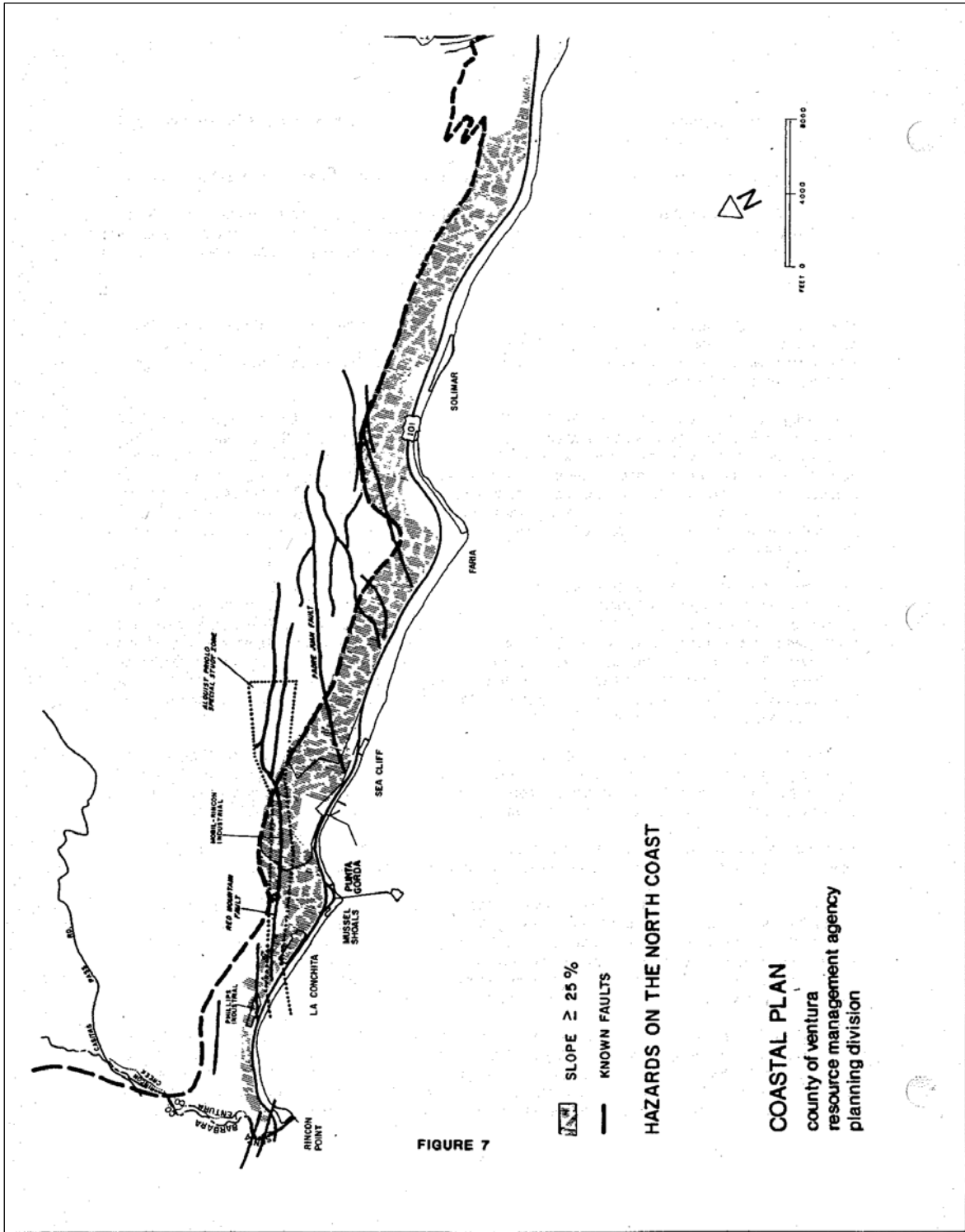
Footnotes:

\* Keyed to Local Coastal Area Plan Land Use Map for the North Coast, Figure 16.2 (Separate Map) 6/20/89

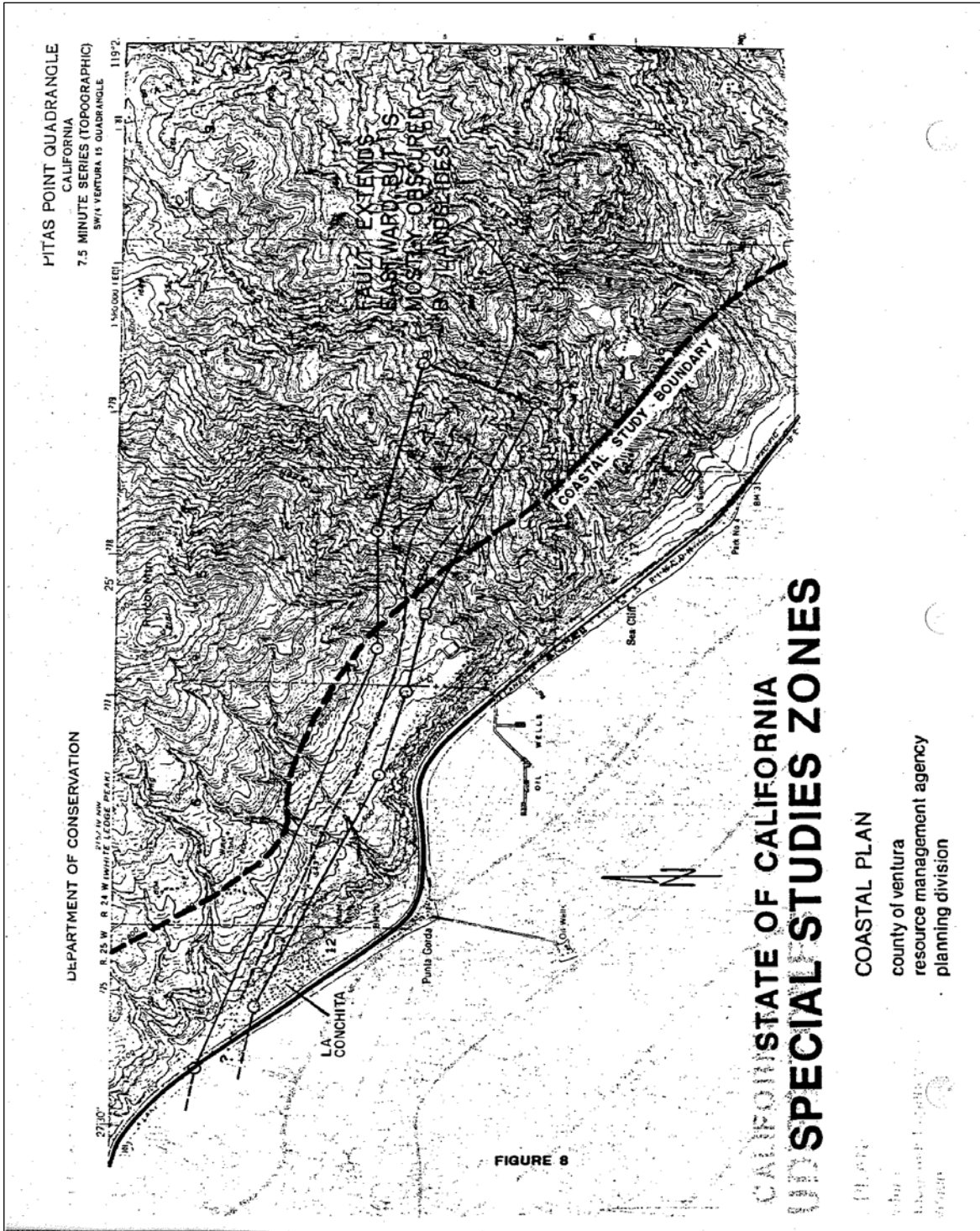
**Figure 6**  
**Agricultural Preserves and Prime Soils on the North Coast**



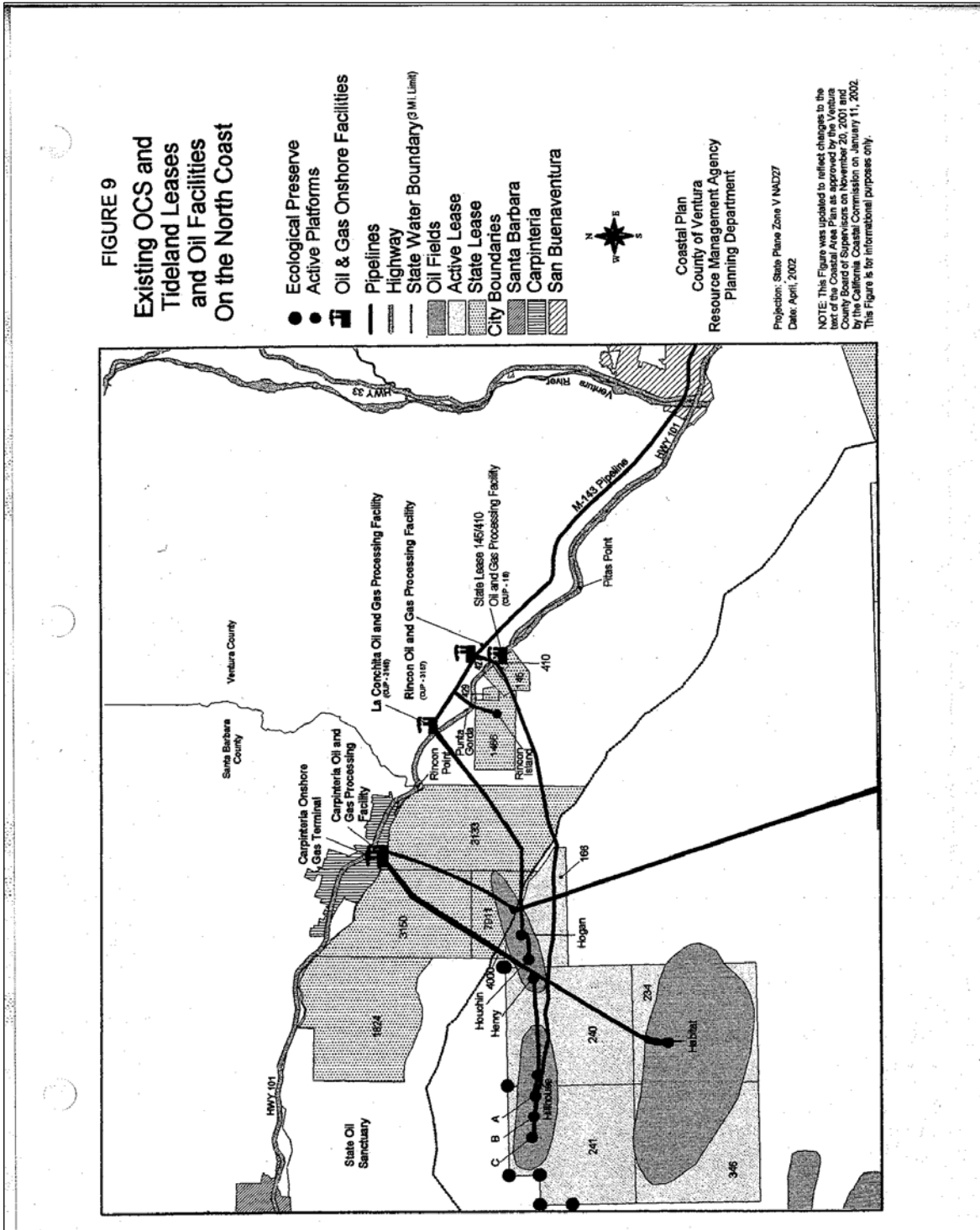
**Figure 7  
Hazards on the North Coast**



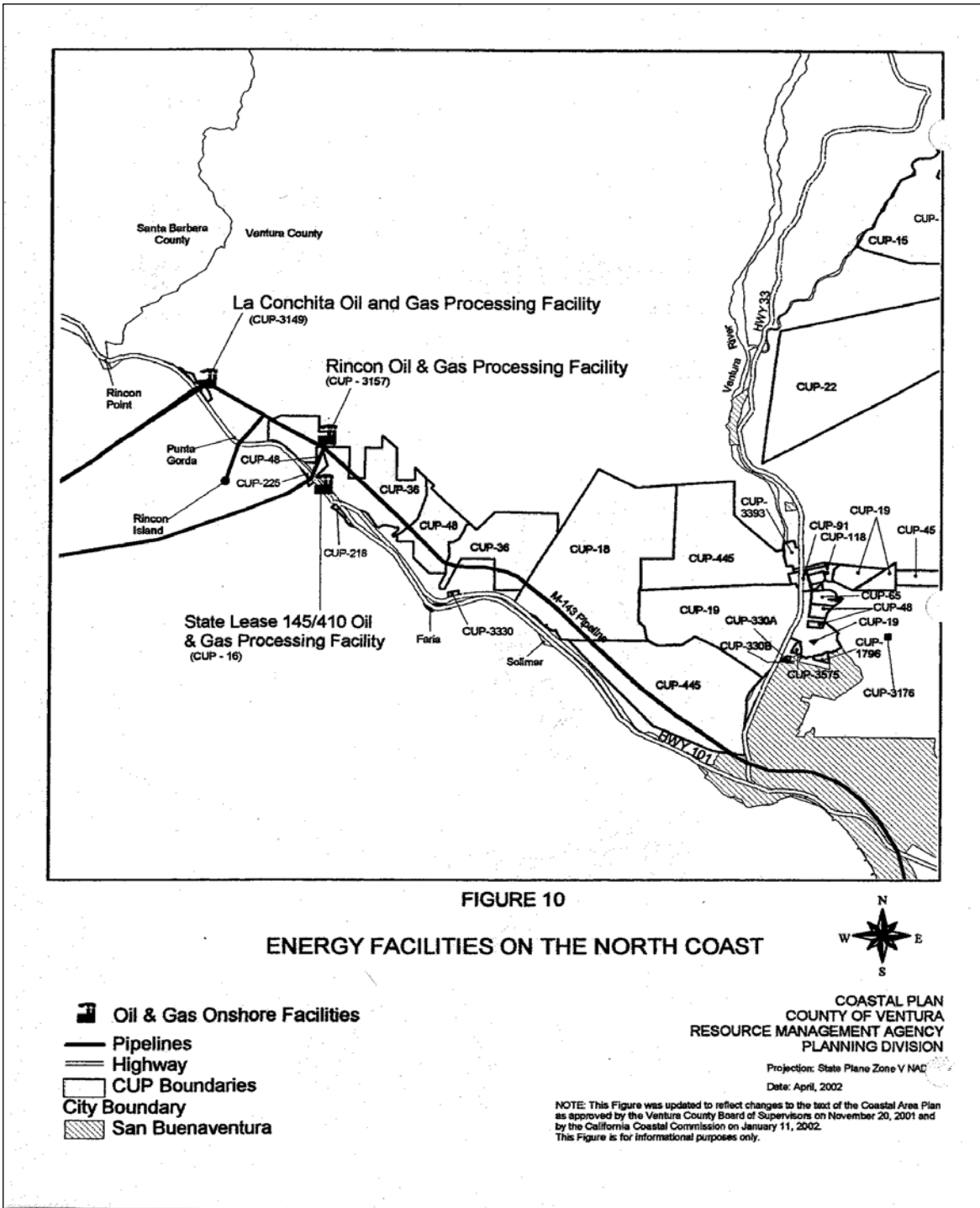
**Figure 8  
Pitas Point Quadrangle (Portion) Special Studies Zones**



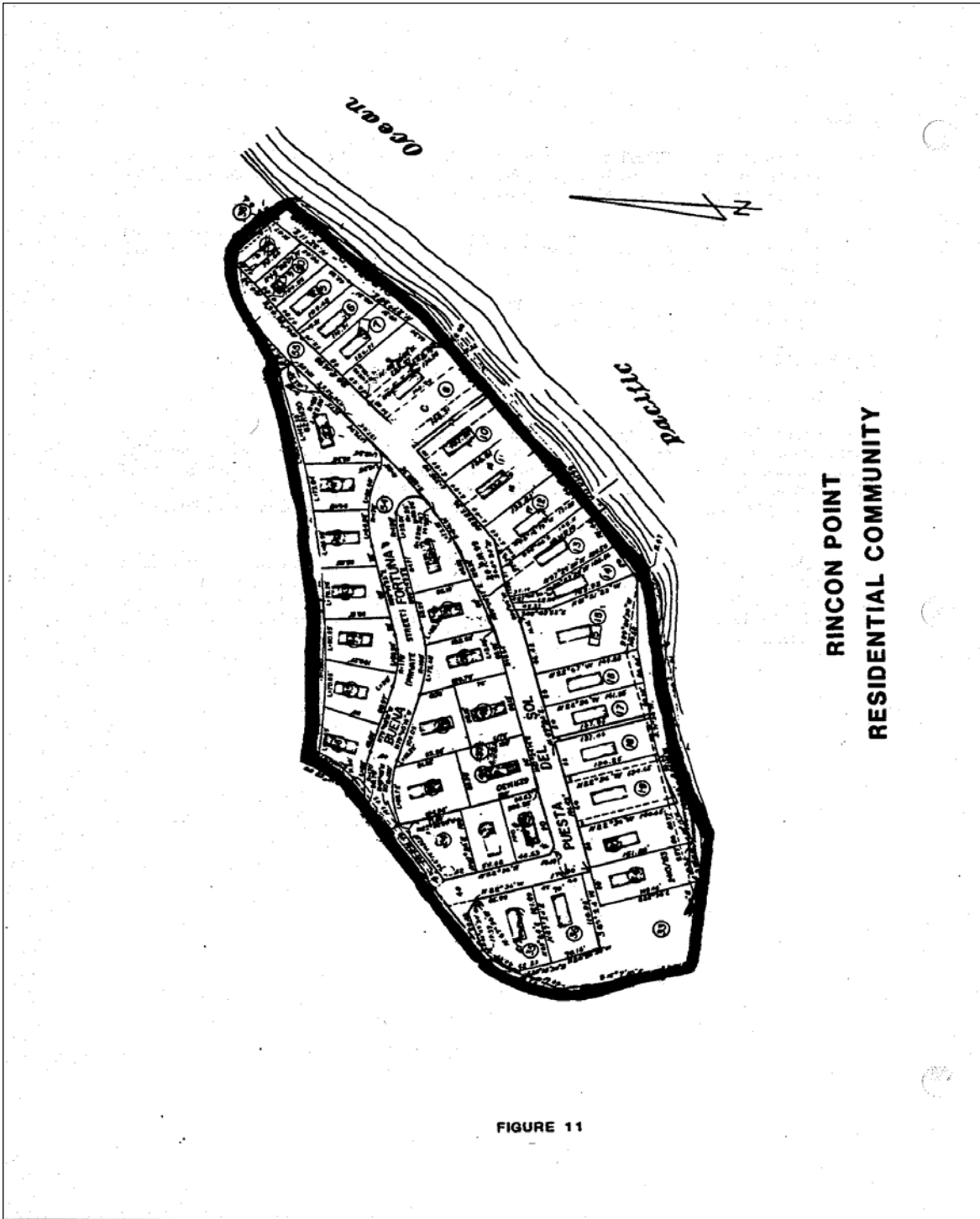
**Figure 9**  
**Existing OCS and Tideland Leases and Oil Facilities**  
**on the North Coast**



