



7.0 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

7.1 Regulatory Setting

For a detailed description of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing biological resources, see the Oceano Dunes District Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) EIR Chapter 6 “Biological Resources,” Section 6.1 “Regulatory Setting” (CDPR 2020). The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and federal Clean Water Act (CWA) are the principal federal laws relevant to biological resources in the PWP area. In addition to CEQA, the principal state laws regulating biological resources are the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), additional California Fish and Game Code¹ sections, and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act. Additional guidance regarding Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) in the coastal zone is contained in the California Coastal Act. The entire PWP area lies within the coastal zone.

California State Parks management and authority, along with related regulations and policies can also be found in Section 1.5 of Volume 1, Chapter 1 “Introduction” of this PWP and the Department’s Operations Manual for Natural Resources (CDPR 2004).

7.2 Environmental Setting

For a description of the biological resources environmental setting, see Volume 2 section 1.5 “Biological Resources,” of this PWP. For more detailed information see the Oceano Dunes District HCP EIR Chapter 6 “Biological Resources,” Section 6.2 “Environmental Setting” (CDPR 2020). The information in the HCP EIR is based on data developed for the HCP, including the Vegetation Mapping Report and State Park’s surveys. The Vegetation Mapping Report is HCP Appendix I. No significant changes in land use or habitat types have occurred since those surveys were completed. For this PWP, the habitat types described in the HCP were combined into slightly larger groups based on a comparative mapping effort conducted at the onset of the planning process. Acreages provided in this Section are based on the PWP habitat types, as described in Section 1.5 of Volume 2. The District is currently in the early stages of developing a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) for the Park and has also worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in developing a Biodiversity Management Plan (see Appendix B of Volume 1).

7.2.1 Effects of Ongoing Park Activities

Existing and ongoing Park activities include operation and management of facilities, and various programs including visitor use and safety, park maintenance, natural resource management, cultural resource management, and other miscellaneous operations. For a complete description of ongoing activities please see Volume 2 “Existing Conditions” of this PWP. It is State Park’s mission to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity and protect their natural values in perpetuity for the people of the state while providing for health, inspiration, and education, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Biological resource protection and enhancement are incorporated into existing park management plans and programs. However, existing activities also have known impacts on biological resources within the Park. Effects of these existing activities on special-status species fall into five categories as

¹ All Fish and Game Code references are to the California Fish and Game Code



covered by the HCP: mortality or injury, disturbance, habitat reduction, indirect impacts, and beneficial effects, as defined below. For consistency purposes, this biological resources section uses the same categories for impacts to special-status species, including those species not included in the HCP as covered species. The categories are defined as follows:

- **Mortality or Injury.** The (covered) activity has directly caused mortality or injury to a species in the past or has the potential to do so within the permit term of the HCP due to the nature of the activity. Examples include, but are not limited to, species being struck by a vehicle or being stepped on by pedestrians.
- **Disturbance.** The (covered) activity has caused disturbance to a species in the past or has the potential to do so within the permit term of the HCP due to the nature of the activity. Disturbance means causing stress to an individual or group of species such that they alter their natural behavior, potentially resulting in reduced breeding or foraging success, or even in some cases injury or mortality of one or more individuals. Disturbance also includes short-term impacts to species habitat, such as a temporary increase in turbidity in aquatic habitats.
- **Habitat Impacts.** The (covered) activity has resulted in a permanent reduction or alteration of species habitat in the past or has the potential to do so within the permit term of the HCP due to the nature of the activity. Examples of permanent habitat impacts include, but are not limited to, the reduction in habitat quality from motorized vehicle recreation or the permanent loss of habitat from covered activities.
- **Indirect Impacts.** The (covered) activity has caused indirect impacts to species in the past or has the potential to do so within the permit term of the HCP due to the nature of the activity. Indirect impacts include indirect negative effects to species from covered activities, such as an increase in the likelihood of predation or disease, or exposure to pollutants.
- **Beneficial Effects.** (Covered) activities with beneficial effects reduce the likelihood of species mortality or injury from other covered activities, protect species breeding and foraging habitat, and/or aid in the maintenance or recovery of species populations. Examples include the breeding season exclosures and monitoring for Western snowy plover (SNPL) and California least tern (CLTE), the California red-legged frog (CRLF) surveys, the tidewater goby and salmonid surveys, and the listed plant management activities.

State Parks manages the effects of existing covered activities through implementing many Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) such as recreation use restrictions, protective fencing of sensitive areas, habitat enhancements, enforcement patrols, and monitoring. AMMs employed by State Parks for the conservation of covered species are listed in the HCP EIR Appendix B and briefly described below. The PWP has been developed and will be implemented consistent with the HCP, once adopted, and its AMMs.