# Figure 10 Energy Facilities on the North Coast



**Figure 11**  
**Rincon Point Residential Community**

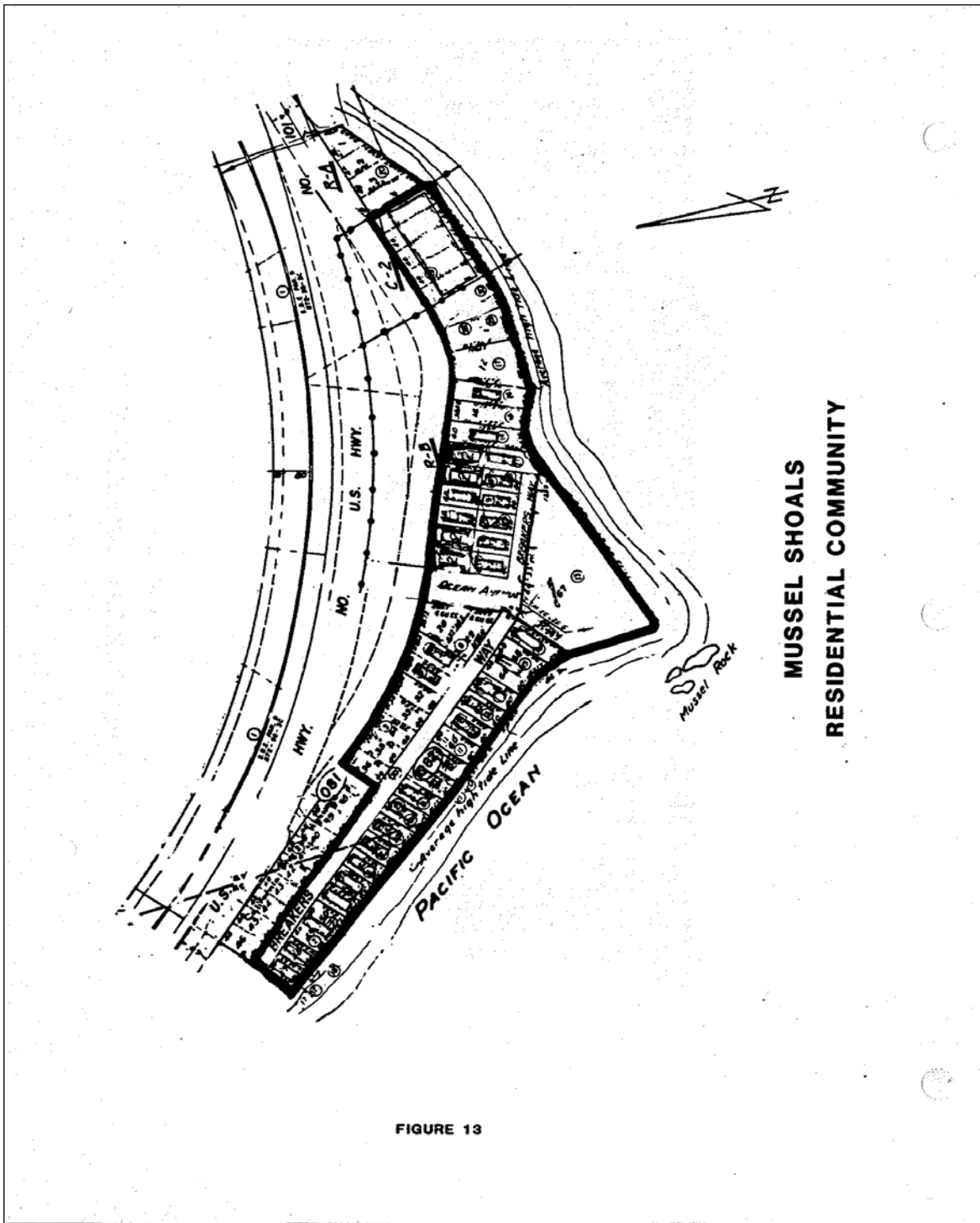


**FIGURE 11**

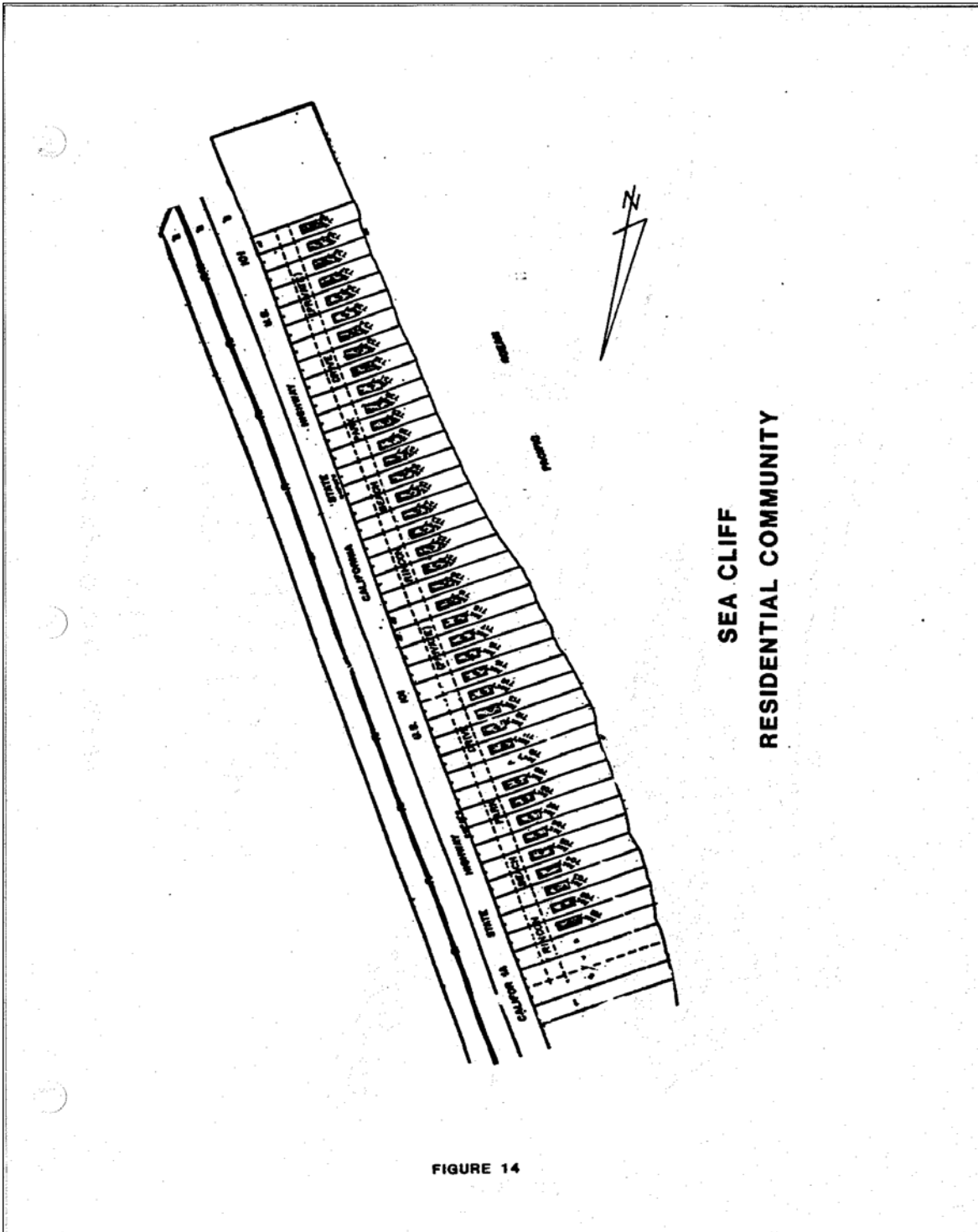




**Figure 13**  
**Mussel Shoals Residential Community**



**Figure 14**  
**Sea Cliff Residential Community**



**FIGURE 14**

**Figure 15**  
**Faria Residential Community**

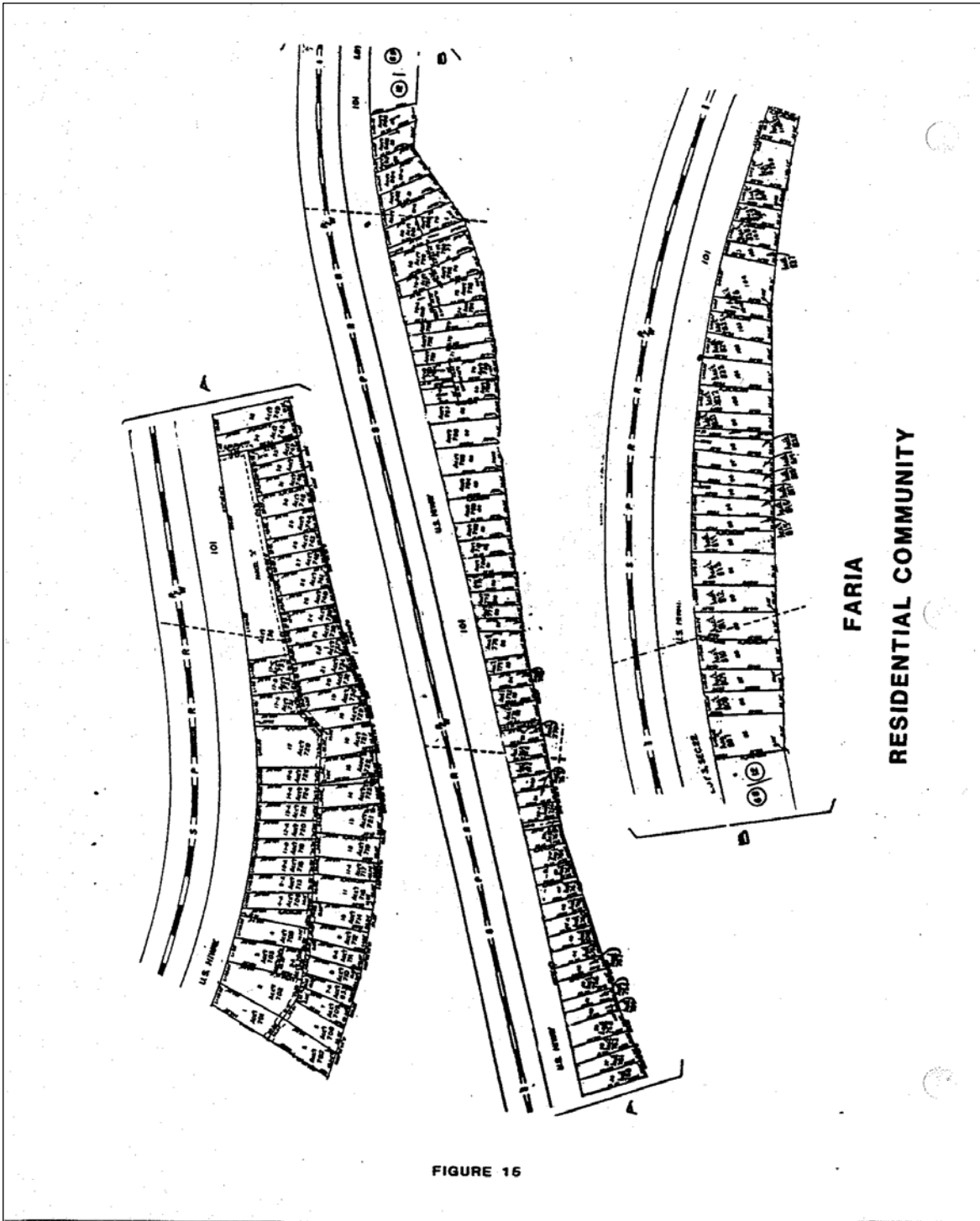
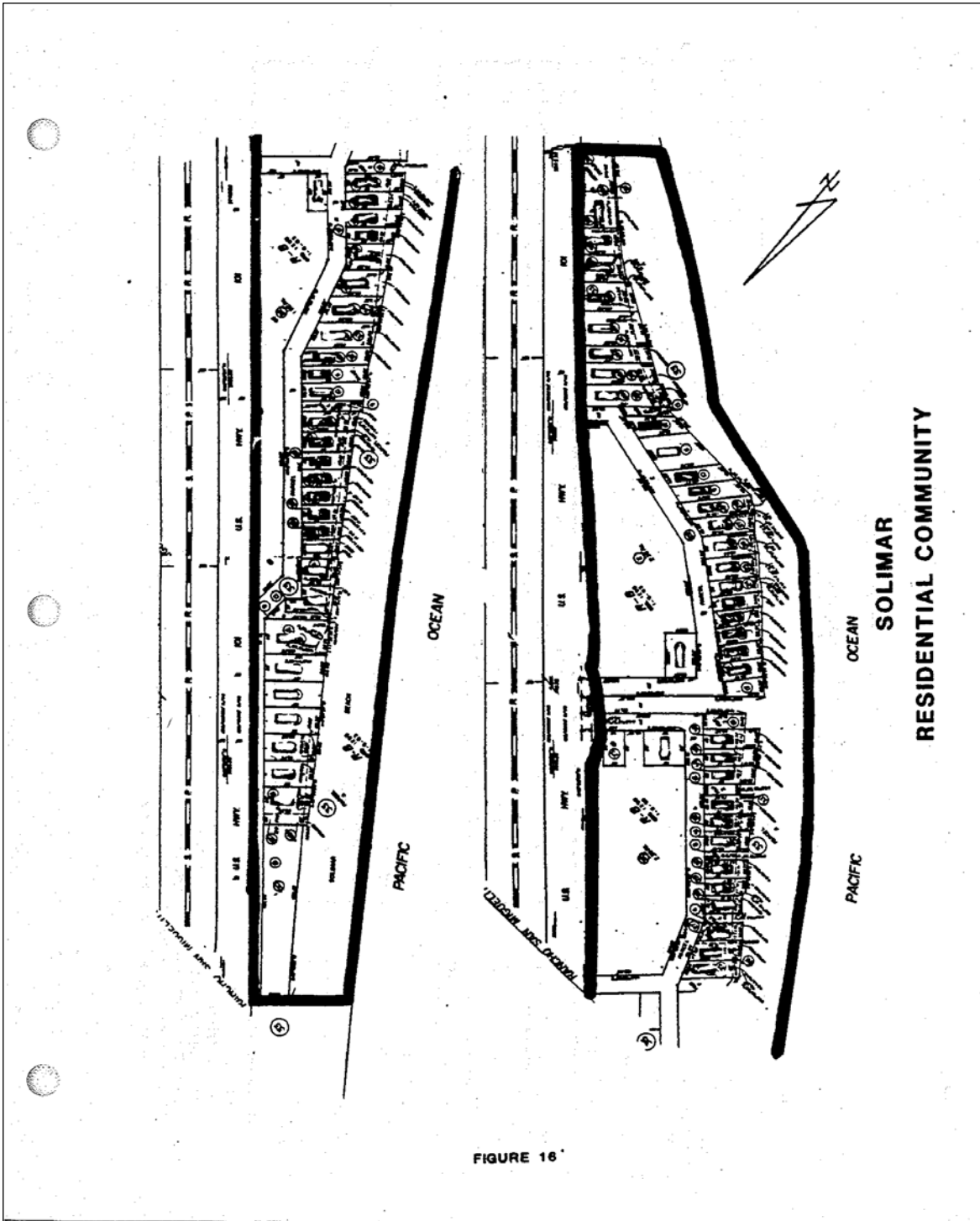


Figure 16  
Solimar Residential Community



**Figure 16.1  
Summary Table Building Intensity/Population Density Standards (North Coast Area)**

**Open Space/Agriculture/Recreation**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Maximum Intensity (DU/Ac) <sup>1</sup>	Dwelling Units	Average Pop/DU <sup>2</sup>	Population	Average Population Density (Persons/Acre)
Open Space	1,590.1	5% <sup>3</sup>	0.100	159	1.68	267	0.168
Agriculture	2,620.4	5% <sup>3</sup>	0.025	65	1.68	109	0.042
Recreation	112.2	5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,322.7</b>			<b>224</b>		<b>376</b>	

**Residential**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Maximum Intensity (DU/Ac) <sup>1</sup>	Dwelling Units	Average Pop/DU <sup>2</sup>	Population	Average Population Density (Persons/Acre)
Low	12.6	29%	2.00	25	1.68	42	3.33
Medium	10.2	42%	6.00	61	1.68	102	10.00
High	79.5	65%	36.00	2,862	1.68	4,808	60.48
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>102.3</b>			<b>2,948</b>		<b>4,952</b>	

**Commercial/Industrial**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Projected Floor Area (X 1,000 SF)	Average Number Of Employees Per 1,000 SF	Employees	Average Employees/Acre
Commercial	0.6	40%	13.1	1.0	13	21.67
Industrial	361.2	40%	238.3	2.0	476	1.32
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>361.8</b>		<b>251.4</b>		<b>489</b>	

12/10/96

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Excludes second dwelling units per Section 65852.2 of the State Government Code.

<sup>2</sup> Year 2000 Forecast for Ventura Nongrowth Area.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes greenhouses, hothouses, and the like. For nonconforming lots, maximum building coverage shall be 2,500 square feet, plus 1 square foot for each 22.3 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet.

N/A - Not Applicable.

**Figure 16.2**  
**Local Coastal Area Plan – Land Use Map: North Coast**

[Click here to view](#)

# The Central Coast

## Area Summary

The Central Coast is the sandy edge of the extensive Oxnard Plain. The cities of San Buenaventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme share 16.5 miles of coast with agriculture, sand dune, fresh and saltwater marsh ecosystems, Southern California Edison's Mandalay and Ormond Beach power plants, wastewater treatment plants, harbors, and a variety of heavy industry and oil operations.

Unincorporated lands within the Central Coast are varied. Several parcels are surrounded by the City of San Buenaventura just north of the Santa Clara River. Further south (down Harbor Boulevard), inland from McGrath Lake and Mandalay Beach are approximately 1,400 acres of unincorporated land used for agriculture and/or oil production. Edison Canal, which separates the agricultural land, supplies water to the Edison Mandalay generating station.

Further south is Hollywood Beach, an unincorporated beach residential area zoned "R-B-H" (Residential Beach Harbor - minimum lot size 1,750 square feet) with some "C-C" (Coastal Commercial) development. The City of Oxnard borders the beach community on three sides. The adjacent sandy beach has been designated Hollywood Beach County Park.

Interposed between Hollywood Beach and Silver Strand is Channel Islands Harbor. Jurisdiction over the harbor is shared between the County and the City of Oxnard. Silver Strand, including Hollywood-by-the-Sea, is another unincorporated beach residential area. On the north side of Silver Strand is the City of Oxnard, while on the south and east is the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center, which is within the City of Port Hueneme. Zoning is also primarily "R-B-H" with a limited amount of "C-C". The County's Silver Strand Beach Park extends the length of the shoreline and has public parking facilities at each end.

Remaining unincorporated segments of the Central Coast are found at Ormond Beach east of Perkins Road, south of Hueneme Road, and near the southernmost boundary of Oxnard's city limits. While some heavy and light industrial development has occurred within the City of Oxnard, the unincorporated land remains open and is used for agriculture.

Much of the unincorporated lands in Ormond Beach contain portions of coastal wetlands that include saltmarsh and freshwater ponds. Endangered species closely identified with saltmarshes have been verified in the vicinity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. Further south are two waterfowl ponds. One of the ponds, the privately-owned Ventura County Game Preserve, zoned "C-O-S" (Coastal Open Space), is partially within the County's coastal zone. The Point Mugu Game Preserve, also privately owned, is outside the coastal zone. The Point Mugu Ponds are recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a highly valuable waterfowl wintering habitat (USFWS 1979).

## Policies

1. All zoning and development shall be in conformance with the Land Use maps (Figures 26.2 and 26.3), which have been designed to reflect these goals and policies. The Zoning Compatibility Matrix ([Figure 33](#)) indicates the zones which are consistent with the various land use categories.
2. In case of reasonable doubt as to the precise alignment of land use boundaries on the Land Use Plan Maps, the Planning Director is authorized to determine the precise boundary locations. Such determinations must comply with the goals and policies which are set forth in the written text of the Coastal Area Plan. Determinations shall be graphically portrayed on the adopted Land Use Plan Map. In granting the Planning Director such powers, it is understood that any interested party may appeal the Director's decision to the Planning Commission and subsequently to the Board of Supervisors (Ventura County Ordinance Code, Division 8, Chapter 1.1, Article 11) and, upon exhaustion of these local appeals, as follows:

- a. The dispute or question of determination may be appealed to the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. The Executive Director shall expediently transmit to the interested parties his or her determination as to the precise boundary location.
- b. Where the Executive Director's determination is not in accordance with the local government determination, the Commission shall hold a hearing for purposes of determining the appropriate boundaries for the area. The Commission shall schedule the hearing on the determination for the next Commission meeting consistent with its Administrative Regulations Section 13569.

## Environmentally Sensitive Habitats

### A. Coastal Dunes

Remnants of the once-extensive Mandalay coastal dune complex are scattered throughout the Central Coast. Viable dunes within the County's jurisdiction are found near McGrath Lake. Approximately 80 acres are within the unincorporated area, while the rest of the complex falls within the City of Oxnard's jurisdiction ([Figure 17](#)).

The dunes surround the lake, effectively sheltering the rare freshwater habitat from wind and erosion. The lake is used by numerous water birds, and the area supports a variety of other coastal species.

Some of the unincorporated area has been identified for potential acquisition by the California Department of Parks and Recreation as part of McGrath State Beach. The active West Montalvo oil field extends in part beneath the dunes. Oil wells and a Chevron Oil Company processing plant are next to the proposed acquisition. The unincorporated dune area seaward of Harbor Boulevard is designated "Open Space" in this Coastal Plan. Landward of Harbor Boulevard, the dune area is designated "Agriculture" in this Coastal Plan.

#### Objective

To protect the County's coastal sand dunes, their communities, and the processes that form them from degradation and erosion.

#### Policies

1. Coastal sand dunes on County unincorporated land are designated "Open Space" or "Agriculture," in this Coastal Plan as well as "Open Space" or "Agricultural" on the County's General Plan Land Use Map in order to provide for maximum coastal dune protection.
2. Activities leading to degradation, erosion or destruction of coastal dunes will not be allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, use by off-road vehicles, sand mining, filling, or dumping.
3. The County encourages acquisition of the McGrath Lake dunes by State Parks, and the designation of the area as a State Preserve.
4. The County supports less-than-fee acquisitions by the State as a means of preservation, such as open space easements and tax incentives.

### B. Wetlands

Only small portions of the Central Coast's once-extensive wetlands remain today. One of the best remnants is the mouth of the Santa Clara River, which encompasses a variety of habitats with coastal flora and fauna including approximately 60 acres of pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*) marsh. The endangered Belding's savannah sparrow, the rare California black rail, the endangered light-footed clapper rail, and the endangered California least tern have all been observed in the area.



West of Harbor Boulevard, the Santa Clara River is under the jurisdiction of the Cities of San Buenaventura and Oxnard, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The part of the river within McGrath State Beach has been designated State Preserve. East of Harbor Boulevard another portion of the wetland is within County jurisdiction ([Figure 18](#)) and it is zoned "C-O-S" (Coastal Open Space, 10 acre minimum).

McGrath Lake is immediately south of McGrath State Beach and west of Harbor Boulevard ([Figure 19](#)). While it is a natural freshwater lake, probably formed in association with the sand dunes, most of its water now comes from agricultural runoff. The freshwater marsh around the edge attracts a variety of birds and small animals. The northern end of the lake and the land surrounding it are within the County and zoned "C-O-S". A large portion of the wetland is within the City of Oxnard's jurisdiction. Near the southern end of the lake ([Figure 18](#)) is another segment of County land zoned "C-O-S". The area is designated "Open Space" in this Coastal (Area) Plan and in the County's General Plan.

South of Port Hueneme and immediately north of Mugu Lagoon is Ormond Beach, historically the site of some of the most extensive wetlands in the County. Today there are approximately 100 acres of saltmarsh remaining. Most of the marsh is within the City of Oxnard's jurisdiction. Historically, the area was part of an extensive tidal marsh. According to saltmarsh experts, the marsh is still in relatively viable condition as characterized by dense stands of pickleweed and the presence of a variety of characteristic Southern California saltmarsh species. Few scientific studies have been done on the area. However, the endangered California least tern and Belding's savannah sparrow have been observed in the marsh. Additionally, this is one of the few areas in Southern California with an intact dune-transition zone-marsh system (R. Vogl, C. Onuf, pers. comm.).

Another wetland segment south of the Edison Plant is within the City of Oxnard's jurisdiction. The remnant tidal saltmarsh is also being considered for acquisition and restoration by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. It is used by the off-road vehicles and suffering soil compaction and vegetation damage. In their 1979 study, "A Concept Plan for Waterfowl Wintering Habitat Preservation," the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service point out that the greatest opportunities for maintaining waterfowl populations along the Pacific Flyway would be in the restoration or enhancement of diked, formerly tidal, marsh. The marsh areas at Ormond Beach may afford such opportunities.

In "Recommended Coastal Properties for Public Acquisition" the California Coastal Commission (1976) placed Ormond Beach wetlands in its second priority group for acquisition: "Recreational sites that serve urban populations and environmental resource areas that need protection or restoration.

The privately-owned Ventura County Game Preserve, another freshwater wetland now artificially maintained, is partially located in the coastal zone.

## **Objective**

To protect wetlands in the Central Coast and encourage their acquisition, restoration or enhancement by the State to perpetuate their value to onshore and nearshore coastal life, and to the people of California.

## **Policies**

1. All projects on land either in a designated wetland, or within 100 feet of such designation, shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade the viability of the wetland. The purposes of such projects shall be limited to those in Section 30233(a) of the Coastal Act.
2. Where any dike or fill development is permitted in wetlands, mitigation measures will, at a minimum, include those listed in Section 30607.1 of the Coastal Act. Other reasonable measures will also be required as determined by the County to carry out the provisions of Sections 30233 (b and c) of the Coastal Act.

3. Channelization, dams, and other river or stream alterations will be limited to:
  - a. Necessary water supply projects.
  - b. Flood control projects to secure public safety in the flood plain when there are no other feasible protection methods.
  - c. Projects necessary for protection and enhancement of wetlands habitats.

Such permitted projects will incorporate feasible mitigation measures.

4. Habitat mitigation will include, but not be limited to, timing of the project to avoid disruption of breeding and/or nesting of birds and fishes, minimal removal of native vegetation, reclamation or enhancement as specified in the California Coastal Commission "Interpretive Guidelines for Wetlands" and a plan for spoils consistent with the following policy.
5. Dredge spoils should not be used for beach replenishment unless it can be shown that the process would not adversely impact coastal processes or habitats; such as intertidal reefs, grunion spawning grounds, or marsh. The California Department of Fish and Game, as well as other appropriate agencies, will be consulted when spoils deposition on a beach is under consideration.
6. The County supports formal recognition of the value of the Ormond Beach saltmarshes and their enhancement or restoration as such by the landowners, California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and other appropriate agencies. Appropriate scientific experts and the current literature should be drawn upon in any reclamation or enhancement attempts.
7. The landowners and appropriate agencies, including the Coastal Commission, the Coastal Conservancy, and State Parks should work to limit off-road vehicle access to the Ormond Beach marsh areas, including (but not limited to) fencing of areas.
8. Recreation in the Central Coast saltmarshes will include resource compatible uses such as nature observation, scientific study, educational trips, and possibly fishing. Appropriate public agencies will provide the public with off-site, as well as on-site, interpretive opportunities within existing programs as feasible. As funds become available, new programs should be developed.
9. The County will work in close cooperation with other agencies and jurisdictions to provide comprehensive and biologically sound management of coastal wetlands.

## **Archaeological and Paleontological Resources**

### **A. Archaeology**

The Ventura County coast is archaeologically and culturally significant to a variety of groups. The beach and marsh areas of the Central Coast provided native residents with food and a variety of usable materials such as hematite. Several sites are recorded and registered on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. It is thought that an Indian trail traversed Ormond Beach, and that offshore areas contain early human sites. The Ormond Beach-Port Hueneme segments of the coast are believed to have been launching sites for canoe trips to the Channel Islands.

Intensive field reconnaissance is called for on the Central Coast. Recent development has obliterated a large number of archaeological sites and the heritage they contained.

#### **Objective**

To recognize that archaeological sites in the County's coastal zone are significant to an understanding of human and environmental history; to protect Central Coast archaeological sites from destruction to the maximum extent feasible.

## **Policies**

1. Based upon the location of the proposed project, Public Works may require the following work to be performed as a permit condition:
  - a. High sensitivity area - Field survey and test pits.
  - b. Medium to high sensitivity area - Field survey.
  - c. Moderate to negligible - No field work necessary.

For projects located in an area (a) or (b), the applicant will have a qualified archaeologist assess the development impacts and cultural significance of the site. As may be appropriate, the Northridge Archaeological Research Center at Cal State Northridge should be contacted for a Native American approved Monitor to observe and aid the work during excavation of auger holes, test pits, trenches or exposures (see Appendix 2).

2. Human burials should not be removed from the ground without specific authorization and under direction of Native American Monitors or Native American approved archaeologists.
3. Where significant archaeological resources have been identified on a site, a qualified archaeologist will be present, at the applicant's expense, during all excavating, grading, and other earth-moving activities.
4. Location of all coastal zone archaeological sites will be kept confidential to avert disturbance or destruction.
5. Archaeological, historical and ethnobotanical interpretation of native peoples in Ventura County should be incorporated into existing interpretive programs at public facilities as feasible, and into future interpretive programs as funding becomes available.
6. A summary of the qualifications of the archaeologist who performs the applicant's study will be presented as part of the rest of the information required.
7. Where new development would adversely impact archaeological resources, reasonable mitigation measures will be required. Such measures may involve covering the site, moving structure(s) to another site on the parcel, or not constructing on the site, depending on the severity of the impacts and the significance of the resources.
8. If previously unknown resources are discovered after construction starts, all work shall cease and the Public Works Agency shall be notified. After review of the site by the Agency, or other qualified personnel, additional reasonable mitigation measures may be required.

## **B. Paleontology**

The geological and biological history of the Ventura County coast is significant. The coastal zone contains areas with fossils that are among the best in Southern California. (B. Welton, pers. comm.). Records in the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History show extensive fossil sites in Ventura County. The coastal zone has yielded many "type" specimens, used as the example specimen against which all other finds of the same animal are compared. Groups of fossils are currently being used to help geologists unravel patterns of seismic movement in the area (J. Valentine, pers. comm.).

Unlike the archaeological sites, paleontological sites are not necessarily destroyed by grading and construction. In fact, grading will often expose additional rock layers and increase the potential for new finds.

## Objective

To recognize the current and potential significance of coastal fossils to geological and biological knowledge of the County, as well as the popular interest in fossils; to preserve significant paleontological sites to the fullest extent possible and to take steps to preserve the information a site may yield.

## Policies

1. Based upon the location of a proposed project on the Paleontological Sensitivity Map, to be prepared by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, an evaluation of impacts on paleontological resources will be a consideration in the environmental review process.
2. Significant fossil discoveries on-site will be reported to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History or to other appropriate scientists to ensure preservation of the information a site may yield.
3. Consider adopting guidelines similar to those developed by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History for the City of Los Angeles as paleontology becomes part of the environmental review process.
4. Fossil discoveries will also be reported to the County Cultural Heritage Board to ensure maintenance of the information in Ventura County.
5. Where new development would adversely impact paleontological resources, reasonable mitigation measures will be required. Such measures may involve converting the site, moving the structure(s) to another site on the parcel, or not constructing on the site, depending on the severity of the impacts and the significance of the resources.
6. If previously unknown resources are discovered after construction starts, all work shall cease and the Public Works Agency shall be notified. After review of the site by the Agency, or other qualified personnel, additional reasonable mitigation measures may be required.

## Recreation and Access

### A. Recreation

The Central Coast is interspersed with a variety of developed, accessible recreation areas and has potential for more. [Figure 21](#) shows these areas. Beach parks have been developed in the cities of San Buenaventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation tentatively will purchase about 28 acres just north of Southern California Edison's Mandalay Beach Generating Station, to be encompassed by McGrath State Beach. This purchase would connect McGrath State Beach with the undeveloped 80 acre Mandalay State Beach Park north of West Fifth Street (both McGrath State Beach and Mandalay State Beach Park are within the City of Oxnard). It would also provide access to the scenic alternate bicycle/hiking route along Oxnard's beach road near the Mandalay Generating Station.

The two County parks near Channel Islands Harbor, Hollywood Beach and Silver Strand Beach are for day use. Silver Strand is 41 acres in size and has parking lots at both ends. Hollywood Beach County Park includes 50 acres with limited off-street parking.

Current recreational opportunities on the Central Coast are plentiful, and will expand as McGrath State Beach grows, and plans are fully implemented for Mandalay County Beach Park, Ventura Harbor, Channel Islands Harbor and Oxnard Shores.

## **Objective**

To provide direction to the State, and to local agencies as appropriate, for improving and increasing public recreational opportunities on the Central Coast consistent with public health and safety, and the protection of private rights.

## **Policies**

### ***McGrath State Beach Park***

1. The County will:
  - a. Support the State Park's policies and programs.
  - b. Support logical extensions of McGrath State Beach.
  - c. Encourage well-designed facilities expansion for camping as long as all possible environmental mitigations are incorporated.
  - d. Encourage the designation of McGrath Lake and the surrounding dunes as a State Preserve.

### ***Mandalay County Beach Park***

2. Every effort will be made to preserve the dune formations on the site.
3. Adequate on-site parking will be provided consistent with proposed park use.

### ***Hollywood Beach and Silver Strand Beach***

4. The County will coordinate with the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, and, as necessary, the U.S. Navy in an attempt to help alleviate the traffic problems.
5. Walkways and bikeways around Channel Islands Harbor to link Hollywood and Silver Strand Beaches should be provided as funds are available.
6. No parking lots, walkways or bikeways, or structures other than public restrooms, and lifeguard stations should be placed on the beach areas to maintain the natural state of the beaches.

### ***Ormond Beach***

7. Encourage the California Department of Parks and Recreation's currently proposed acquisition with the County portion of the marsh included.
8. Encourage State Parks to consider to Ormond Beach site between Halaco and the Southern California Edison power plant for acquisition with adjacent segments of saltmarsh for enhancement.

## **B. Access**

The only unincorporated areas in the Central Coast sub-area actually on the shoreline are Silver Strand Beach and Hollywood Beach, a total of about 7,400 linear feet of beach frontage. Both beach parks are owned by Ventura County and are about 90 acres in size. There is adequate pedestrian access to the beaches via numerous stub-end public streets. Lateral access along the beach is also not a problem since the property is County owned. [Figure 22](#) is an access inventory of the Central Coast.

The major problems are a lack of off-street public parking, and the inability to accommodate visitor traffic in the residential areas. The streets are generally narrow with very limited on-street public parking and no public transportation is available to these areas. In addition to these physical constraints, there are financial and jurisdictional constraints. The only areas where the Silver Strand community could expand are owned by the federal government (U.S. Navy). Attempts to purchase or lease Navy property have proven generally too costly. Also, studies are now being conducted regarding the feasibility of annexation to either or both the

cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme. There is also no system of pedestrian walkways linking the beach areas with the Harbor.

### **Objective**

To maximize public access to the Central Coast sub-area consistent with private property rights, natural resources and processes, and the Coastal Act; to maintain existing access, and seek new access as funds become available.

### **Vertical**

1. For all new development between the first public road and the ocean, granting of an easement to allow vertical access to the mean high tide line shall be mandatory unless:
  - a. Adequate public access is already available within a reasonable distance of the site measured along the shoreline, or
  - b. Access at the site would result in unmitigable adverse impacts on areas designated as "sensitive habitats" or tidepools by the land use plan, or
  - c. Findings are made, consistent with Section 30212 of the Coastal Act, that access is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or that agriculture would be adversely affected, or
  - d. The parcel is too narrow to allow for an adequate vertical access corridor without adversely affecting the privacy of the property owner, or

### **Lateral**

2. For all new development between the first public road and the ocean, granting of lateral easements to allow for public access along the shoreline shall be mandatory unless subsection (a) below is found. In coastal areas where the bluffs exceed five feet in height, all beach seaward of the base of the bluff shall be dedicated. In coastal areas where the bluffs are less than five feet, the area to be dedicated shall be determined by the County. At a minimum, the dedicated easement shall be adequate to allow for lateral access during the periods of high tide. In no case shall the dedicated easement be required to be closer than 10 feet to a residential structure. In addition, all fences, no trespassing signs, and other obstructions that may limit public lateral access shall be removed as a condition of development approval.
  - a. Findings are made, consistent with Section 30212 of the Coastal Act that access is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or that agriculture would be adversely affected.

### **Sensitive Habitats**

3. The applicant of a proposed recreational facility in, or adjacent to, areas designated "sensitive habitats" shall develop a management program to control the kinds, intensities, and locations of uses to preserve the habitat resources to maximum extent feasible. This program shall be part of development approval.

### **General**

4. In accordance with Sec. 30214(a), the time, place, and manner of access will depend on individual facts and circumstances, including topographic and site characteristics, the capacity of the site to sustain use at the intensity proposed, the proximity to adjacent residential uses, the privacy of adjacent owners, and the feasibility to provide for litter collection.
5. In accordance with Sec. 30214(b), the requirement of access shall be reasonable and equitable, balancing the rights of the individual property owner and the public.

### **McGrath State Beach Park**

6. Support redesign of the entrance to McGrath State Beach to augment access and to improve traffic flow within the park.
7. Support access limitations to certain areas as appropriate to maintain ecosystem viability.

### **Hollywood Beach/Silver Strand Beach**

8. Coordinate with the appropriate agencies to help alleviate traffic and circulation problems, and provide additional public parking. New public parking facilities should be located outside residential areas due to the narrowness of existing roadways and conflicts with residential circulation.
9. Provide pedestrian walkways and bikeways around Channel Islands Harbor to link Hollywood and Silver Strand Beaches when funding is available.

## **Agriculture**

There are five major agricultural areas wholly or partially within the Central Coast. According to the 1978 Assessor's land use data and an on-site survey, they total approximately 1,500 acres. Some of the parcels are split by the coastal zone boundary. Only those areas estimated to be in the coastal zone are included in this discussion ([Figure 23](#)).

Most of the Central Coast agricultural lands contain Class I and Class II soils as identified by the U.S. Soil Conservation Survey. Cultivation of row crops is the predominant agricultural use, although some greenhouse and dry crop farming takes place. Approximately 350 acres, or 23 percent of the agricultural land, have been placed in agricultural preserves under Land Conservation Act contracts. Area descriptions from north to south follow:

### **I. Preble Lands (Non-Preserve)**

The Preble sub-area includes 62 acres of row and truck crops, located immediately north of the 101 Freeway and bounded on the west and north by the corporate limits of the City of San Buenaventura. This area is broken into four parcels; 44 acres, 13 acres, 3 acres, and 2 acres in size, respectively. All parcels contain prime soils.

This area is zoned "C-A" (Coastal Agricultural). The Preble area is within the San Buenaventura Area of Interest and is designated "Agricultural" on the County's General (Plan) Land Use Map as well as in this Coastal Plan. The City of San Buenaventura Land Use Element designates the site for "Planned Mixed Use Development" for Phase I - first priority development. Poor access to the area is the major development constraint at this time.

### **II. Olivas Lands**

Immediately south of the Preble area, extending to the Olivas Golf Course, are the Olivas agricultural lands. The area consists of six parcels (25, 32, 15, 35, 130 and 120 acres in size). U.S. Highway 101 separates the Preble area from the Olivas area.

Prior to construction of the freeway, parcels in these two areas were merged, forming a continuous stretch of prime agricultural land. The Olivas sub-area includes approximately 355 acres of row and truck crops. Approximately 120 acres of this area are in agricultural preserve.

The County General Plan designates this area as "Agricultural". The City of San Buenaventura General Plan designates the area as "Agriculture" through 2010.

### **III. McGrath Agricultural Lands**

The unincorporated McGrath agricultural lands extend from the Santa Clara River on the north, to Wooley Road on the south, east of Harbor Boulevard. Approximately 883 acres are in the coastal zone. Of these, approximately 228 acres are in agricultural preserve under the Land Conservation Act. Zoning for the McGrath agricultural land includes:

- "C-O-S" = Coastal Open Space, 10 acre minimum lot size,
- "C-O-S-40Ac" = Coastal Open Space, 40 acre minimum lot size, and
- "C-A" = Coastal Agricultural, 40 acre minimum lot size.

All agricultural lands in the McGrath area are designated "Open Space" in the General Plan and in this Coastal Area Plan.

Between Fifth Street and Wooley Road is a 219 acre parcel of row and truck crops that is designated "Agricultural" in the County General Plan. This parcel is within the City of Oxnard Area of Interest, and is phased for development after 1990 by the City's General Plan.

#### **IV. Other Ownerships**

Located between Teal Club Road and Doris Avenue, west of Victoria Avenue, and adjoining the McGrath agricultural lands are two parcels partially within the coastal zone. The two parcels (107 acres total) have been 19 acres within the coastal zone that are zoned "C-A" (Coastal Agricultural) and are designated "Open Space" in this Coastal Area Plan. The balance of the parcels' acreage is designated "Agricultural" in the County's General Plan and the acreage is zoned "A-E" (Agricultural Exclusive).

#### **V. Ormond Beach**

There are two areas of unincorporated lands within the coastal zone in the vicinity of Ormond Beach, totaling approximately 65 acres. The parcels have prime soils and some are currently in agricultural use. The 65 unincorporated acres are designated "Agricultural" (51 acres) and "Open Space" (14 acres) in this Coastal Area Plan. All other (55 acres) of Ormond Beach agricultural lands are within the jurisdiction of the City of Oxnard.

The California Legislature passed the California Aquaculture Development Act which amends Section 30411 of the Coastal Act by finding and declaring that "salt water or brackish water aquaculture is a coastal development use which should be encouraged to augment food supplies." Since aquaculture research and development is in its infancy, the potential for this kind of agriculture in the coastal zone should be recognized. The unincorporated areas of Ormond Beach may be suitable for aquaculture.

Minimum lot size in the "Agriculture" land use designation is 40 acres per single family dwelling. This 40 acre minimum is sufficient to maintain economic viability for various agricultural uses (irrigated cropping). Non-irrigated activities may require a larger acreage. Studies as to what constitutes a viable farm unit have been done by Ventura County Agricultural Committee (Appendix 4), Ventura County Assessor's Office and Ventura County Farm Bureau.

#### **Objective**

To preserve agricultural lands on the Central Coast to the maximum extent feasible.

#### **Policies**

1. The stable urban boundaries are:
  - a. The Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way north of U.S. Highway 101, in the Preble area, which divides the unincorporated County agricultural lands and the City of San Buenaventura's urban development.
  - b. Conterminous with the City of Oxnard's present city limit at Wooley Road and the Ormond Beach area.
2. Land divisions in, or adjacent to, agricultural areas, will not be allowed to affect agricultural productivity.
3. The Local Agency Foundation Commission should exclude lands designated "Agriculture" from any new or expanded service districts that could negatively impact agricultural viability.



4. New or expanded public works facilities will be sited or designed to mitigate environmental impacts on agricultural viability and open space lands.
5. As aquaculture develops it will be considered as a potential agricultural use in appropriate areas.

## Hazards

The Central Coast coastal zone is part of the Oxnard Plain, an alluvial fan created by the disposition of the sediments from the Ventura River to the north, the Santa Clara River and Calleguas Creek to the south.

The Oak Ridge Fault System extends beneath the Central Coast's unincorporated lands. The Oak Ridge Fault is a steep reverse, or thrust, fault with a trace that extends westward along the Santa Susana Mountains, and toward the ocean on the southern side of the Santa Clara River.

The Fault System probably contains many branching faults and is believed to be associated with one or more faults of similar trend present in the Santa Barbara Channel west of the Oxnard Plain. The System is over 50 miles long on the mainland and may extend for an equal or greater distance offshore. It is considered active.

The McGrath Fault branches off the Oak Ridge Fault zone to extend westward into the ocean near the McGrath lands south of the Santa Clara River.

The coastal zone area of the Oxnard Plain may be particularly prone to liquefaction. A special study completed after the February 21, 1978 Point Mugu earthquake indicates that the areas south of the Ventura River, generally between Gonzales Road and Oxnard Shores, have a moderate to low liquefaction potential, while the Preble and Olivas communities, the Santa Clara River area, and Channel Islands Harbor, extending southward to Arnold Road, have a moderate to high liquefaction potential.

The Central Coast is the most heavily populated area of the Ventura coastal zone. Several large industries and utilities are located there, including Southern California Edison Company's Mandalay and Ormond Beach power plants, Oxnard and San Buenaventura wastewater treatment plants, and three harbors. Liquefaction from severe ground shaking could cause major damage and disruption of services.

According to the County General Plan's Hazards Appendix, the area in the Central Coast coastal zone has a subsidence rate of between 0.01 and 0.05 feet per year. A single point located at Hueneme Road and Highway 1 has dropped about one and a half feet in twenty-one years. Records up until 1968 show a dozen bench marks that have settled a foot in a fifteen to twenty year period.

The Santa Clara River is a flood hazard to some human activities in the Central Coast. Major floods occurred along the Santa Clara River in 1938, 1943, 1958, 1965, 1969, 1978 and 1980. Floods could inundate the Olivas Golf Course, portions of the City of Ventura Sanitation Plant, McGrath State Beach, Harbor Boulevard, and a major portion of the McGrath agricultural lands.

The Coastal Act specified that new development is to be located away from hazardous areas. New flood control projects shall be limited to those necessary to protect existing development or for public safety (Section 30236). Flood plain management, rather than structural solutions alone in this sub-area may be required.

Existing uses in the coastal zone portion of the Santa Clara River conform to the "Open Space" designation of the County's General Plan and this Coastal Area Plan. No structures are located on the coastal portion of the flood plain, with the exception of the City of San Buenaventura Sanitation Plant facilities, and recreational structures at McGrath State Beach. The California Department of Parks and Recreation General Development Plan for McGrath State Department of Parks and Recreation General Development Plan for McGrath State Beach recommends relocating the State Beach structures to avoid flood impacts.

Maintenance of agriculture and open space (parks, recreation and habitat preservation) would promote proper flood plain management, and would further reduce potential flood damage to structural development.

The General Plan Hazards Appendix provides extensive information on various hazards, including fault zones, fire hazard areas, landslides, and flood plains. It is one of the principal documents consulted by Planning and the Public Works Agency when formulating an initial study on a proposed project to determine the need for an EIR. Should an EIR be required, the General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (Chapter 2) and Hazards Appendix are used in evaluating the various impacts of projects.

In addition to the environmental hazards on the Central Coast there is another unique hazard associated with development adjacent to certain areas of the Point Mugu Naval Air Station. Bunkers are located at certain areas on the base where magazines store explosive materials. Depending on the quantity of material, the Navy has computed a hazardous distance (QD radius) around the magazine where no development should take place. In addition, the runways contain "overrun areas" where no development should take place. [Figure 24](#) depicts this area, found within the Ventura County Game Preserve property.

### **Objective**

To protect public safety and property from natural and human hazards as provided in County ordinances.

### **Policies**

1. The County's General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (Chapter 2) and Hazards Appendix provide direction for geologic, seismic, flood and fire hazard avoidance.
2. The flood plain of the Santa Clara River will be limited to open space of agricultural uses to minimize flood hazard risk.
3. New development shall be sited and designed to minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazards.
4. All new development will be evaluated for its impacts to, and from, geologic hazards (including seismic safety, landslides, expansive soils, subsidence, etc.), flood hazards, and fire hazards. Feasible mitigation measures shall be required where necessary.
5. The County may require the preparation of a geologic report at the applicant's expense. Such report shall include feasible mitigation measures which will be used in the proposed development.
6. Structures for human habitation (regularly, habitually, or primarily occupied by humans) shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from an active fault. This setback may be increased when geologic conditions warrant.
7. New development shall be sited and designed so as not to cause or contribute to flood hazards, or lead to the expenditure of public funds for flood control works.

## **Beach Erosion**

Unincorporated areas of the Central Coast with beaches include Hollywood Beach and Silver Strand. According to the Department of Navigation and Ocean Development (1979), erosion at Hollywood Beach is significantly minimized by the jetty at the north entrance of Channel Islands Harbor (Appendix 5).

Erosion at Silver Strand is also slight. While the middle section of the beach is subject to erosion during periods of high tides and wave action, homes on the shoreline are protected from damage by bulldozed sand dikes.

Beach sections that become eroded are stabilized with sand replenishment by the Army Corps of Engineers as requested by the Ventura County Flood Control District as funds are available.

### **Objective**

To protect public safety and property from beach erosion as provided for in existing ordinances, and within the constraints of natural coastal processes.

### **Policies**

1. Proposed shoreline protective devices will only be approved and/or located in conformance with Coastal Act Sections 30235 and 30253.
2. All shoreline protective structures which alter natural shoreline processes will be designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline sand supply.
3. A building permit will be required for any construction and maintenance of protective shoreline structures, such as seawalls, jetties, revetment, groins, breakwaters and related arrangements.
4. The County's Building and Safety Division will routinely refer all permits for seawalls, revetments, groins, retaining walls, and pipeline outfalls to the Flood Control and Water Resources Division of the Public Works Agency to be evaluated not only for structural soundness, but environmental soundness as well whenever necessary. This includes a survey of potential environmental impacts, including (but not limited to) the project's effects on adjacent and downstream structures, net littoral drift, and downcoast beach profiles.
5. If the potential environmental impacts of the proposed structure are considered significant by the Public Works Agency, the applicant may be required to obtain an engineering report that indicates how those impacts will be mitigated.
6. Permitted structures under policies 1 through 4 will not interfere with public access to the shoreline.
7. During their scheduled dredging of Channel Islands Harbor, the Army Corps of Engineers is encouraged to replenish beaches with severe erosional losses consistent with environmental restraints on the deposition of dredge spoils.