Special-status species impacted by existing activities are described in the HCP EIR Section 6.2.3 and Table 7-2 (CDPR 2020). The potential for existing ongoing activities occurring at Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA to affect these special-status species are characterized in the HCP EIR Appendix D, Tables D-1 through D-6 and include injury/mortality, disturbance, habitat disturbance, and indirect effects, as well as beneficial effects (CDPR 2020).



7.2.2 Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs)

Avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) from the HCP have been incorporated in the proposed PWP and its associated projects and management actions as components that are designed to minimize impacts to the covered species and their environment. The application of AMMs during PWP implementation is presumed, and therefore they are not considered mitigation measures but rather resource protection measures that are part of the proposed PWP and HCP. Thus, the AMMs are considered to be in place when determining the level of impact of the PWP, as described below.

A summary listing of HCP AMMs, also applicable to this PWP, is presented in the HCP EIR Appendix B (CDPR 2020). There are 140 AMMs for protecting snowy plover, 126 AMMs for California least tern, 49 AMMs for California red-legged frog, 55 AMMs for tidewater goby, and 38 AMMs for the covered plant species. These measures are designed to protect the covered species from potentially significant impacts caused by the covered activities. Because these AMMs are designed broadly to protect important habitats in the park, they will also protect special-status species that are not HCP covered species but occupy or frequent the same habitat.

Fish. The HCP includes AMMs specifically for the protection of tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*), including, but not limited to, visitor and park personnel education, signage, minimizing/excluding human and dog activities in tidewater goby habitat, seasonal closures, enforcement (particularly during periods of high use), minimizing disturbance during surveys for fish and amphibians, minimizing erosion, assuring sustained water flows, and pre-construction surveys. The PWP does not introduce new activities into aquatic habitat occupied by tidewater goby other than the seasonal floating bridge at Pismo Creek, which would not adversely impact the species. Therefore, tidewater goby would not be impacted by the new proposed management actions or projects in the PWP and is not considered further in this analysis.

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) South-Central California Coast Ecologically Significant Unit (ESU) occur in Arroyo Grande Creek and Pismo Creek, which are the only two creeks in the Park that are connected to the ocean for steelhead migration. State Parks staff monitor fish populations in these areas one to four times per year. The steelhead South-Central California Coast ESU is not a covered species in the HCP because NOAA Fisheries concluded that the existing covered activities listed in the HCP are not likely to result in “take” of steelhead as defined in the FESA with the implementation of AMMs. In addition, the HCP and PWP do not introduce new activities into aquatic areas such as Arroyo Grande Creek and Pismo Creek where steelhead occur, other than the seasonal floating bridge at Pismo Creek, which would not adversely impact the species. Therefore, steelhead would not be impacted by the new proposed activities in the HCP or PWP and is not considered further in this analysis.

Amphibians and Reptiles. The HCP specifies AMMs to protect California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*; CRLF), including, but not limited to, visitor and employee education, posted speed limits, trash management and predator control, monitoring of creek crossings, pre-activity surveys, decontamination of equipment, non-native vegetation management, controlling activities that can cause turbidity, biological monitoring during construction and maintenance activities, timing construction/maintenance to avoid the breeding season, and control of pesticide use. The AMMs specifically target Arroyo Grande Creek, Carpenter Creek, Pismo Creek, Arroyo Grande Creek Lagoon, Oceano Lagoon, Pismo Lagoon, Oso Flaco Creek, Pismo Lake, dune lakes and wetlands, the campgrounds and golf



course (maintenance in uplands), riparian areas, and areas subject to cultural resources management. HCP AMMs for CRLF may also provide protection for western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*; WST) and western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*; WPT). All AMMS for amphibians and reptiles would also be applied during PWP implementation.

Birds. The HCP specifies AMMs to protect western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*; SNPL) and California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*; CLTE), including, but not limited to, visitor and employee education, posted speed limits, trash management and predator control, seasonal exclosure and single-nest exclosure fencing, monitoring, habitat enhancement, and no-disturbance buffers. The AMMS target areas where SNPL and CLTE are known to nest along the shoreline, but also include other suitable habitat areas where SNPL and CLTE could occur. HCP AMMs for SNPL and CLTE may also provide protection for migrant and winter resident birds, as well as some other nesting birds (e.g., ground nesting birds such as California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)). All AMMS for birds would also be applied during PWP implementation.

Plants. The HCP specifies AMMs to protect covered plants in the HCP area, including, but not limited to, visitor and employee education, habitat restoration, and pre-activity surveys. HCP AMMs for covered plants may also provide protection for some wildlife species that occur within similar habitats (e.g., coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*)). All AMMs for covered plants would also be applied during PWP implementation.