## **Energy and Industrial Facilities**

Several industrial facilities for energy production are located on the Central Coast: 1) oil and gas and processing and distribution facilities; 2) electrical generating plants; and 3) marine terminals and storage tanks. Proposals have been made for expanding development of offshore oil and gas fields, related onshore facilities, and new electrical generating plants ([Figures 25](#) and [26](#)).

### **I. Oil and Gas Facilities**

The West Montalvo oil field is located on the Oxnard Plain immediately south of the Santa Clara River. It extends into the State Tidelands. Most of the West Montalvo field lies within the unincorporated areas of the County; however, portions in the vicinity of McGrath State Park and Mandalay Beach are in the corporate boundaries of the City of Oxnard. The onshore portion comprises approximately 80 percent of the proven acreage of the field. There are some directionally drilled wells in this field that produce from offshore by drilling under the ocean.

The onshore portion of the West Montalvo field consists of four leases: McGrath #4 lease; McGrath #5 lease; Patterson Ranch lease, Parcel 1 and Parcel 2. These leases are only partially within the coastal zone ([Figure 26](#)). There have been several Conditional Use Permits and modifications on these leases issued by the County over a period of many years.

There are currently three processing facilities within the coastal zone: one west of Harbor Boulevard near its intersection with Gonzales Road, and two east of Harbor Boulevard, south of the Santa Clara River. A compressor pump station is located south of Fifth Street, adjacent to the Edison Canal in Oxnard.

In September of 1978, there were 18 producing onshore wells, and one producing offshore well, in the West Montalvo oil field. These wells are located on both the east and west sides of Harbor Boulevard.

## **II. Pipelines**

One major oil pipeline is located in the Central Coast. It is made up of three segments routed from the Rincon pump station to the Ventura Pump Station (which includes storage tanks) at Ventura Harbor and on to Los Angeles. Only the first segment crosses the coastal zone. It consists of an 8-inch line from the Ventura Pump Station to the Santa Paula Pump Station.

## **III. Electrical Generation and Transmission Facilities**

The California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission are the agencies responsible in the area of electric transmission lines which includes technical and safety performance and environmental concerns. All electrical transmission lines proposed for the coastal zone are developments under the Coastal Act, thus the County has permit review over them. However, the Warren-Alquist Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act of 1975 exempts new power plants with capacity greater than 50 megawatts and electric transmission lines connecting such plants to the existing transmission system from local government permit authority.

While impacts from erosion, grading, and the operation of equipment may occur during construction and result in damage to coastal land resources and habitat areas, the primary concerns are associated with overhead electric transmission lines and their long-term impacts on views and visual resources. Visual impacts are particularly severe in undeveloped areas, especially the foothills and upland areas, and along the coastal terrace. Mitigation measures are limited at this time to alternate routine locations and undergrounding of lines, which is expensive.

Reliant Energy operates two major electric generating stations on the Central Coast: Mandalay Beach, located on the coast within the City of Oxnard, seaward of Harbor Boulevard and approximately a half mile north of West Fifth Street; and Ormond Beach, also in the City of Oxnard on the beach, northwest of Arnold Road and approximately a half mile south of McWane Boulevard. The combined generating capacity of these two power plants is 2,010 megawatts (MW) or three times the total electrical requirements of Ventura County. Transmission lines from both generating stations cross the coastal zone.

Reliant Energy maintains four electrical distribution substations within the coastal zone. Only one of these is located in the County coastal zone - the 66KW distribution substation at Silver Strand Beach.

During a 1979 Notice of Intent proceeding (79-NOI-3), the County, Coastal Commission, Energy Commission, Department of Fish and Game, and (at that time) Southern California Edison Company agreed to some significant stipulations regarding the siting of new power plants in the Ormond Beach site. Briefly, these stipulations eliminate the construction of power plants from dunes, wetlands, or beach areas.

## **IV. Offshore Oil and Gas Development**

Offshore oil and gas development occurs both in state tidelands and the federal Outer Continental Shelf (O.C.S.). Facilities in the Central Coast are used to support O.C.S. activities ([Figure 25](#)).

**A. State Tidelands** - Currently, all production from the West Montalvo offshore field is from State Tidelands, lease PRC 735. Production is accomplished from a series of directionally

drilled wells from the onshore McGrath #4 Lease (Montalvo Field), seaward of Harbor Boulevard. A tidelands lease, PRC 3314, surrounds the McGrath #4 lease.

**B. Federal Outer Continental Shelf:**

1. Hueneme Field - The Hueneme Unit consists of Tracts P-0202 and P-0203, which are located approximately three to five miles southwest of Port Hueneme. There are two offshore oil platforms that were constructed since 1980, one of which is within this unit (Gina), while the other (Gilda) is in the Santa Clara unit. There is a small onshore treatment facility in the City of Oxnard immediately south of Reliant Energy's Mandalay Beach Generating Station. Called the "Mandalay Onshore Separation Facility," this facility sells gas to the Generating Station.
2. Santa Clara Unit - There are eight OCS (Outer Continental Shelf) tracts located five miles southwest of Ventura and six miles west of Port Hueneme. Platform Grace was installed on OCS Tract P-0217.

**V. Other Facilities:**

- A. Refineries** - There are two operating refineries and one inactive refinery in the County. None are located within the coastal zone, but all are important to coastal zone planning. One, the Oxnard Refinery, is in the Central Coastal Area.

The small Oxnard refinery is adjacent to Fifth Street in an unincorporated area, just east of the City of Oxnard. Feed stock for the refinery comes primarily from the Oxnard and West Montalvo fields. It has a capacity of approximately 2,500 B/D with an existing throughput of approximately 1,500 B/D.

- B. Marine Terminals and Storage Tanks** - The Ventura Marine Terminal, which is idle, is located on land just south of the Ventura Marina. The property is now annexed to the City of San Buenaventura. There is a transit storage tank site adjoining the Marine Terminal on the south.
- C. Oil Field Waste Disposal Sites** - This type of use is termed a "soil amendment activity" in the County's Non-coastal Zoning Code, and is allowed in several zoning categories including Open Space by Conditional Use Permit in the non-coastal areas of the County.

There are two sites in the Central Coast that formerly handled oil field wastes. They are located at the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Harbor Boulevard. The sites closed operations in 1980.

**Objective**

To allow the continued exploration and production of oil and gas in most of the Central Coast sub-area while meeting Coastal Act and County objectives, and maintaining environmental quality.

**Policies**

1. All land between Harbor Boulevard and the shoreline; or land designated "Residential," "Recreational," or shown as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" will be considered as unacceptable for new energy and industrial facilities of any kind. Pre-existing facilities and oil/gas/communication pipelines, and repair of such will be considered acceptable.
2. Within the land area between Harbor Boulevard and the landward coastal zone boundary, oil drilling and directly related facilities are permitted by Conditional Use Permit consistent with Section 30260 of the Coastal Act. No new major facilities, which require a "Coastal Industrial" (C-M) zone will be permitted unless located in an area designated "Industrial."
3. All surface activities, including those regulated by the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources related to the development of onshore oil and gas resources in the coastal zone are considered to be projects that require a Conditional Use Permit

(CUP) and a Coastal Development Permit. Both permits will be issued simultaneously through one CUP process. See the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (including, but not limited to Section 8175-8.7) for a list of standard oil development design and operational criteria applied to all new permits for expanded or new oil activities. Additional conditions may be required depending on the specific request and location.

4. A Development Plan shall accompany the application for a CUP for those activities stated in Policy 3 above, and shall include:
  - a. The location of drilling and/or production sites, storage tanks, pipelines and access roads.
  - b. Plans for the consolidation, to the maximum extent feasible, of drilling and/or production facilities, as well as accessory facilities.
  - c. A phasing plan for the staging of development that indicates the approximate anticipated timetable for project installation, completion and decommissioning.
  - d. A plan for eliminating or substantially mitigating adverse impacts on habitat areas, prime agricultural lands, recreational areas, scenic resources and archaeological sites due to siting, construction, or operation of facilities.
  - e. Grading plans for all facilities requiring the movement of greater than 50 cubic yards of dirt. For any development requiring a grading permit, either (1) a Storm Water Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Ventura County Municipal Storm Water Permit, Order No. 00-108, Part 4 - Special Provisions, D. Programs for Construction Sites, or (2) a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the State General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, whichever is applicable.
  - f. A description of means by which all oil and gas will be transported off-site to a marketing point. Pursuant to Policy 7 below, transshipment of crude oil and gas shall be through on-shore pipeline.
  - g. A description of the procedures for the transport and disposal of all solid and liquid wastes.
  - h. Oil spill prevention and control measures.
  - i. Fire prevention procedures.
  - j. Emission control equipment.
  - k. Procedures for the abandonment and restoration of the site, including a timeline, and clarification as to whether or not the abandonment will be in place or the infrastructure will be removed.
  - l. Compliance with any other requirement of the Ventura County Zoning Ordinance for the Coastal Zone related to oil and gas development.
  - m. All facilities supporting oil and gas development must comply with the terms and requirements of the State General Industrial Activities Storm Water Permit, including the development and submittal of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
5. All energy and industrial facilities in the Plan shall be so sited and designed to eliminate or reduce, to the maximum extent feasible, impacts to biological, geological, archaeological, agricultural, visual and recreational resources.
6. All future offshore oil and gas production coming on-shore in the Central Coast Area shall utilize existing facilities whenever economically and technically feasible.

7. Transshipment of crude oil through an onshore pipeline for refining shall be a condition of approval for expansion of existing processing facilities or construction of new facilities.
8. When feasible, pipelines shall be routed to avoid important coastal resources, including recreation, sensitive habitats and archaeological areas. Unavoidable routing through recreation, habitat, or archaeological areas, or other areas of a significant coastal resource value, shall be done in a manner that minimizes the impacts of a spill, should it occur, by considering spill volumes, duration, and projected path. Where new liquid pipeline segments pass through sensitive resource areas, recreation areas or archaeological areas, the segment shall be isolated, in the case of a break, by automatic shutoff valves.
9. The County shall determine whether spacing of automatic shutoff valves at intervals less than the maximum set by the U.S. Department of Transportation - Office of Pipeline Safety (DOT-OPS), or the California State Fire Marshall is required to protect sensitive coastal resources, and if so, shall require spacing at intervals which provide appropriate protection.
10. In sensitive resource areas the extent of construction and ground surface disturbance shall be reduced to a minimum by restricting construction activities and equipment within narrow, limited and staked work corridors and storage areas.
11. All offshore to onshore pipelines shall, where feasible, be located at existing pipeline landfall sites, and shall be buried from a point offshore commencing where wave action first causes significant bottom disturbance. In addition, landfall sites are prohibited from areas designated as "Residential" or shown as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat."
12. Except for pipelines exempted from coastal development permits under Section 30610 of the Coastal Act, as defined by the State Coastal Commission's Interpretive Guidelines, a survey shall be conducted along the route of any pipeline in the coastal zone to determine what, if any, coastal resources may be impacted by construction and operation of a pipeline and any feasible mitigation measures. The costs of this survey shall be borne by the applicant. This survey may be conducted as part of an environmental review if an Environmental Impact Report or Mitigated Negative Declaration is required for a particular project.
13. Owners/operators shall notify both the County of Ventura Planning Division and any other designated affected State agencies (e.g. DOGGR, CSFM, SLC, LARWQCB) of any intent to decommission and/or remove any pipelines and/or facilities. Upon completion of pipeline construction or removal of pipelines and/or facilities, the site shall be restored to the approximate previous grade and condition. Upon removal or decommissioning of pipelines and/or facilities, an assessment of the surrounding soils shall be conducted by a qualified licensed expert, e.g. a licensed geologist or registered professional civil engineer, to determine whether or not those soils are contaminated. If the soils are found to be contaminated, a soil remediation plan delineating the method and timing of remediation shall be prepared and submitted to the County Planning Division and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for their review and approval. All excavated materials shall be replaced in reverse order with topsoil replaced at grade level and compacted if necessary. All sites previously covered with native vegetation shall be re-seeded with the same or recovered with the previously removed vegetation materials and shall include other measures as deemed necessary to prevent erosion until the vegetation can become established.
14. Geologic investigations shall be performed by a qualified geologist or engineering geologist where a proposed petroleum pipeline route crosses potential fault zones, seismically active areas, or moderately high to high risk landslide areas. This report shall investigate the potential risk and recommend such mitigation measures as pipeline route changes and/or engineering measures to help assure the integrity of the

pipeline and minimize erosion, geologic instability, and substantial alterations of the natural topography. New pipeline corridors shall be consolidated with existing pipeline or electrical transmission corridors where feasible, unless there are overriding technical constraints or significant social, aesthetic, environmental, or economic concerns.

15. Transmission lines rights-of-way shall be routed to minimize impacts on the viewshed in the coastal zone, especially in scenic rural areas, and to avoid locations which are on or near habitat, recreational, or archaeological resources, whenever feasible. Scarring, grading, or other vegetative removal shall be repaired, and the affected areas re-vegetated with plants similar to those in the area to the extent safety and economic considerations allow.
16. In important scenic areas, where above-ground transmission line placement would unavoidably affect views, undergrounding shall be required where it is technically and economically feasible unless it can be shown that other alternatives are less environmentally damaging. When above-ground facilities are necessary, design and color of the support towers shall be compatible with the surroundings to the extent safety and economic considerations allow.
17. Pursuant to section 307(f) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 USC § 1456(f)), the adopted Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan shall be used as a criterion in determining consistency of federal actions on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) with the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP). Pursuant to Section 328 of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 USC § 7627, all activities on the OCS must comply with the Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations as specified in 40 CFR Part 55.
18. As land becomes available, permanent service bases shall be encouraged to locate at the Port of Hueneme where similar uses are located and adequate harbor facilities are available.
19. Should crude oil pipelines need to be enlarged in the future, or a new pipeline installed, the route shall follow existing pipeline corridors, if feasible.
20. Upon decommissioning of off-shore facilities that contain on-shore facilities and/or pipelines (or "components"), a phasing plan shall be submitted delineating the timeline for disposition of the on-shore facilities.
21. Coastal Act sections 30101, 30101.3, 30255, and 30260, will be used as the criteria by the County to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether onshore or offshore oil and gas development and an energy-related industrial facility supporting such development is defined as "coastal-dependent development" or "coastal-related development", based on the specific geographic, technological, and economic characteristics of the project being proposed.

## Public Works

The Central Coast is the most urbanized portion of Ventura County's coastal zone. Hollywood Beach, Silver Strand Beach and Hollywood-by-the-Sea are the only residentially developed, unincorporated areas, zoned "R-B-H" (Residential Beach Harbor, 1,750 square foot minimum). Several small neighborhood serving commercial and neighborhood-planned developments are located within these areas, along with the Hollywood Beach Elementary School.

No major public service capacity problems have been identified for the unincorporated areas of the Central Coast. Build-out in Hollywood Beach/ Silver Strand/Hollywood-by-the-Sea will not impact local water supplies. All their water is drawn from the lower aquifer, while agricultural users obtain water from privately-owned wells. The Preble, Olivas and McGrath agricultural lands are outside the seawater-intruded area, and will not be affected by the well-drilling moratorium. However, agricultural lands in the rest of the Central Coast coastal zone are subject to seawater intrusion. Adopted policies and ordinances developed under the "208" Countywide Planning Process will also be applied toward a solution to the problem.



Sewer service allocations for Silver Strand and the Hollywood Beach are sufficient to handle all sewage generated from residential build-out in the area.

Silver Strand and Hollywood Beach will continue to be severely impacted by traffic, especially in the summer months. The completion of Victoria Avenue between Gonzales Road and Silver Strand in 1984 and out-of-area visitation compounded traffic congestion in the Silver Strand and Hollywood Beach areas.

There is a public parking lot at both ends of Silver Strand Beach. According to the Ventura County General Services Agency, ways are being explored to improve the Channel Islands southern jetty for pedestrian use if funding can be obtained.

During heavy winter storms there is a problem with waver run-up and ponding in residential areas.

### **Objective**

To maintain current service levels to existing developments.

### **Policies**

1. New or expanded public works facilities (including roads, flood control measures, water and sanitation) will be designed to serve the potential population of the unincorporated and incorporated areas within the Coastal Zone, and designed to eliminate impacts on agriculture, open space lands, and environmentally sensitive habitats.
2. New service extensions required beyond the stable urban boundary will be designed to mitigate any effects on agricultural viability.
3. In working toward solutions to circulation problems in the unincorporated beach communities of Hollywood Beach, Hollywood-by-the-Sea and Silver Strand Beach, the County of Ventura should initiate a renewed effort to coordinate with citizens and responsible agencies. Pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths should be considered as part of the solution.
4. Public transportation into Hollywood Beach, Silver Strand, and Hollywood-by-the-Sea will be provided according to needs identified in the data collected by South Coast Area Transit (SCAT).
5. The Public Works Agency will explore the feasibility of a "traffic roundabout" at the southern base of Victoria Avenue in front of the Coast Guard station to help alleviate traffic pressures on the Silver Strand community. This should be done in cooperation with any other affected agency, such as the City of Oxnard.

## **Locating and Planning New Development**

### **I. Residential**

Existing residential development in the Central Coast sub-area is confined to Hollywood Beach, Silver Strand Beach and Hollywood-by-the-Sea. These areas have recently been in-filling rapidly. As the only segments of unincorporated land on which urban development is allowed, they will continue to in-fill.

The section of Ventura County's General Plan covering Hollywood Beach, Silver Strand and Hollywood-by-the-Sea allows build-out to the prevailing base zoning, mainly "R-B-H" (Residential Beach Harbor), and "C-C" (Coastal Commercial). Some of the property zoned commercial has been converted to residential and homes have been built.

### **II. Commercial**

The existing neighborhood commercial uses in the Hollywood Beach, Silver Strand Beach, Hollywood-by-the-Sea and Channel Islands Harbor areas, coupled with the major commercial uses nearby in the cities of Port Hueneme and Oxnard, are sufficient to serve the area and any visitors entering the area.

### III. Industrial

Other than the energy facilities previously mentioned, there are no industrial developments in the unincorporated areas of the Central Coast.

#### Objective

To allow build-out of existing urbanized areas to continue, consistent with the County's General Plan, regional goals within the Air Quality Management Plan and "208" (Water Quality) Plan.

#### Policies

1. The areas of Hollywood Beach, Silver Strand Beach and Hollywood-by-the-Sea will be the only areas where high density residential development will be allowed in the Central Coast.
2. No structures for human habitation will be allowed within those hazardous areas shown in [Figure 24](#).

### Potential Conflicts

Conflicts could arise between unincorporated County lands presently in agriculture and potential development plans of adjacent cities. Section 30241 of the Coastal Act states that, 1) the maximum amount of prime agricultural land shall be maintained in agricultural production; 2) stable boundaries separating urban and rural areas shall be established; and 3) that clearly defined buffer areas to minimize conflicts between agriculture and urban uses shall be defined.

#### I. San Buenaventura Area of Interest

Within the San Buenaventura Area of Interest and within the coastal zone are two unincorporated agricultural sub-areas:

**A. Preble Agricultural Lands** - The Preble agricultural lands include 62 acres of row and truck crops, immediately north of the 101 Freeway and bounded on the west and north by the corporate limits of the City of San Buenaventura. All parcels contain prime soils. Land uses immediately adjacent to this area include: the Southern Pacific Railroad and mixed urban development to the north, the 101 Freeway to the east and south, and a citrus packing plant to the west.

The location of the Preble area may be critical to the designation of stable urban boundaries because it is immediately adjacent to urbanized lands within the City of San Buenaventura.

Local plans and policies reflect development pressures from the proximity of urban development. The area is currently designated "Agricultural" on the County's General Plan and zoned "C-A" (Coastal Agricultural). The County's "208" Plan includes the area within the 1977 "Urban Growth" phasing boundary. The City of San Buenaventura's Land Use Element designates the site for "Planned Mixed Development." The area is designated a Phase I (first priority development). It is within the City of San Buenaventura's Sanitation District, and water is available and water pressure adequate. Urban services appear to be readily available. However, development may be restricted by the lack of adequate access to the site. Although it is adjacent to the freeway, access to the area is currently limited to a narrow road off of Seaward Avenue. The Southern Pacific railroad tracks, located along the northern perimeter of the site, pose additional access problems.

Two logical urban boundaries exist in the Preble area: 1) the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks on the northern perimeter of the site, and 2) U.S. Highway 101 at the southern perimeter of the site. The City and County concur that the table urban-rural boundary will be the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way between the agricultural and urban lands.

**B. Olivas Lands** - Immediately south of the Preble property are the Olivas agricultural lands. Highway 101 separates the two segments of land. Prior to construction of the freeway, parcels in these two areas formed a continuous stretch of prime agricultural land. The Olivas land includes 355 acres of row and truck crops. Approximately 120 acres of this area are in agricultural preserve.

Land uses adjacent to the sub-area include the 101 Freeway and agricultural activities on the north and east, the Olivas Golf Course on the south, and Harbor Boulevard, the Ventura Marina and the Pierpont/Keys residential development to the west.

The County General Plan designates this area as "Agricultural" (40 acre minimum). The City of San Buenaventura's General Plan also designates the area "Agriculture" through 2010. Unlike the Preble area, services are not readily available to the Olivas lands. They are not included in the City's sanitation district because of problems with water pressure. Existing plans and policies support maintenance of agriculture in this area, in conformance with the Coastal Act.

## **II. Oxnard Area of Interest**

The Santa Clara River is the approximate boundary between the Oxnard and the San Buenaventura Areas of Interest. Within the Oxnard Area of Interest the potential conflict areas include the Edison Canal and a portion of the agricultural land in the Ormond Beach area.

The "Edison Canal" (so called because it was originally associated with holdings of the Southern California Edison Company) traverses the coastal zone from Channel Islands Harbor northward to the Generating Plant, currently owned by Reliant Energy, at Mandalay Beach. The canal flows through both unincorporated and City of Oxnard lands. Both recreational and residential development has been proposed along the canal. Conflicts could occur between the different land uses proposed in the Edison Canal Land Use Study and the owner of the canal and its right-of-way.