Impacts to both special-status species “covered” under the HCP and not covered under the HCP are discussed below in Section 7.3.2 “Special-status Species.”

Additional AMMs shall be implemented as necessary as determined by Parks Staff while preparing the Project Evaluation Forms (PEFs) for project activities.

7.2.3 Definition of ESHA

For the purposes of the analysis of impacts on biological resources resulting from implementation of the PWP in this Draft EIR, ESHA include those vegetation communities that are considered sensitive natural communities by CDFW, that are subject to regulation under section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, the State’s Porter Cologne Act, or California Fish and Game Code 1600 et al. Vegetation communities and habitat types considered ESHA for the purposed of this analysis are denoted with a * in Tables 7-1 and 7-2 below.

Unvegetated habitat types such as beach strand or unvegetated dunes are not considered ESHA for the purposes of this EIR. The mere presence of sensitive species (such as snowy plover or least tern) on beach strand does not make a habitat ESHA for the purposes of this EIR. However, directly (mortality) and indirect impacts to these species are discussed in detail in the impact discussion for special-status species. The eucalyptus trees in the butterfly grove are considered ESHA. However, the garden planted at the same location is not considered ESHA, as it has been recently planted.

This definition of ESHA for the purposes of this Draft EIR is consistent with the local applicable LCPs (please see Chapter 4, “Consistency Determination,” in Volume 1 (PWP) for a detailed analysis of this issue.



7.3 Project Impacts

The proposed PWP includes existing, new, proposed, and potential future activities. The majority of PWP activities presently already occur in the PWP area, were listed in the General Plan for the unit, permitted in the current CDP and have been occurring for decades. Chapter 3, Volume 1 of the PWP and the HCP EIR Table 24 in the project description identify those activities that are ongoing, and those that are new activities or may be considered in the future. Biological effects of ongoing existing covered activities are part of the environmental setting as described in Volume 2 Chapter 1 “Park History and Existing Conditions” and in the HCP EIR section 6.2.7 and HCP EIR Appendix D. The PWP does not propose changes to these existing activities; therefore, there are no new impacts associated with these existing activities; these activities do not change the environmental baseline.

Existing park management activities are included in this EIR impact analysis and include operations and maintenance, and management plans and programs (see Volume 1 Section 1.5 for park management programs and plans; also see Table 1-1 State Park Management Plans).

Specific Proposed Development Projects, other Small Development Projects, and implementation of Other Park Management Programs as described in detail in Chapter 3.3 through 3.5 of Volume 1 of this PWP are also analyzed in this EIR.

Threshold of Significance

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Threshold of significance (e) ‘local policies or ordinances’ does not apply to State Park lands because lands owned by the State are not subject to local land use policies. Therefore, this threshold will not be discussed further. Threshold of significance (f) ‘conflict with an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other’ would have **no impact** because implementation of the proposed PWP is



consistent with the HCP that has just been developed for the PWP area. The proposed PWP is also consistent with the NCCP that is currently under development. Additionally, the proposed PWP will not prevent the Arroyo Grande HCP being implemented by the San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works from achieving its goals; therefore, this will not be discussed further.

7.3.1 Special-status Species

Table 7-1 includes anticipated habitat impacts from PWP proposed Development Projects and Figures 7-1 through 7-10 include the proposed Development Projects and habitats. Table 7-2 includes anticipated habitat impacts from PWP Small Development Projects. No focused special-status species surveys were conducted in support of this EIR. However, the distribution of special-status species in the Park is relatively well known from years of work in support of the HCP and other management efforts. The locations of know special-status species (and other sensitive biological resources) was taken into consideration of the design of Development Projects and Small Projects. The impact analysis for special-status species is based on the presence of suitable habitat for these species in the planning area, and within the footprint of Development and Small projects. The analysis in this EIR also assumes the implementation of all avoidance and minimization measures and management programs in the Park as part of baseline conditions

7.3.1.1 *Impacts on Special-Status Species from Proposed PWP Implementation*

Impacts on special-status species and their habitats from existing park activities could result from operations and management of facilities, programs for visitor use and safety, park maintenance, natural and cultural resource management, and other miscellaneous Park operations. Impacts could also result from implementation of the specific Proposed Development Projects and other Small Development Projects. These impacts could include mortality and injury, disturbance, habitat impacts, and indirect impacts. Impacts by habitat types resulting from PWP Implementation are quantified in Table 7-1. These impact acreages were obtained by overlaying the footprint of the proposed Development and Small Projects with the habitat map of the PWP planning area developed for the PWP process. This habitat map is slightly modified from the HCP habitat map by combining related/similar habitat alliances quantified in the HCP into broader habitat types.