**Figure 18  
Santa Clara River Mouth**

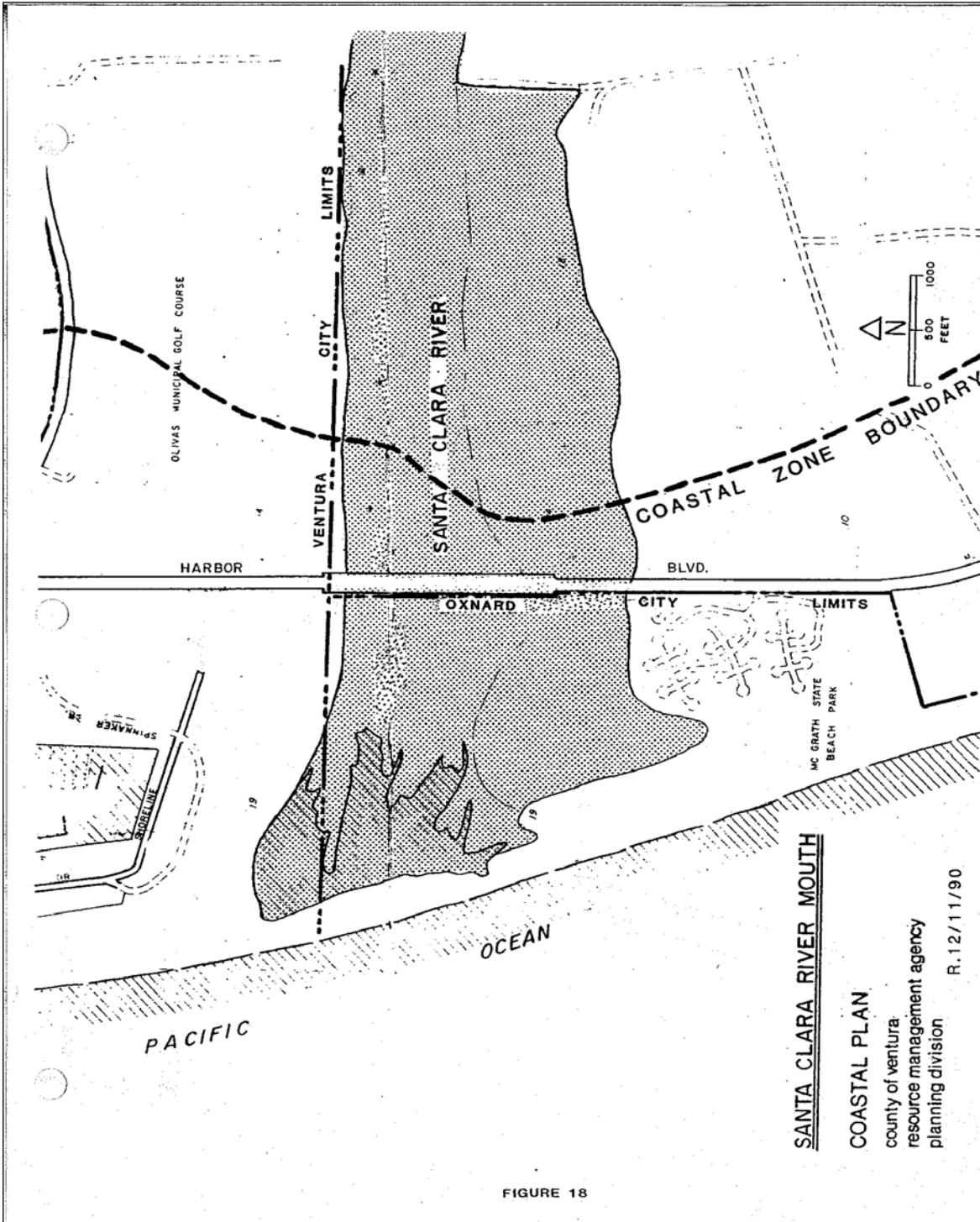
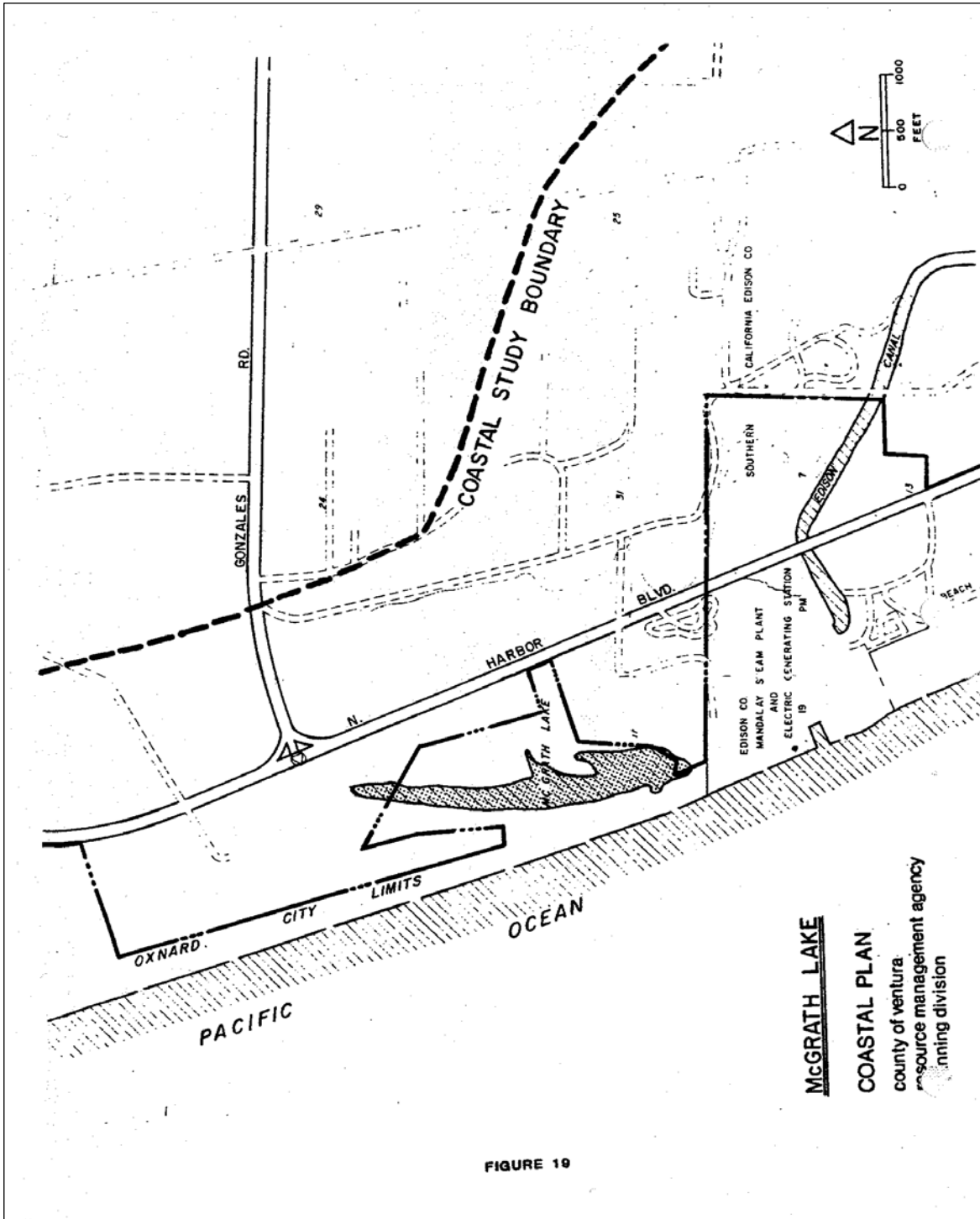
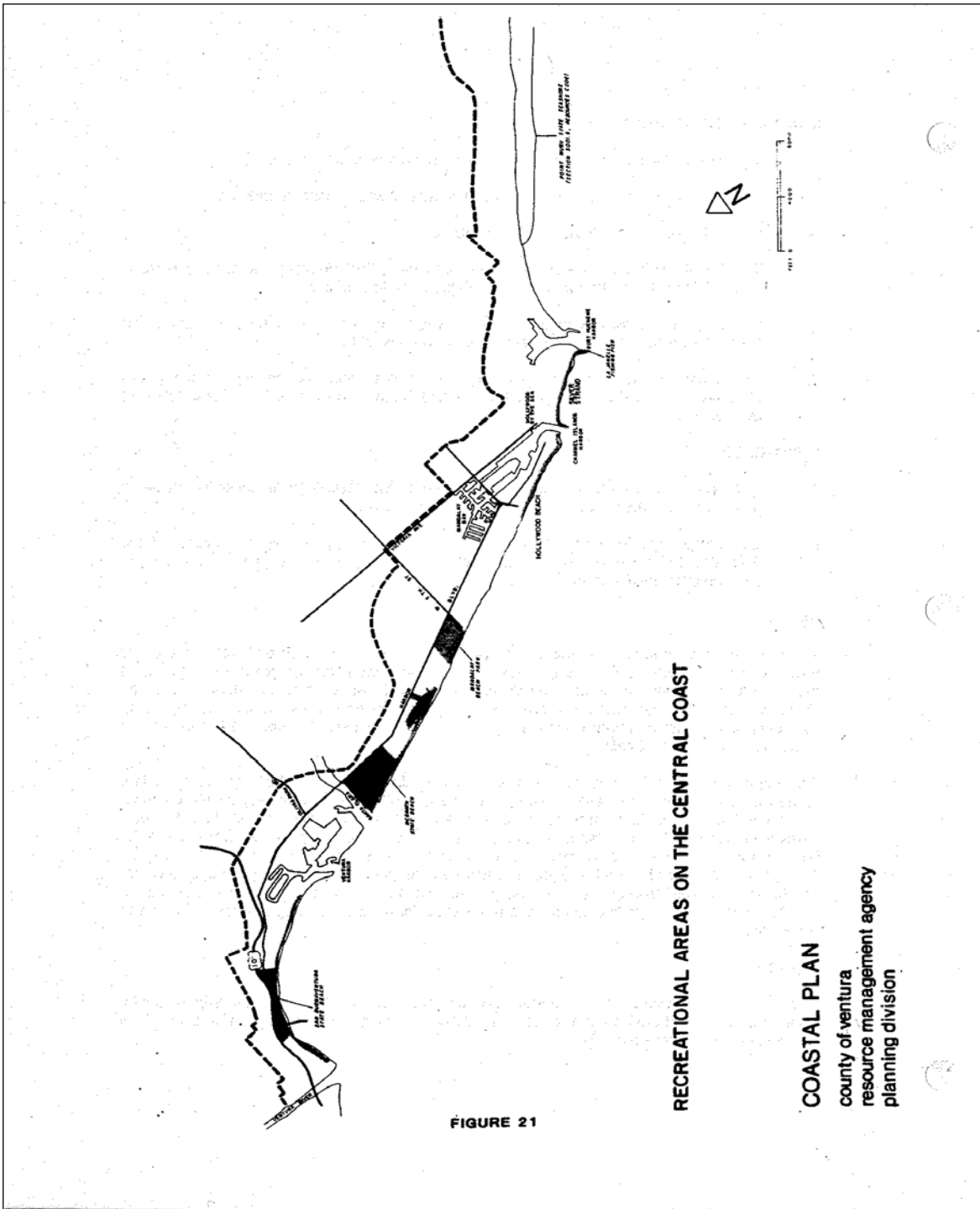


Figure 19  
McGrath Lake



**Figure 20**  
**(Reserved for future use)**

**Figure 21  
Recreational Areas on the Central Coast**



**FIGURE 21**

**RECREATIONAL AREAS ON THE CENTRAL COAST**

**COASTAL PLAN**  
 county of ventura  
 resource management agency  
 planning division



**Figure 22  
Central Coast Access Inventory**

<b>Name and Location</b>	<b>Access Type</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Frontage</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Signed</b>	<b>Owned By</b>	<b>Managed By</b>
Hollywood Beach *	Park	50 ac.	--	Yes	Yes	County	County
Silver Strand Beach*	Park	41 ac.	--	Yes	Yes	County	County

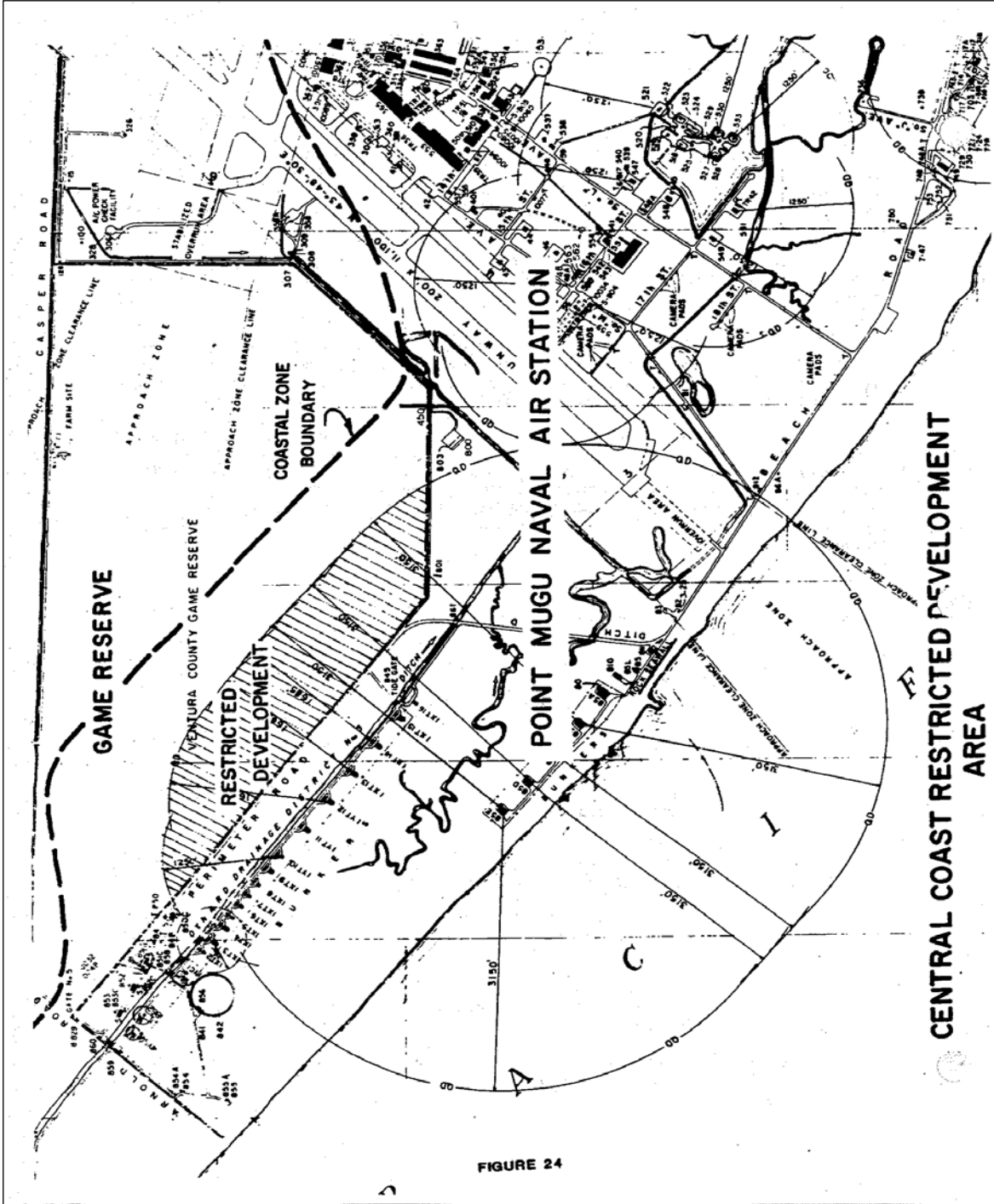
6/20/89

Footnotes:

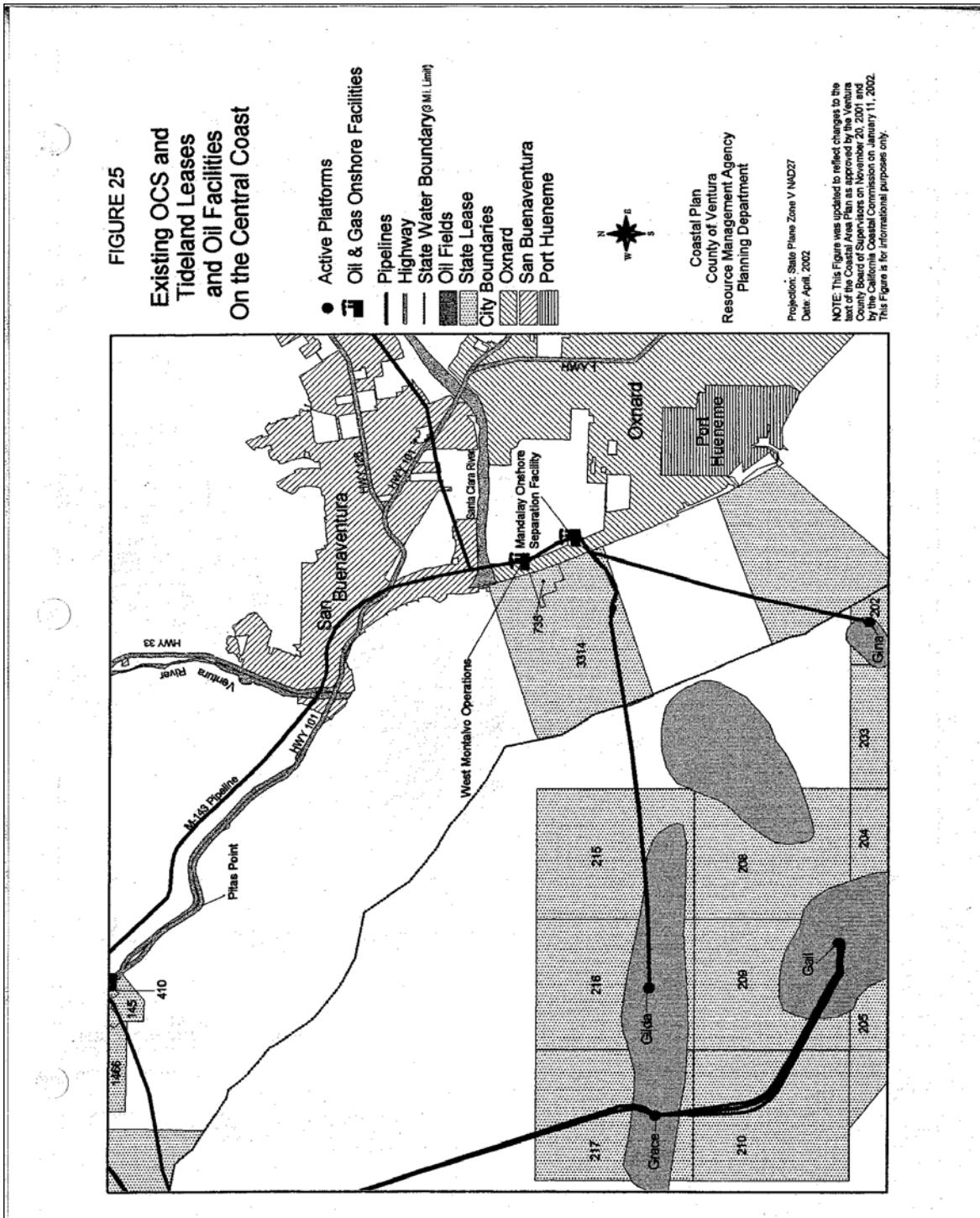
\* See Local Coastal Area Plan Land Use Maps for the Central Coast and Harbor Area, Figures 26.2 and 26.3 (separate maps).



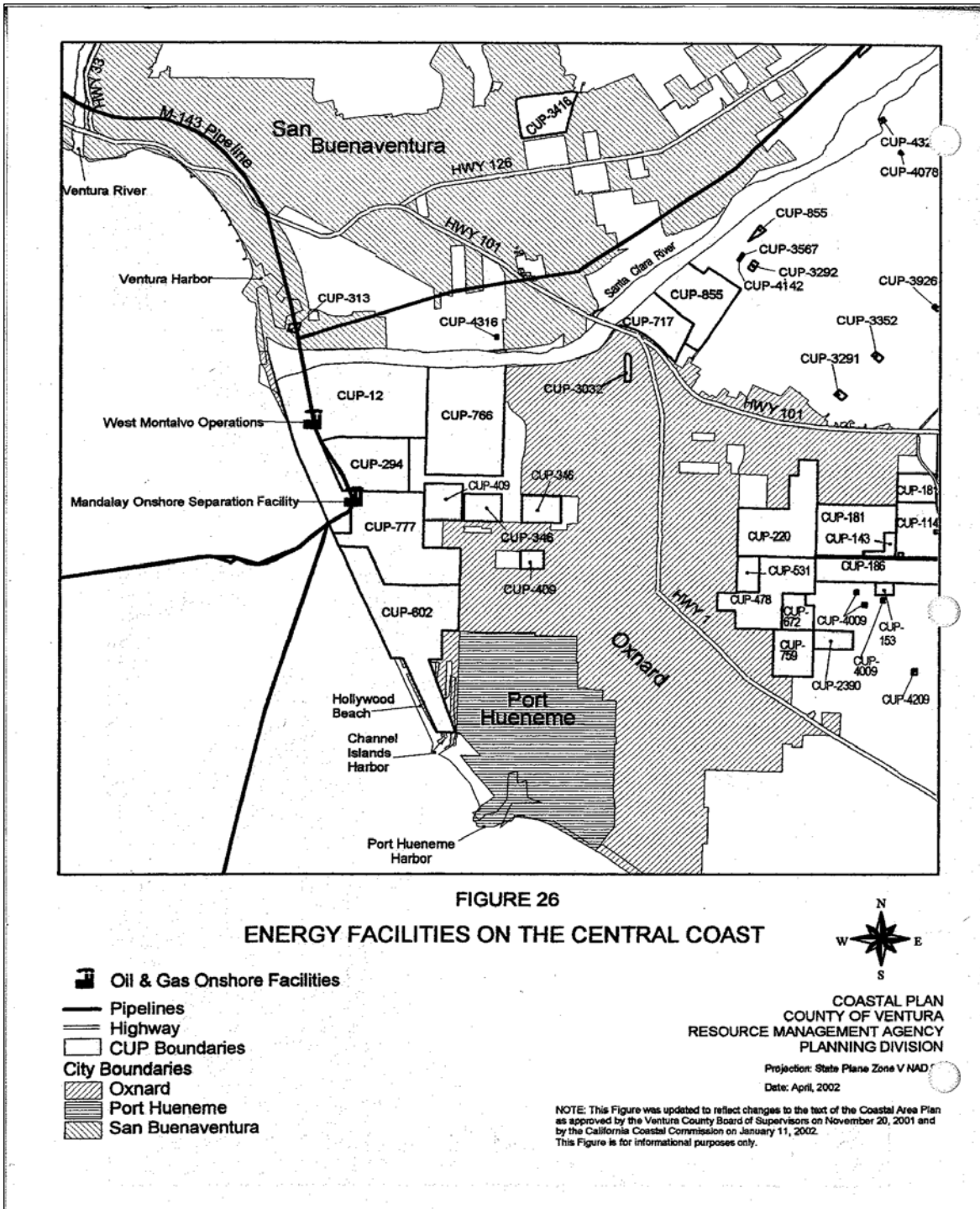
**Figure 24  
Central Coast Restricted Development Area  
(Map of Pt. Mugu NAS)**



**Figure 25**  
**Existing OCS and Tideland Leases and Oil Facilities**  
**on the Central Coast**



**Figure 26  
Energy Facilities on the Central Coast**



**Figure 26.1  
Summary Table Building Intensity/Population Density Standards (Central Coast Area)**

**Open Space/Agriculture/Recreation**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Maximum Intensity (DU/Ac) <sup>1</sup>	Dwelling Units	Average Pop/DU <sup>2</sup>	Population	Average Population Density (Persons/Acre)
Open Space	266.0	5% <sup>3</sup>	0.100	26	2.76	71	0.267
Agriculture	1,486.3	5% <sup>3</sup>	0.025	37	2.76	102	0.069
Recreation	28.0	5% <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,780.3</b>			<b>63</b>		<b>173</b>	

**Residential**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Maximum Intensity (DU/Ac) <sup>1</sup>	Dwelling Units	Average Pop/DU <sup>2</sup>	Population	Average Population Density (Persons/Acre)
High	97.2	65%	36.00	3,499	2.76	9,657	99.35

**Commercial**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Projected Floor Area (X 1,000 SF)	Average Number Of Employees Per 1,000 SF	Employees	Average Employees/Acre
Commercial	3.1	40%	69.5	1.0	69	22.26

12/10/96

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Excludes second dwelling units per Section 65852.2 of the State Government Code.

<sup>2</sup> Year 2000 Forecast for Oxnard Growth Area.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes greenhouses, hothouses, and the like. For nonconforming lots, maximum building coverage shall be 2,500 square feet, plus 1 square foot for each 22.3 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet.

N/A - Not Applicable.

# The South Coast

## Area Summary

The South Coast encompasses about 18,600 acres of some of the most striking and diverse coastal terrain in the County. Included along its 13.1 mile length (only eight miles are under State or local jurisdiction) are Mugu Lagoon and surrounding coastal marshes, and approximately seven miles of the coastal Santa Monica Mountains. The sub-area's northern boundary is the Point Mugu Pacific Missile Test Center, with the Los Angeles County line as the sub-area's southern end point.

Most of the federally-owned land in the County coastal zone is located in the South Coast; however, it is excluded from Coastal Commission or County jurisdiction. The U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu is adjacent to Oxnard at Arnold Road. Mugu Lagoon, one of the largest and most important estuaries and tidal marshes in California, is within base boundaries.

A small community area is located immediately north of the Ventura - Los Angeles County line along a narrow coastal terrace. The area is designated "Existing Community" in the General Plan, allowing it to be developed to prevailing zoning.

A significant portion of the Santa Monica Mountains are within Ventura County's coastal zone, which extends up to five miles inland in this sub-area. While much of the area is undeveloped, there are two segments that are developed: one at Deals Flat, and another along branches of the Deals Flat access road. The latter development includes one to five acre ranchettes. Increased density in the area is controlled by this Coastal Area Plan which allows one dwelling per 10+ acres (subject to Hazards Section *Policy 7*: i.e., slope/density formula).

The Santa Monica Mountains are becoming significant for their recreation potential. Point Mugu State Park, about 7,400 acres of which are in the coastal zone, is the South Coast's major recreation and preserve area. The park stretches from the sandy beach to the inland mountains. A portion of Leo Carrillo Beach extends into Ventura County near the Malibu Bay Club. The California Department of Parks and Recreation has acquired an additional 12.5 acres of beach between Yerba Buena Road and Whaler's Village. Both Leo Carrillo and Point Mugu are included in the potential Point Mugu State Seashore (Resources Code Section 5001.6).

Another federal facility will be located in the South Coast: the National Park Service is in the process of consolidating a Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Land acquisition is in its incipient stages; however, the coastal property between Point Mugu State Park and Leo Carrillo State Beach Park has been identified for priority acquisition. Several other South Coast properties are slated for probable fee or less than fee acquisition, or some other recreational arrangement.

Private youth camps, totaling 1,788 acres, are located near Yerba Buena Road and Little Sycamore Canyon.

## Policies

1. All zoning and development shall be in conformance with the Land Use Plan map (Figure 32.1), which has been designed to reflect these goals and policies. The Zoning Compatibility Matrix ([Figure 33](#)) indicates the zones which are consistent with the various land use categories.
2. In case of reasonable doubt as to the precise alignment of land use boundaries on the Land Use Plan Map, the Planning Director is authorized to determine the precise boundary locations. Such determinations must comply with the goals and policies which are set forth in the written text of the Coastal Area Plan. Determinations shall be graphically portrayed on the adopted Land Use Plan Map. In granting the Planning Director such powers, it is understood that any interested party may appeal the Director's decision to the Planning Commission and subsequently to the Board of Supervisors (Ventura County Ordinance Code, Division 8, Chapter 1.1, Article 11) and, upon exhaustion of these local appeals, as follows:

- a. The dispute or question of determination may be appealed to the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. The Executive Director shall expediently transmit to the interested parties his or her determination as to the precise boundary location.
- b. Where the Executive Director's determination is not in accordance with the local government determination, the Commission shall hold a hearing for purposes of determining the appropriate boundaries for the area. The Commission shall schedule the hearing on the determination for the next Commission meeting consistent with its Administrative Regulations Sections 13569.

## Environmentally Sensitive Habitats

The South Coast sub-area contains numerous environmentally sensitive habitat areas ([Figure 27](#)). Therefore, a special overlay zone classification has been applied to most of the land easterly and southeasterly of the U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu. The only area that is not covered by the special overlay zone is the land within the Solromar "Existing Community". This special "Santa Monica Mountains" (M) overlay zone was implemented in order to recognize that Santa Monica Mountains are a coastal resource of statewide and national significance. The mountains provide habitats for several unique, rare or endangered plant and animal species. Such habitats may be easily damaged by human activities. Therefore, development in the overlay zone area requires case-by-case consideration, and, where applicable, shall be consistent with Sections 30230 and 30231 of the Coastal Act.

### A. Coastal Dunes

La Jolla Beach, 40 acres of sandy beach and dunes with a prominent climbing, wind-formed dune, is part of Point Mugu State Park. While public ownership provides some protection of this dune area, its access and use should be reviewed by the State. The "Resource Management Plan for Point Mugu State Park" points out that the hillside dune needs protection from off-road vehicle use, and suggests that the area be included in the La Jolla Valley Nature Preserve. While the County does not have jurisdiction over these dunes, it is nevertheless concerned with their preservation ([Figure 27](#)).

The quality of dune habitats may be preserved by measures such as restricted vehicular access, clearly defined pathways, revegetation with native plants, interpretive centers and public education.

#### Objective

To encourage the State to adequately control access to the sand dunes and protect them against degradation.

#### Policies

1. The County encourages State Parks to control those activities that lead to dune degradation, including use of off-road vehicles, or dumping.

### B. Tidepools

Tidepools are located near Point Mugu Rock, and between Big Sycamore Canyon and Deer Creek Canyon. Although not actually within the County's jurisdiction, it is significant to note that the offshore area between Laguna Point and Point Dume in Los Angeles County has been designated an "Area of Special Biological Significance" by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (see Public Works section), and that nearshore, intertidal and terrestrial coastal areas are ecologically closely interrelated.

#### Objective

To support the State in the protection of the tidepools.



## Policies

1. The State should include interpretive programs regarding coastal ecology in any future development of recreational facilities.
2. Wastewater effluent and solid waste at public sites along the South Coast are to be properly disposed of.
3. Ventura County Environmental Health Division and the Ventura Regional County Sanitation District coordinate with the State to find acceptable alternatives for wastewater effluent disposal on the South Coast.
4. Shoreline protection structures such as revetments, seawalls, groins, or breakwaters are allowed when they are necessary to protect existing developments, coastal dependent land uses and public beaches. Any structures built under these conditions that affect tidepools will incorporate mitigation measures that reduce intertidal or nearshore habitat loss as feasible.
5. An applicant for any new coastal project, including shoreline protective devices, will demonstrate that their proposal will not cause long-term adverse impact on the beach or intertidal areas. Impacts include, but are not limited to, destruction of the rocky substrate, smothering of organisms, contamination from improperly treated wastewater and findings to be made will include, but not be limited to, proper wastewater disposal.
6. The Statewide "Guidelines for Wetlands and Other Environmentally Sensitive Wet Habitats" will be used in analyzing any projects with the potential to impact tidepools.

## C. Creek Corridors

Major creek corridors on the South Coast include Calleguas Creek, La Jolla Canyon, Big Sycamore Canyon, Serrano Canyon, Deer Creek Canyon and Little Sycamore Canyon ([Figure 27](#)).

Calleguas Creek watershed includes over 343 square miles of land and empties into the ocean via Mugu Lagoon south of Point Mugu Naval Air Station, north of the Santa Monica Mountains. The flood plain and agricultural lands along the creek are subject to extreme flooding during heavy rains.

The riparian corridors in the Santa Monica Mountains (Big Sycamore, Serrano, Deer Creek, and Little Sycamore) are important watershed areas. Maintenance of their compliment of native vegetation will help diffuse floods and runoff, minimize soil erosion, and diminish sedimentation.

### Objective

To maintain creek corridors in as natural a state as possible while still accommodating needs for public health and safety.

### Policies

1. Stream or creek corridors are considered to be watercourses, either perennial or intermittent, as shown on USGS quadrangle maps, as measured between the high water mark, or the break in each bank.
2. All projects on land either in a stream or creek corridor or within 100 feet of such corridor, shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade riparian habitats, and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitats.
3. Substantial alterations (channelizations, dams, etc.) to river, stream, or creek corridors are limited to:
  - a. Necessary water supply projects;

- b. Flood control projects where no other method for protecting existing structures in the flood plain is feasible, and where such protection is necessary for public safety or to be protect existing development; or
  - c. Developments where the primary function is the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.
4. Projects allowed per the above policies will incorporate the best mitigation measures feasible.
  5. The Coastal Commission's adopted "Statewide Interpretive Guidelines for Wetlands and Other Environmentally Sensitive Habitats" will be used when evaluating new projects in creek corridors.
  6. The County supports the policies found in the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan and has adopted a resolution agreeing to incorporate that Plan when analyzing any development request in the Mountains. In addition, the County will routinely submit development proposals to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area for review.

#### **D. Santa Monica Mountains**

The Santa Monica Mountains contain some of the most significant inland habitats in the County's coastal zone. Many creeks and streams with their riparian corridors, coastal dunes, and rare native bunchgrass and giant coreopsis can be found in the mountains. In addition, grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodlands are found.

Some of these sensitive habitats are mapped, but others occur in several small areas throughout the mountains, making them impractical to accurately map.

##### **Objective**

To preserve and protect the upland habitats of the Santa Monica Mountains.

##### **Policies**

1. New development, including all private and public recreational uses, shall preserve all unique native vegetation, such as Giant Coreopsis and *Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *marcescens*.
2. The County shall update its inventory of upland habitats, wildlife travel networks, nesting sites, and appropriate buffer areas as part of the Implementation Phase of the Local Coastal Program (LCP). This update may use existing information and shall involve consultation with appropriate environmentalists, scientists and government agencies dealing with the Santa Monica Mountains as a whole. A map focusing on sensitive environmental habitats and their buffers shall be prepared and included in the LCP and shall be continually updated as additional information becomes available. Environmentally sensitive habitats shall conform to the definition in the Act, PRC Section 30107.5.
3. All new upland development shall be sited and designed to avoid adverse impacts on sensitive environmental habitats.
  - In cases where sensitive environmental habitats are located on a project site where the impacts of development are mitigated consistent with the Plan, the County shall assure that all habitat areas are permanently maintained in open space through an easement or other appropriate means.
  - When such impacts of development would be unavoidable, the County shall ascertain within the specific project review period whether any public agency or non-profit organization, including the National Park Service, Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, State Department of Parks and Recreation, County Recreation Services, and Trust for Public Lands, is planning or

contemplating acquisition of any portion of the subject property to preserve it in open space. The permit may not be approved if such agency or organization has been specifically authorized to acquire any portion of the property which would be affected by the proposed development, and funds for the acquisition are available or could reasonably be expected to be available within one year of the date of application for the permit. If the permit has been denied for such reasons and the property has not been acquired by such agency or organization within a reasonable time, a permit may not be denied again on the same ground.

4. Where possible for subdivision and undeveloped contiguous lots, construction and/or improvements of driveways/accessways which would increase access to the subject area or adjacent areas shall be permitted only when it has been determined that environmental resources in the area will not be adversely impacted by the increased access. Grading cuts shall be minimized by combining the accessways of adjacent property owners to a single road where possible. The intent is to reduce the number of direct ingress-egress points off public routes and to reduce grading. At stream crossings, driveway access for nearby residences shall be combined. Hillside roads and driveways shall be as narrow as feasible and follow natural contours.
5. Development dependent upon a water well shall be approved only if such well would not either individually or cumulatively cause adverse impacts on affected riparian areas or other coastal resources. This policy shall be implemented as data becomes available through the County CEQA process and other review procedures.
6. All proposals for land divisions in the Santa Monica Mountains shall be evaluated to assure that any future development will be consistent with the development policies contained in this Plan. Where potential development cannot occur consistent with the development policies contained in this plan, the request for division shall be denied. Environmental assessments shall accompany tentative map applications and shall evaluate the ecological resources within and adjacent to the site and the consistency of the proposed division and development with the standards of the Local Coastal Program.
  - All applications shall identify future building envelopes and shall be identified on the final map. Building envelope is defined as:

The one area of a proposed parcel which shall contain all structures, including but not limited to: the primary residential structure, other accessory residential structures, barns, garages, swimming pools, and storage sheds. Specifically excluded are fences and walls which may be placed along property lines.
  - All identified environmentally sensitive habitat areas and/or slopes over 30% shall be permanently maintained in their natural state through an easement or other appropriate means and shall be recorded on the final tract or parcel map or on a grant deed as a deed restriction submitted with the final map. Development shall not be permitted in areas over 30% slope.
  - All offers-to-dedicate trail easements consistent with recreation policy #8 below, shall be recorded on the final map. Trail easements established by deed restriction shall be recorded on the deed no later than final map recordation.

***Scenic and Visual Qualities:***

7. New development shall be sited and designed to protect public views to and from the shoreline and public recreational areas. Where feasible, development on sloped terrain shall be set below road grade.
8. Development shall not be sited on ridgelines or hilltops when alternative sites on the parcel are available and shall not be sited on the crest of major ridgelines.
9. Except within the Solromar "Existing Community", all development proposals located within 1,000 feet of publicly owned park lands shall be sited and designed to mitigate

potential adverse visual impacts upon park lands. Appropriate mitigation measures include additional landscaping, use of natural materials, low building profile, earth tone colors, and the like. Development shall not be sited within 500 feet of a park boundary unless no alternative siting on the property is possible consistent with the policies of this Coastal Area Plan.

## **E. Mugu Lagoon and San Nicholas Island**

Although completely on Federal land and thus not in the coastal zone, Mugu Lagoon deserves discussion in this Plan because of its important habitat values and its relationship biologically to intertidal and offshore waters, both State and Federal, and its related importance for commercial and sport fisheries.

Mugu Lagoon is the last Southern California estuary to remain in its approximate natural site. Numerous sociological research programs indicate its importance. A number of species found in the Lagoon have been exterminated in other estuaries. The Lagoon serves as a nursery for offshore species. A variety of marine mammals feed and rest in the Lagoon.

Much of the credit for preservation of the Lagoon goes to the U.S. Navy. Protection of fish and wildlife is assured through, among other sources, the 1967 Fish and Wildlife Plan for Point Mugu and San Nicholas Island, jointly subscribed by the State and Federal governments. Although the Lagoon is within the Pacific Missile Test Center (PMTTC) and therefore on federal land, it is impacted by activities in the unincorporated, non-federal surrounding lands, particularly those along Calleguas Creek and Revlon Slough. A small portion of this tributary area is in the Coastal Zone where development activities will be reviewed for consistency with the policies of this Coastal Area Plan.

However, many upstream activities affecting Mugu Lagoon may involve Federal participation or Federal assistance, and these will be subject to Coastal Commission review for consistency with the California Coastal Management Program.

The Calleguas Creek watershed includes over 343 square miles, including the major urbanized areas of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark and Camarillo, and as well, major agricultural lands in the Oxnard Plain. A portion (approximately 400-500 feet) within the Coastal zone of Calleguas Creek drains into the Lagoon. Rapid urbanization and increased agricultural irrigation has resulted in increased runoff and sedimentation in the Lagoon.

According to the State Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (June 1976), sedimentation from Calleguas Creek may elevate the Mugu Lagoon wetland above the tidal prism (ocean tide flooding) and thereby change the water quality and environmental characteristics of the wetland. Urbanization in the upstream watershed increase runoff, both in total volume and in the magnitude of the peak flow. Further, conversion of native watershed to urban and agricultural land increases summer flows (low flows) to the proximity of Mugu Lagoon. Increased flows lead to potentially lowered salinity in the Lagoon, increased pollution and increased erosion in unprotected areas along the unimproved channel reaches which ultimately may deliver more sediments to the Lagoon. The result is damage to both flora and fauna in the Lagoon (California Department of Fish and Game, 1976).

An important concern regarding any alterations of Calleguas Creek is the impact on endangered species in the Lagoon area. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the endangered light-footed clapper rail, Belding's savannah sparrow and California lest tern utilize the Lagoon.

Some flood control improvements (such as those that decrease sedimentation) along Calleguas Creek may be necessary for the maintenance or enhancement of the wetland. According to the Ventura County Flood Control District (Ventura County Coastal Planning Study, Flood Control Planning, Surface and Groundwater Hydrology, 1972), without improvements to reduce sedimentation and to maintain an optimum exchange of tidal and fresh waters, the Mugu wetland may ultimately cease to exist or become severely degraded as a wetland area.

## **Objective**

To maintain Mugu Lagoon, including the main estuary and the entire wetland system within the Pacific Missile Test Center, in as natural a state as possible, to the extent consistent with national security needs.

## **Policies**

1. Upstream development and activities subject to Federal consistency review, including solid waste disposal, soil management practices, flood control, water reclamation, sewage treatment, use of pesticides and fertilizers, etc. should not impair the biological productivity of Mugu Lagoon nor its value for scientific and educational purposes, nor the offshore fisheries with which it is linked.
2. Flood control projects should avoid intrusion into Mugu Lagoon, be sited and designed to prevent degradation of the wetland, and incorporate feasible mitigation measures. Channelization, dams, and other river or stream alterations should be limited to necessary water supply projects, flood control projects necessary for public safety, and projects necessary to protect and enhance wetlands habitats and to reduce sedimentation in Mugu Lagoon.
3. Projects which adversely impact habitat should include mitigation measures such as timing of the project to avoid disruption of breeding and/or nesting of birds and fishes, minimal removal of native vegetation, reclamation or enhancement programs.
4. Dredging, diking or filling of Mugu Lagoon should be limited to restoration and nature study purposes or projects required for national security. Any fill or degradation of wetlands should be accompanied, where feasible, by creation or enhancement of equivalent wetlands area.
5. The County supports the work already done, and any future plans the Navy may propose to maintain and enhance the productivity of the Mugu Lagoon consistent with the Local Coastal Program.
6. The County supports continued and future reliance on joint Federal-State plans such as the 1967 Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for Point Mugu and San Nicholas Island. Marine mammal populations should be protected or, in the case of sea otters, re-established where feasible consistent with national security needs.

## **Archaeological and Paleontological Resources**

### **A. Archaeology**

The entire Ventura County coast is archaeologically and culturally significant to a variety of groups. Earlier, it was the site of one of the densest Native American populations in North America. On the South Coast, particularly in the Santa Monica Mountains, archaeological sites are abundant.

Recent research indicates that knowledge of the distribution and location of earlier human habitation sites will add yet another dimension to our understanding of climatic and environmental cycles (Euler et al. 1979).

The County's Public Works Agency review all major development applications for archaeological resources. Specific sites, however, are not named to avert disturbance or destruction.

## **Objective**

To recognize archaeological sites in the County's coastal zone as significant to an understanding of human and environmental history, and to protect South Coast archaeological sites from destruction to the maximum extent feasible.

## **Policies**

1. Based upon the location of proposed project, Public Works may require the following work as a permit condition:
  - a. High sensitivity area - Field survey and test pits required.
  - b. Medium to high sensitivity area - Field survey required.
  - c. Moderate to negligible - No field work necessary.

For projects in an area (a) or (b), the applicant will have a qualified archaeologist assess the development impacts and cultural significance of the site. As may be appropriate, the Northridge Archaeological Research Center at Cal State Northridge should be contacted for a Native American approved Monitor to observe and aid the work during excavation of auger holes, test pits, trenches or exposures (Appendix 2).

2. Human burials should not be removed from the ground without specific authorization, and under the direction of Native American Monitors or Native American approved archaeologists.
3. Where significant archaeological resources have been identified on a site, a qualified archaeologist will be present, at the applicant's expense, during all excavating, grading and other earth-moving activities.
4. Location of all coastal zone archaeological sites will be kept confidential to avert disturbance or destruction.
5. Archaeological, historical, and ethnobotanical interpretation of native peoples in Ventura County should be incorporated into existing and future interpretive programs at public recreation areas.
6. Credentials of the qualified archaeologist who performs the applicant's study will be presented with the rest of the information required.
7. Where new development would adversely impact archaeological resources, reasonable mitigation measures will be required. Such measures may involve covering the site, moving the structure(s) to another site on the parcel, or not constructing on the site, depending on the severity of the impacts and the significance of the resources.
8. If previously unknown resources are discovered after construction starts, all work shall cease and the Public Works Agency shall be notified. After review of the site by the Agency, or other qualified personnel, additional reasonable mitigation measures may be required.

## **B. Paleontology**

The geological and biological history of the Ventura County coast is significant. The coastal zone contains areas of marine fossils that are among the best in Southern California (B. Welton, pers. comm.). Records in the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History show extensive fossil sites in Ventura County. The coastal zone has yielded many "type" specimens, which are used as the example specimens against which all other finds of the same animal are compared. Groups of fossils are currently being used by geologists to unravel patterns of seismic movement in the area (J. Valentine, pers. comm.).

Unlike archaeological sites, paleontological sites are not necessarily destroyed by grading and construction. In fact, grading will often expose additional rock layers and increase the potential for new finds.

## Objective

To recognize the current and potential significance of coastal fossils to geological and biological knowledge of the County, as well as popular interest in fossils, and to preserve significant paleontological sites to the fullest extent possible and steps taken to preserve the information a site may yield.

## Policies

1. Based upon the location of a proposed project on the Paleontological Map Series of the Planning Division's Unified Mapping System, paleontological resources will be a consideration in the environmental review process.
2. Significant fossil discoveries on a site will be reported to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History or to appropriate scientists to ensure preservation of the information they may yield.
3. During the environmental review process, utilize the Initial study Assessment Guidelines adopted by the County of Ventura.
4. Fossil discoveries should also be reported to the County Cultural Heritage Board to ensure maintenance of the information in Ventura County.
5. Where new development would adversely impact paleontological resources, reasonable mitigation measures will be required. Such measures may involve covering the site, moving the structure(s) to another site on the parcel, or not constructing on the site, depending on the severity of the impacts and the significance of the resources.
6. If previously unknown resources are discovered after construction starts, all work shall cease and the Public Works Agency shall be notified. After review of the site by the Agency, or other qualified personnel, additional reasonable mitigation measures may be required.

## Recreation and Access

### A. Recreation

Recreation on the South Coast is available in several areas, many of which have state, as well as national, significance ([Figure 28](#)).

Point Mugu State Park, encompassing over 15,200 acres with 19,224 feet of beach front, offers camping, backpacking, day hiking, picnicking, nature study and beach use. Current overnight campsites total 164, parking spaces 285, and there are 40 picnic tables. The Point Mugu State Park General Development Plan (CPR 1977) proposes expanding facilities to 416 campsites, 695 parking spaces, 3 bus spaces, 3 interpretive facilities, 125 picnic tables and equestrian facilities.

A portion of another State facility, Leo Carrillo Beach, is partially within Ventura County and partially within Los Angeles County. Two 1980 additions to the State facility, a 26 acre extension of Leo Carrillo and approximately 6 acres of Yerba Buena Beach, are undeveloped. Intense use of the area has led to sanitation and enforcement problems. A potential State Parks acquisition east of Highway 1 would include upstream portions of Little Sycamore Creek, identified as a riparian corridor in this Plan. The State proposes to develop the site for a 40 space parking lot, comfort stations and trails, all projects that could adversely affect stream processes.

Potential for additional State recreation facilities exists in the 14,000 linear feet of privately-owned beach frontage south of Point Mugu State Park near Deer Creek. The beach is popular and users may be part of the "turn-away" crowd from the State Park. Unsupervised parking and overnight camping may pose health and sanitation problems. No restrooms or sanitation facilities are currently provided.

Recreation in the Santa Monica Mountains has taken on national significance with the formation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The rugged, unstable terrain of this geologically young range includes diverse habitats and a number of ecosystems in coastal zone boundaries. Chaparral and coastal sage dominate the landscape. Riparian and oak woodlands, with a wide range of native wildlife, are also present. Much of the watershed is still natural.

The mountains are geologically and biologically closely related to the northern Channel Islands. While certain hazards, such as steep slopes, limited water, and fire danger preclude many kinds of access and recreation, the National Recreation Area will afford a variety of outdoor activities. Beach use and use of inland areas are closely related. The National Recreation Area is now in the early states of land acquisition.

### **Objective**

In recognition of the scenic beauty, relatively undisturbed natural resources, popularity of recreation, as well as its greater out-of-area significance, to encourage the State and Federal governments in broadening recreational opportunities on the South Coast consistent with public health and safety, and the protection of private property rights.

### **Policies**

1. The California Department of Parks and Recreation should continue with protection of the unique and sensitive natural resources in Point Mugu State Park as a major goal of management.
2. The California Department of Parks and Recreation should work closely with the County and the National Park Service as the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area develops to be sure that, within environmental constraints, are consistent with long-range County goals, maximum public recreation and access are achieved and upland supporting areas are protected.

#### ***Leo Carrillo State Beach***

3. As State Parks evolves its plans for these beach segments, care should be taken to conform to the California Coastal Act. Creek corridors, such as Little Sycamore Creek, should remain as natural as possible to maintain watershed, habitat, and upland recreation area.

#### ***Deer Creek Beach Frontage***

4. The County supports acquisition of the beach by the California Department of Parks and Recreation or the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

#### ***Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area***

5. To work closely with the National Park Service in the development of the National Recreation Area Management Plan to determine appropriate recreational uses for the Santa Monica Mountains.
6. The County supports the "Major Feeder Trail" connecting the Backbone Trail to the Pacific Coast between Yerba Buena and Deer Creek Roads as shown in the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan.
7. The County shall incorporate the policies and accompanying maps, including the Trail Systems map found in the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan (1979) as part of the Coastal Area Plan.
8. Development shall neither preclude continued use of, or preempt the option of establishing inland recreational trails along identified routes, as indicated in the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan (1979), and the Coastal Slope Trail as proposed in the U.S. Department of the Interiors Santa Monica Mountains Draft



Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan (September 1980), or along routes established by custom to destinations of public recreation significance. An offer-of-dedication or a deed restriction of a trail right-of-way shall be required as a condition of approval on property crossed by such trail routes.

9. All new trail corridors shall be a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet in width with a larger corridor width for major feeder trails. The routing of trails shall be flexible in order to maintain an adequate buffer from adjacent development. Where feasible, development shall be sited sufficiently distanced from the trail so as not to interfere with the trail route.
10. Among other methods of acquiring trail easements as established by the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan (1979) and other future proposals, the following shall be considered:
  - a. Integrate trail easements with future capital improvement projects.
  - b. Provide incentives through contracts for lower taxes in exchange for allowing public trail rights or credits for required Quimby Act parkland dedication.
  - c. Allow for donations through gifts and acquisition of tax delinquent properties.
  - d. Acquire the trail routes through fee or less than fee acquisition.
11. To implement present and future trail routes, the County shall continue to coordinate with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Interior National Recreation Area Staff, Los Angeles County, and trail activists from Los Angeles and Ventura County.
12. Before a permit for development of any shoreline or inland parcel is approved, its suitability for public recreational use shall be evaluated within the specified project review period by the County in consultation with the State Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service. If the County determines that the property may be suitable for such use, the County shall ascertain whether any public agency or non-profit organization, including the National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, State Department of Parks and Recreation, County Recreation Services, and Trust for Public Lands, is planning or contemplating acquisition of any part of the subject property, specifically authorized to acquire any portion of the property which would be affected by the proposed development, and funds for the acquisition are available or could reasonably be expected to be available within one year from the date of application or permit. If a permit has been denied for such reasons and the property has not been acquired by such agency or organization within a reasonable time, a permit may not be denied again on the same ground.

## **B. Access**

Most of the coastal recreation areas along this sub-area are accessible from California Highway 1. Some of the inland areas can be reached via mountain roads. [Figure 29](#) is an inventory of access on the South Coast.

Constraints to public access are diverse. While Point Mugu State Park is easily reached from Highway 1, much of it is accessible only by moderate to strenuous hiking. Because of the park's high biological and scenic values, it may not be appropriate to augment access more than already planned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Deer Creek beach frontage, privately owned, is highly accessible, as evidenced by its popularity. However, illegal camping may sometimes inhibit potential users and somewhat block their access to the area.

The popularity of Leo Carrillo Beach and the new State Park acquisitions, along with the overall popularity of Highway 1, has led to problems that include extensive illegal parking and camping, as well as enforcement and sanitation problems. Private parcels interspersed with

current and potential state acquisitions block public access along the beach. Bluff erosion poses safety hazards to current and potential vertical accessways.

The only area of the South Coast with significant development is the Solromar "Existing Community." The area has about 2,800 linear feet of shoreline, but it is not continuous frontage. The State has purchased two beach areas adjacent to, and within, the "Existing Community" area. These are the Leo Carrillo State Beach extension and the Yerba Buena Beach. Vertical access is not a major problem in this area, or anywhere along the South Coast, but lateral access should be sought between Leo Carrillo and Yerba Buena State Beaches.

### **Objective**

To maximize public access to the South Coast sub-area consistent with private property rights, natural resources and processes, and the Coastal Act; to maintain existing access, and seek new access as funds become available.

### **Policies**

#### ***Vertical Access***

1. For all new development between the first public road and the ocean, granting of an easement to allow vertical access to the mean high tide line shall be mandatory unless:
  - a. Adequate public access is already available within a reasonable distance of the site measured along the shoreline, or
  - b. Access at the site would result in unmitigable adverse impacts on areas designated as "sensitive habitats" or tidepools by the plan, or
  - c. Findings are made, consistent with Section 30212 of the Act, that access is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or that agriculture would be adversely affected, or
  - d. The parcel is too narrow to allow for an adequate vertical access corridor without adversely affecting the privacy of the property owner, or

#### ***Lateral Access***

2. For all new development between the first public road and the ocean, granting of lateral easements to allow for public access along the shoreline shall be mandatory unless subsection (a) below is found. In coastal areas, where the bluffs are less than five feet in height, all beach seaward of the base of the bluff shall be dedicated. In coastal areas where the bluffs are less than five feet, the area to be dedicated shall be determined by the County. At a minimum, the dedicated easement shall be adequate to allow for lateral access during periods of high tide. In no case shall the dedicated easement be required to be closer than 10 feet to a residential structure. In addition, all fences, no trespassing signs, and other obstructions that may limit public access shall be removed as a condition of development approval.
  - a. Findings are made, consistent with Section 30212 of the Act that access is consistent with public safety, military security needs, or that agriculture would be adversely affected.

#### ***Sensitive Habitats***

3. The applicant of a proposed recreational facility in, or adjacent to, areas designated "sensitive habitats" shall develop a management program to control the kinds, intensities, and locations of uses to preserve the habitat resources to the maximum extent feasible. This program shall be part of development approval.

### **General**

4. In accordance with Section 302214(a), the time, place, and manner of access will depend on individual facts and circumstances; including topographic and site characteristics, the capacity of the site to sustain use at the intensity proposed, the proximity to adjacent residential uses, the privacy of adjacent owners, and the feasibility to provide for litter collection.
5. In accordance with Section 30214(b), the requirement of access shall be reasonable and equitable, balancing the rights of the individual property owner and the public.

### **Leo Carrillo State Beach**

6. To augment public access and recreation, and to improve the scenic value of the coastline, alternative arrangements for the now-illegal camping should be provided. Several alternatives should be explored, including new parking seaward from Highway 1, other parking, the extension of bus service to the area from Ventura, or the camping improvements suggested in the Santa Monica Mountains State Parks' Development Plan (CPR 1977).
7. Any future vertical accessways must be designed to minimize bluff erosion.
8. Lateral accessways linking the Leo Carrillo Extension and the Yerba Buena Beach should be provided by the State.
9. The California Department of Parks and Recreation should acquire private parcels along the beaches where feasible, as well as provide for maximum public access.
10. The re-designation of Lot 10 Tract 4483 by the County in 2006, a portion of which was initially designated as commercial, to residential, a lower priority under the Coastal Act, to facilitate a specific project proposal, shall be offset by a requirement that the project proponent pay a fee in support of low cost, visitor-serving overnight accommodations in conjunction with the land use and zoning ordinance re-designation and the development of the subject property.

(Note: Policy 10, of this section, was certified as a result of LCP Amendment 1-2007, pursuant to a suggested modification by the California Coastal Commission.)

### **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**

11. South Coast Area Transit, in conjunction with the National Park Service, should fully explore through long-range planning the possibilities of extending service to the area, including (but not limited to) Federal funds for extended service, particularly from lower income areas, park-and-ride from central points in Ventura County using smaller, more cost-effective buses, service agreements with the Los Angeles County Rapid Transit District, and charter buses.
12. The National Park Service and State Parks should work together to determine the extent of impacts from additional visitation generated by new national parks in the County, particularly impacts on existing park facilities.
13. The County supports the work of the Santa Monica Mountains Recreational Transit Program to provide public transportation to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.
14. The acquisition of the beach area around Deer Creek is encouraged by either the California Department of Parks and Recreation or the National Park Service.

## Agriculture

Agriculture on the South Coast extends from the farm lands east of Point Mugu Naval Station near Calleguas Creek, to the northernmost foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. Limited agricultural activities occur in the mountains on flatter terrain ([Figure 30](#)).

A portion of the Broome Ranch (approximately 690 acres) falls within the coastal zone. All of the ranch's acreage is in three agricultural preserves. A portion is also in the Calleguas Creek flood plain. The agricultural lands are zoned "C-A" (Coastal Agricultural, 40 acre minimum lot size) and designated "Open Space" (10 acre minimum lot size) by the County's General Plan.

Minimum lot size in both this Coastal Plan and the County's General Plan for the "Agriculture" land use designation is 40 acres per single-family dwelling. This 40 acre minimum is sufficient to maintain economic viability for various agricultural uses (irrigated crops). Non-irrigated activities may require a larger acreage. Studies as to what constitutes a viable farm unit have been done by Ventura County Agricultural Committee (Appendix 4), Ventura County Assessor's Office and Ventura County Farm Bureau.

### Objective

To preserve agricultural lands on the South Coast to the maximum extent feasible.

### Policies

1. Soils will be conserved and erosion minimized by the use of best grading management practices as set forth by the Soil Conservation Service.
2. Land divisions in, or adjacent to agricultural areas, will not be allowed to affect agricultural productivity.
3. The Local Area Foundation Commission should exclude agricultural lands from any new or expanded service districts that could impact agricultural viability.
4. New service extensions beyond the stable urban boundary will be designed to mitigate any effects on agricultural viability.
5. As aquaculture develops it will be considered as a potential agricultural use in appropriate areas.

## Hazards

The severe and rugged terrain of the Santa Monica Mountains present considerable hazards and constraints to new development. A 50-year and 100-year flood hazard area is located along the Calleguas Creek flood plain. Severe slopes not only have the potential for instability and erosion, but may also serve as constraints to the proper functioning of water and septic systems. An additional concern in this area is access, especially emergency access in case of fire or other disasters.

The most important earthquake faults in the Santa Monica Mountains portion of the coastal zone are the Bailey Fault near Calleguas Creek, and the Sycamore Canyon, Boney Mountain and Malibu Coastal Faults in the mountainous areas ([Figure 31](#)). Historic records indicate that only six earthquakes larger than 4.0 magnitude on the Richter Scale have originated within 15 miles of the South Coast area since 1934. All were less than 5.3 magnitude and four of the epicenters were located off the coast.

The Bailey Fault marks the boundary between the western Santa Monica Mountains and the Oxnard Plain. It extends from Mugu Lagoon northerly to an intersection with the Camarillo Fault near Calleguas Creek and U.S. Highway 101. The existence of the fault is verified by water well data. The fault is designated as potentially active until more information becomes available for evaluation.

The Sycamore Canyon and Boney Mountain faults are the most prominent of the series of north-east trending breaks extending from Point Mugu to Thousand Oaks. These faults are designated as potentially active until more information is available.

The Malibu Coastal Fault, the Santa Monica and Raymond Hill Faults are thought to be a series of major north-dipping thrust faults that extend along the coast, onshore and offshore for many miles. Faults within this system are considered active. As much as 50 miles of left slip has occurred since Eocene times, about 50 million years ago (Norris and Webb 1976). The 1973 Point Mugu earthquake is believed to have originated on the Malibu Coastal Fault.

The South Coast immediately along the coast shows high potential for liquefaction in the area of Calleguas Creek and Mugu Lagoon.

- **Landslides and Slope Stability** - In general, the Santa Monica Mountains contain highly expansive soils. The soils, together with the steep topography, tend to increase the frequency of slope failure and erosion. According to the Ventura County Public Works Agency, grading, increased irrigation or septic runoff, and seismic activity may also trigger slope movement or erosion.
- **Flood Hazards** - Calleguas Creek is a major flood corridor in the South Coast. It flows along the northern slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains to the Mugu Lagoon. Severe flooding has occurred along the coastal zone portion of this corridor, resulting in damage to adjacent agricultural crops, transportation facilities and the military base. The lower reaches of the creek are currently unimproved. The Ventura County Flood Control District (VCFCD) is evaluating flood control solutions to this problem (see full discussion in LCP Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Paper).

There are also a number of creek corridors within the Santa Monica Mountains (e.g., Big Sycamore, Little Sycamore, Deer Creek, etc.) that could pose extreme flood and erosion hazards to new development.

- **Fire** - Fire is significant natural hazard in the Santa Monica Mountains. The Ventura County Hazards Appendix classifies the entire Santa Monica Mountains area as "extreme" for fire hazard. While many of the slopes contain safe coastal vegetation, the fire-adapted chaparral of drier slopes along with steepness, moisture and rainfall conditions, and severe emergency access constraints can combine to create a dangerous situation. Periodic burns are considered a natural event in chaparral communities, and fires should be anticipated as a regular occurrence. Secondary impacts of fires in this area include mudflows, landslides, and erosion due to loss of ground cover.

The Santa Monica Mountains are currently designated "Open Space" (one dwelling unit per 10 acres minimum) and "Recreation" (state park lands). In some areas of the Santa Monica Mountains, however, 40-100 acre minimum lot sizes are justified based on water availability, access, slope, geologic and fire hazards. For these reasons, it is necessary to maintain the Santa Monica Mountains as "Open Space," and also to investigate the application of 40-100 acre sub-zones where access to County-maintained roads is inadequate, and where severe slopes increase the potential for geological instability.

The General Plan's Hazards Appendix provides extensive information on various hazards, including fault zones, fire hazard areas, landslides, and flood plains. It is one of the principal documents consulted by Planning and the Public Works Agency when formulating an initial study on a proposed project to determine the need for an EIR. Should an EIR be required, the General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (Chapter 2) and Hazards Appendix are used in evaluating the various impacts of the projects.

### **Objective**

To protect public safety and property from natural and human-induced hazards as provided for in County ordinances.

## Policies

1. The County's existing General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (Chapter 2) and Hazards Appendix provides direction for geologic, seismic, flood and fire hazard avoidance.
2. New development shall be suited and designed to minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazards.
3. All new development will be evaluated for its impacts to, and from, geologic hazards (including seismic safety, landslides, expansive soils, subsidence, etc.), flood hazards, and fire hazards. Feasible mitigation measures shall be required where necessary.
4. The County may require the preparation of a geologic report at the applicant's expense. Such report shall include feasible mitigation measures which will be used in the proposed development.
5. Structures for human habitation (regularly, habitually, or primarily occupied by humans) shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from an active fault. This setback may be increased when geologic conditions warrant.
6. New development shall be sited and designed so as not to cause or contribute to flood hazards, or lead to the expenditure of public funds for flood control works.
7. The South Coast portion of the Santa Monica Mountains requires special attention and the following formula and minimum lot sizes will be utilized as new land divisions as proposed in the "Open Space" or "Agricultural" designations:
  - a. The following slope/density formula will be used to compute the average slope of property proposed to be subdivided:

$$S = \frac{(100)(I)(L)}{A}$$

where:

- S = average slope (%)  
I = contour interval (ft.)  
L = total length of all contour lines (ft.)  
A = total area of the lot (sq. ft.)

- b. Once the average slope has been computed, the following table will be used to determine a minimum lot size for newly proposed lots:

0% - 15%	=	10 acres
15.1% - 20%	=	20 acres
20.1% - 25%	=	30 acres
25.1% - 35%	=	40 acres
35.1% & above	=	100 acres

8. A landscaping plan for fire and erosion control will be submitted for any new development located in extreme fire hazard areas as shown in the County's Hazard Appendix Fire Hazard Map. As many native plants as feasible should be used, and information on kinds and sources of these plants are available through the County.
9. The majority of the Santa Monica Mountains are designated "Open Space" or "Recreation" in this Coastal Area Plan. This is consistent with the County General Plan, the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan (1979) and the areas U.S. National Park Services National Recreation area designations.

## Beach Erosion

Beach erosion on the South Coast occurs at Point Mugu State park along Sycamore Beach and the Beaches in the Solomar "Existing Community" area.

Major erosion occurs during the winter months. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers indicates a 1.9 foot per year erosion rate for Sycamore Beach, and a 0.9 foot per year erosion rate for Solomar Beach. The problem is severe in these areas.

Construction of new residential units on existing legal lots within the "Existing Community" area may require special review to ensure that new development does not bring about substantial wave and erosion damage, nor require new shoreline protection structures.

### Objective

To protect public safety and property from beach erosion as provided for in existing ordinances, and within the constraints of natural coastal processes.

### Policies

1. Construction or maintenance of shoreline structures will be limited to only those projects needed to protect existing development, public recreation, and existing roads from beach erosion.
2. Proposed shoreline protective devices will only be approved and/or located in conformance with Coastal Act Sections 30235 and 30253.
3. All shore line protective structures which alter natural shoreline processes will be designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline and sand supply.
4. A building permit will be required for any construction and maintenance of protective shoreline structures, such as seawalls, jetties, revetments, groins, breakwater and related arrangements.
5. The County's Building and Safety Division will routinely refer all permits for seawalls, revetments, groins, retaining walls, pipelines and outfalls to the Flood Control and Water Resources Division of the Public Works Agency to be evaluated not only for structural soundness, but environmental soundness as well whenever necessary. This includes a survey of potential environmental impacts, including (but not limited to) the project's effects on adjacent and downstream structures, net littoral drift, and downcoast beach profiles.
6. If the potential environmental impacts of the proposed structure are considered significant by the Public Works Agency, the applicant may be required to obtain an engineering report which indicates how those impacts will be mitigated.
7. Permitted shoreline structures will not interfere with public rights of access to the shoreline.

## Energy and Industrial Facilities

No energy or industrial facilities are located on the South Coast or within the inland areas of the Santa Monica Mountains at this time. It is unlikely any facilities will locate anywhere within the Santa Monica Mountains given their status as a National Recreation Area (NRA). The federal government is developing a management plan for the entire NRA.

### Objective

To allow exploration and production of oil and gas in most of the South Coast sub-area while meeting Coastal Act and County objectives, and maintaining environmental quality.

## Policies

1. All land between State Highway 1 and the shoreline; or land designated "Residential," "Recreational," or shown as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" will be considered as unacceptable for new energy or industrial facilities of any kind. Pre-existing facilities and oil/gas/communication pipelines, and repair of such will be considered acceptable.
2. Within the land area between State Highway 1 and the landward coastal zone boundary, oil drilling and directly related facilities are permitted by Conditional Use Permit consistent with Section 30260 of the Coastal Act. No new major facilities which require a "Coastal Industrial" (C-M) zone will be permitted unless located in an area designated "Industrial".
3. All surface activities, including those regulated by the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources related to the development of onshore oil and gas resources in the coastal zone are considered to be projects that require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and a Coastal Development Permit. Both permits will be issued simultaneously through one CUP process. See the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (including, but not limited to Section 8175-8.7) for a list of standard oil development design and operational criteria applied to all new permits for expanded or new oil activities. Additional conditions may be required depending on the specific request and the location.
4. A Development Plan shall accompany the application for a CUP for those activities stated in Policy 3, and shall include:
  - a. The location of drilling and/or production sites, storage tanks, pipelines and access roads.
  - b. Plans for the consolidation, to the maximum extent feasible, of drilling and/or production facilities, as well as accessory facilities.
  - c. A phasing plan for the staging of development that indicates the approximate anticipated timetable for project installation, completion and decommissioning.
  - d. A plan for eliminating or substantially mitigating adverse impacts on habitat areas, prime agricultural lands, recreational areas, scenic resources and archaeological sites due to siting, construction, or operation of facilities.
  - e. Grading plans for all facilities requiring the movement of greater than 50 cubic yards of dirt. For any development requiring a grading permit, either (1) a Storm Water Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Ventura County Municipal Storm Water Permit, Order No. 00-108, Part 4 - Special Provisions, D. Programs for Construction Sites, or (2) a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the State General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, whichever is applicable.
  - f. A description of means by which all oil and gas will be transported off-site to a marketing point. Pursuant to Policy 6, transshipment of crude oil and gas shall be through on-shore pipeline.
  - g. A description of the procedures for the transport and disposal of all solid and liquid wastes.
  - h. Oil spill prevention and control measures.
  - i. Fire prevention procedures.
  - j. Emission control equipment.
  - k. Procedures for the abandonment and restoration of the site, including a timeline, and clarification as to whether or not the abandonment will be in place or the infrastructure will be removed.





Board for their review and approval. All excavated materials shall be replaced in reverse order with topsoil replaced at grade level and compacted if necessary. All sites previously covered with native vegetation shall be re-seeded with the same or recovered with the previously removed vegetation materials and shall include other measures as deemed necessary to prevent erosion until the vegetation can become established.

13. Geologic investigations shall be performed by a qualified geologist or engineering geologist where a proposed petroleum pipeline route crosses potential fault zones, seismically active areas, or moderately high to high risk landslide areas. This report shall investigate the potential risk and recommend such mitigation measures as pipeline route changes and/or engineering measures to help assure the integrity of the pipeline and minimize erosion, geologic instability, and substantial alterations of the natural topography. New pipeline corridors shall be consolidated with existing pipeline or electrical transmission corridors where feasible, unless there are overriding technical constraints or significant social, aesthetic, environmental, or economic concerns.
14. Transmission line rights-of-way shall be routed to minimize impacts on the viewshed in the coastal zone, especially in scenic rural areas, and to avoid locations which are on or near habitat, recreational, or archaeological resources, whenever feasible. Scarring, grading, or other vegetative removal shall be repaired, and the affected areas re-vegetated with plants similar to those in the area to the extent safety and economic considerations allow.
15. In important scenic areas, where above-ground transmission line placement would unavoidably affect views, undergrounding shall be required where it is technically and economically feasible unless it can be shown that other alternatives are less environmentally damaging. When above-ground facilities are necessary, design and color of the support towers shall be compatible with the surroundings to the extent safety and economic considerations allow.
16. Pursuant to section 307(f) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 USC § 1456(f)), the adopted Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan shall be used as a criterion in determining consistency of federal actions on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) with the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP). Pursuant to Section 328 of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 USC § 7627) all activities on the OCS must comply with the Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations as specified in 40 CFR Part 55.
17. Upon decommissioning of off-shore facilities that contain on-shore facilities and/or pipelines (or "components"), a phasing plan shall be submitted delineating the timeline for disposition of the on-shore facilities.
18. Coastal Act sections 30101, 30101.3, 30255, and 30260, will be used as the criteria by the County to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether onshore or offshore oil and gas development and an energy-related industrial facility supporting such development is defined as "coastal-dependent development" or "coastal-related development", based on the specific geographic, technological, and economic characteristics of the project being proposed.

## **Public Works**

Public service capacities for sewer, water and roads are severely limited in the South Coast sub-area. Two distinct areas are identified: 1) the designated Solromar "Existing Community" area along the coast, and 2) inland areas of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Water for the limited demands of existing development is available in the Solromar "Existing Community" area. Water to residents of the Mountains is provided by individually-owned well sites. Adequacy of water supplies for mountain areas is determined by on-site inspection by the Environmental Health Division of the County.

Sewer service in the entire South Coast is provided by individual septic tank systems permitted through the Environmental Health Division. Several septic systems in the "Existing Community" area are located directly on the beach. These areas are classified as having "severe" septic tank limitations. Damage to these systems could occur from erosion of a combination of storm waves and high tides. The Regional Water Quality Control Board now has a policy that prohibits the use of walls to protect septic systems on the beach.

The waters offshore of the "Existing Community" area have been designated by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) as an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). The ASBS extends from Laguna Point in the north to just south of Point Dume in Los Angeles County.

The RWQCB prohibits the direct discharge of wastes into an ASBS or its immediate vicinity with the exception of vessel wastes, dredging or disposal of dredging spoils.

Under the current "208" Areawide Water Treatment Management Plan, a study of septic tank problems in the Santa Monica Mountains was completed in January 1980 by the Environmental Health Division. Several options were proposed that could alleviate present septic tank problems. Included was a recommendation that a septic system management entity be established (or an on-site wastewater management zone) to ensure proper inspection, maintenance and control.

State Highway 1 can handle traffic generated by build-out of the "Existing Community" and mountain areas allowed in the present County General Plan and this Coastal Plan. Public roads within the Mountains are substandard, subject to slides and erosion, and restrict emergency services. The Public Works Agency will continue to maintain the roads. However, no improvements will be undertaken in the near future because of limited funds and the environmentally sensitive nature of the area.

The County General Plan designates approximately 90 percent of this sub-area as "Open Space" (one unit per 10+ acres). The existing beach residential development (Solromar) has been designated "Existing Community" and is allowed to build out to the density of prevailing coastal zoning (this allows parcels less than one acre in size). The two private camps on the South Coast are designated "Rural".

With the exception of the "Existing Community" area, the Mountains are zoned "C-O-S(M)" (Coastal Open Space with Santa Monica Mountains Overlay) and "C-R-E-20 Ac. (M)" or "-5 Ac. (M)" (Coastal Rural Exclusive at 20 or 5 Ac. Min. with Santa Monica Mountains Overlay) for the private youth camps.

### **Objective**

Any new or expanded public works facilities (including roads, flood control measures, water and sanitation facilities) constructed on the South Coast, will be designed to serve the potential population within limits established by the Local Coastal Program (LCP) consistent with the County's Air Quality Management Plan and "208" (Water Quality) Plan.

### **Policies**

1. The recommendation of the "208" Plan Septic Tank Problem Area-Santa Monica Mountains Study for the establishment of a septic system maintenance district will be supported.
2. That new service district boundaries shall be consistent with the adopted Coastal Area Plan and County General Plan policies.
3. New development in the Santa Monica Mountains should be self-sufficient with respect to sanitation and water and should not require the extension of growth inducing services. Development outside of the established "Existing Community" area shall not directly or indirectly cause the extension of public services (roads, sewers, water, etc.) into an open space area. The County shall make the finding for each individual development requiring sanitary facilities and potable water that said private services will be able to adequately serve the development over its normal lifespan.

4. Public utility use by the Pacific Missile Test Center (PMTC) does not create impacts on circulation, sewer and water use for the foreseeable future because of stable or declining land use intensity at the base. However, any change in intensity of use, such as civilian-military shared use, should be examined for impacts on Coastal Act and LCP land use priorities. Similarly, any future adverse impacts of groundwater extraction for the Navy base should be examined for such impacts.

## **Locating and Planning New Development**

New development on the South Coast is constrained by the "Existing Community" designation for the Solomar area and the terrain of the Santa Monica Mountains. Water service is only provided for the "Existing Community" area. Individual wells provide water in the mountain areas. There is no sewer service for either the coastal or mountain areas; septic tank systems are utilized.

Although Highway 1 capacities can accommodate additional traffic from build-out in the mountain areas, public roads within the mountains are generally substandard and subject to slides and erosion. Highway 1 is also subject to slides and erosion problems which have caused traffic delays.

### **Objective**

To preserve the South Coast sub-area in as natural a state as possible while maintaining the private property rights and needs for public safety.

### **Policies**

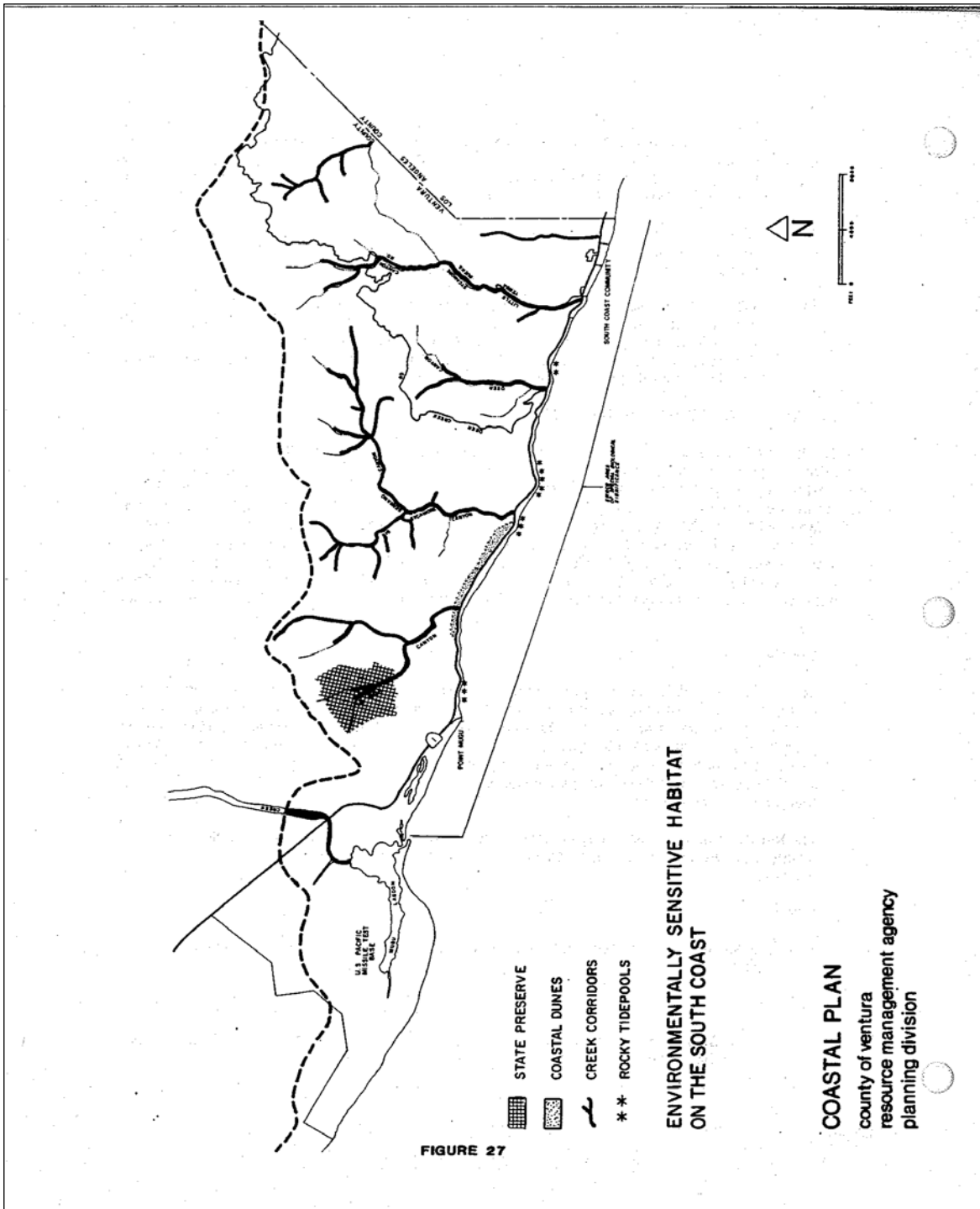
1. The "Existing Community" will be allowed to build out to its existing boundary within zoning and environmental constraints.
2. Consistent with the environmental characteristics and limited service capacities of the Santa Monica Mountains area, only very low density development as prescribed by the "Open Space" designation will be allowed in the Santa Monica Mountains. The slope/density formula found in the "Hazards" section will be utilized to determine the minimum lot size of any proposed land division.

## **Potential Conflicts**

Development conflicts in the Santa Monica Mountains portion of the South Coastal zone are diminished, in part, because large areas are already set aside for recreational purposes. Proposed acquisitions by Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will further restrict development. Conflicts could arise between land owners wishing to develop their lands and the physical constraints imposed by terrain, hazards, and health and safety problems.

At this time no conflicts exist between agricultural and urban land uses.

**Figure 27**  
**Environmentally Sensitive Habitat on the South Coast**





**Figure 29  
South Coast Access Inventory**

NO.*	Name & Location	Access Type	Size	Frontage	Open	Signed	Owned By	Managed By	Remarks
1.	Vista Point - Mugu Rock West of Hwy. 1, 9 miles South of Oxnard	View	---	---	Yes	Yes	Caltrans	Caltrans	
2.	Point Mugu State Park East and West of Hwy. 1, 10 miles south of Oxnard	Park	15,200 ac.	3.6 miles	Yes	Yes	State Parks	State Parks	
3.	Bass Rock Point Lookout West of Hwy. 1, 11 miles south of Oxnard	View	---	---	Yes	Yes	Caltrans	Caltrans	
4.	Vista Point West of Hwy. 1, 12 miles south of Oxnard	View	---	---	Yes	Yes	Caltrans	Caltrans	
5	Leo Carrillo State Beach	Park	32 ac.	1.1 miles	Yes	Yes	State Parks	State Parks	Ventura County portions of park are undeveloped at this time.

6/20/89

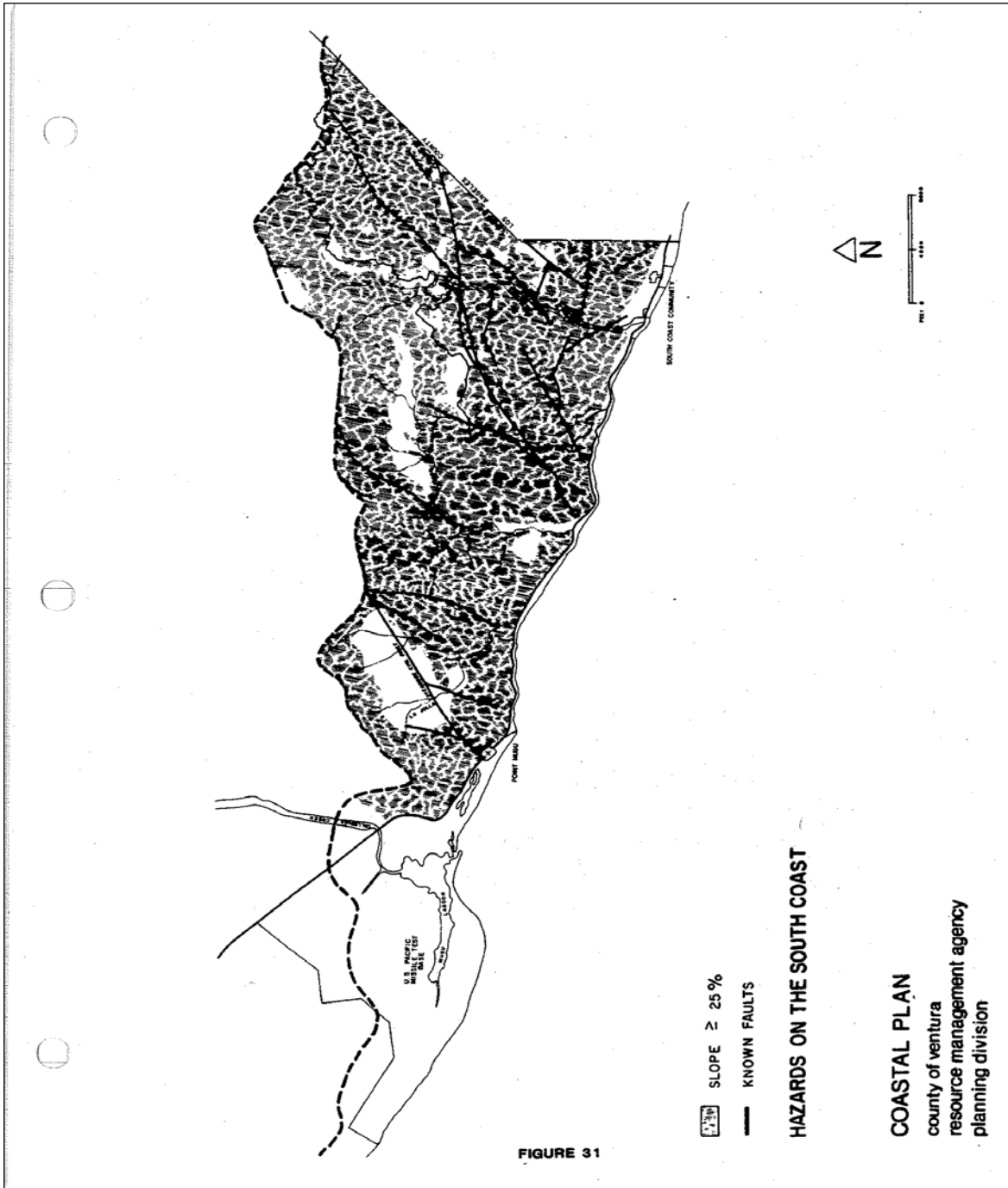
Footnotes:

\* Keyed to the Local Coastal Area Plan Land Use Map for the South Coast, Figure 32.1 (separate map)





**Figure 31  
Hazards on the South Coast**



**Figure 32  
Summary Table Building Intensity/Population Density Standards (South Coastal Area)**

**Open Space/Agriculture/Recreation**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Maximum Intensity (DU/Ac) <sup>1</sup>	Dwelling Units	Average Pop/DU <sup>2</sup>	Population	Average Population Density (Persons/Acre)
Open Space	10,142.7	5% <sup>3</sup>	0.100	1,014	1.82	1,845	0.182
Agriculture	649.8	5% <sup>3</sup>	0.025	16	1.82	29	0.045
Recreation	6,999.8	5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17,792.3</b>			<b>1,030</b>		<b>1,874</b>	

**Residential**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Maximum Intensity (DU/Ac) <sup>1</sup>	Dwelling Units	Average Pop/DU <sup>2</sup>	Population	Average Population Density (Persons/Acre)
Rural	102.2	25% <sup>4</sup>	0.50	51	1.82	92	0.90
Low	6.7	29%	2.00	13	1.82	23	3.43
Medium	7.5	42%	6.00	45	1.82	81	10.80
High	25.2	65%	36.00	907	1.82	1,650	65.48
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>141.6</b>			<b>1,016</b>		<b>1,846</b>	

**Commercial/Industrial**

Designation	Acres	Max. Bldg. Coverage (% Of Lot Area)	Projected Floor Area (X 1,000 SF)	Average Number Of Employees Per 1,000 SF	Employees	Average Employees/Acre
Commercial	3.7	40%	80.6	1.0	80	21.62

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Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Excludes second dwelling units per Section 65852.2 of the State Government Code.

<sup>2</sup> Year 2000 Forecast for Thousand Oaks Nongrowth Area.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes greenhouses, hothouses, and the like. For nonconforming lots, maximum building coverage shall be 2,500 square feet, plus 1 square foot for each 22.3 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes greenhouses, hothouses, and the like. For nonconforming lots, maximum building coverage shall be 2,500 square feet, plus 1 square foot for each 4.6 square feet of lot area over 5,000 square feet.

N/A - Not Applicable.

**Figure 33  
Zoning Compatibility Matrix**

PLAN MAP LAND USE DESIGNATIONS	ZONES	COS (10 AC. Min.)	CA (40 AC. Min.)	CR (1 AC. Min.)	CRE (10,000 S.F. Min.)	CR-1 (7,000 S.F. Min.)	CR-2 (3,500 S.F./DU)	RB (3,000 S.F. Min.)	RBH *	CRPD	CC	CM
Open Space (10 Ac. Min.)		○	○									
Agriculture (40 Ac. Min.)			○									
Recreation		○										
Rural (Residential 2 Ac. Min.)				⊘ 2 AC	⊘ 2 AC							
Low (Residential 1-2 DU/Ac.)				○	○							
Medium (Residential 2.1-6 DU/Ac.)						○				⊘ 6 U		
High (Residential 6.1-36 DU/Ac.)							○	○	○	⊘ 36 U		
Commercial											○	
Industrial												○

□ Not compatible with Plan

○ Compatible with Plan

⊘ Compatible only with zone suffix equal to or more restrictive than that shown in circle.

⊘  
AC = X acre minimum lot size

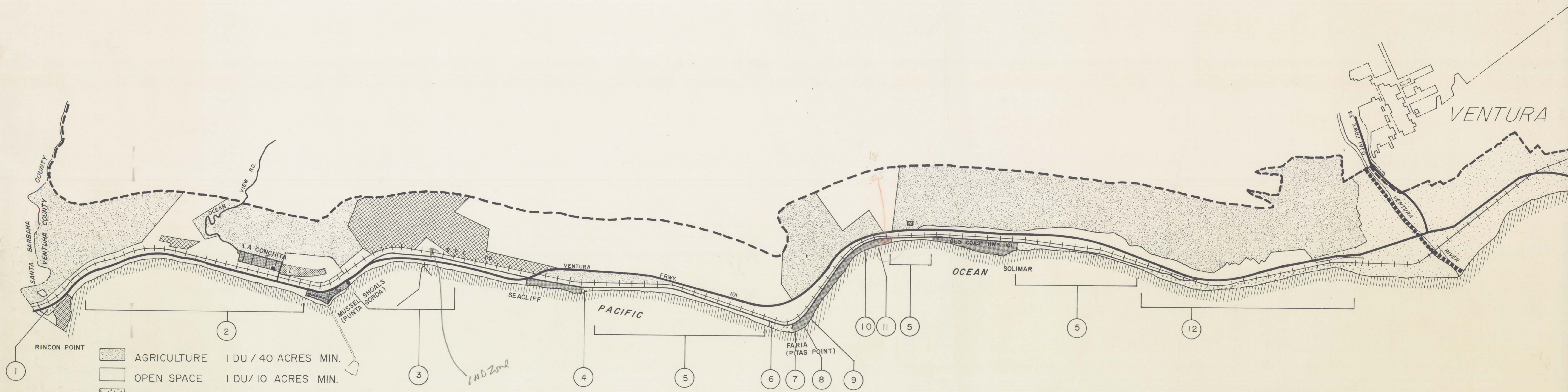
⊘  
U = X thousand square feet minimum lot size

⊘  
U = X units per acre maximum

Footnotes:

\* 1,750 S.F. per single-family dwelling/3,000 S.F. per two-family dwelling.

12/10/96



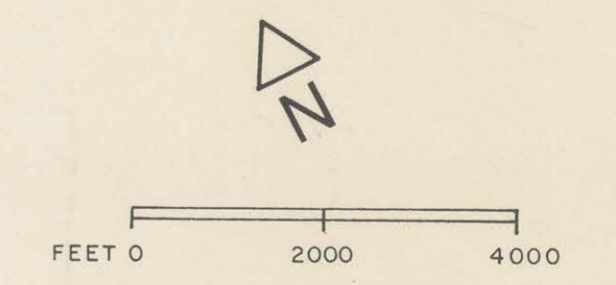
- AGRICULTURE 1 DU / 40 ACRES MIN.
- OPEN SPACE 1 DU / 10 ACRES MIN.
- RECREATION
- RURAL 1 DU / 2 ACRE MIN.
- LOW 1-2 DU / ACRE
- MEDIUM 2.1-6 DU / ACRE
- HIGH 6.1-36 DU / ACRE
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- STABLE URBAN BOUNDARY
- ACCESS POINTS (see area plan text fig. 5)

# LAND USE PLAN

county of ventura local coastal program  
 resource management agency planning division

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL MAP OF VENTURA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN  
 ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE PLANNING LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.  
 PASSED BY RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON 11-18-80

AMENDED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (GPA)	CERTIFIED BY CALIF. COASTAL COMMISSION
4-14-81 (1981)	8-20-81
3-30-82 (1982)	6-18-82
6-20-89 (89-1)	10-10 & 12-89
12-10-96 (96-2)	4-10-97



**COASTAL AREA PLAN**  
**FIGURE 16.2**  
**NORTH COAST**