In addition to the project specific impacts quantified in Table 7-1, there could be up to 3 acres of temporary habitat impacts annually resulting from routine park activities as described in Section 3.5 in Chapter 3 of the PWP (Volume 1). This is a conservative estimate, taking into account all activities that routinely happen in the Park over a year. However, any single impact of these routine activities would be small, habitats would be restored onsite following implementation of the activities whenever possible, and any acreage that could not be restored onsite would be compensated for under the proposed habitat restoration of the Proposed Development Projects and the restoration/planting and habitat enhancement activities already ongoing in the Park.



Table 7-1. Habitat Impact Acreages on PWP Proposed Development Projects

Habitat Type	Oso Flaco Improvement Project	Oso Flaco Option 1 OHV Access Trail**	Oso Flaco Option 2 OHV Access Trail**	Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project	Park Corp Yard Maintenance Road	Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project	Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers Project	North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project	Butterfly Grove Public Access Project	Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project	Total Habitat Impacts
Active Interior Dune/Open Space*	0.578	0.368	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.058	1.689
Agriculture	117.790	0.269	0.268	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	118.175
Arroyo Willow/Wax Myrtle Thicket*	0.658	0.193	0.185	0.180	0.008	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.944
Central Coast Dune Scrub*	1.348	0.025	0.304	0.000	1.758	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.799	4.546	7.978
Developed / Disturbed	0.417	0.004	0.613	5.683	0.194	2.657	0.034	0.526	0.257	0.000	9.351
Dune Swale*	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.045
Foredunes*	0.214	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.894	3.100
Freshwater Lake*	0.294	0.000	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.139
Riparian*	4.105	0.040	0.047	0.542	0.708	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.160
Wetland*	2.001	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.974
Woodlands*	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.177	0.138	0.596	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.032	1.126
Total Project Acreages	127.605	1.007	1.540	6.582	2.806	3.401	0.034	0.526	1.159	8.737	149.681

*Denotes CDFW sensitive natural communities, also considered ESHA; ** Impact acreages based on conceptual alignments; actual acreage could change based on refinement of routes in the future

Table 7-2. Habitat Impact Acreage of PWP Small Development Projects

Habitat Type	40 Acre Riding Trail Installation	Replacement of Safety & Education Center	Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project	Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management	Total Habitat Impacts
Active Interior Dune/Open Space*	0.000	0.016	0.000	0.062	0.078
Agriculture	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Arroyo Willow/Wax Myrtle Thicket*	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Central Coast Dune Scrub*	4.800	0.000	0.044	0.000	4.844
Developed / Disturbed	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dune Swale*	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Foredunes*	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Freshwater Lake*	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Riparian*	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Wetland*	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Woodlands*	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.000	0.005
Total Project Acreages	4.800	0.016	0.049	0.062	4.927

*Denotes CDFW sensitive natural communities, also considered ESHA.

State Parks would continue to implement their standard practices and policies and AMMs currently in place for existing and future management activities and potential impacts on special-status from these activities are covered by the HCP and were analyzed in the HCP EIR. Additionally, it is the policy of State Parks to implement park acquisitions and resource, facility, and visitor use management strategies that foster long-term sustainability of natural animal and plant populations and the processes that influence the dynamics of these populations. These policies are described in detail in the Operations Manual for Natural Resources (CDPR 2004). Besides negative impacts on special-status species, there are also many beneficial effects on special-status species resulting from implementation of State Park's ongoing standard practices and AMMs. Therefore, impacts to special-status species from existing park activities would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measure: No mitigation required.

7.3.1.2 Impacts on Special-status Species from Proposed and Small Development Projects

Western Snowy Plover (SNPL) and California Least Tern (CLTE)

The following proposed Development Projects would occur outside of SNPL and CLTE primary and secondary habitat and would have **no impact** on breeding, foraging, or wintering birds:

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project;
- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project;
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers;
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project;
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project.

Impact 7-1 Direct and Indirect Impacts on SNPL and CLTE Primary and Secondary Habitat

The following proposed Development Project would impact SNPL primary breeding habitat and SNPL and CLTE secondary foraging and wintering habitat, which would result in direct or indirect impacts on SNPL and CLTE:

- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project - This project would include construction of a pedestrian trail and vegetation buffer around Oso Flaco Lake that could disrupt and disturb foraging and/or breeding SNPL and CLTE during the breeding and wintering seasons, including fledglings learning to feed, when present. The initial improvement project includes construction of a boardwalk that extends out to the beach and crosses through SNPL designated critical habitat, directly impacting 0.542 acres. Disturbance of approximately 0.806 acre of known SNPL breeding/nesting habitat is anticipated. Disturbance to approximately 2.527 acres of potential SNPL and CLTE foraging habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, central coast dune scrub, dune swale, foredunes, and freshwater lake as shown in Table 7-1. Construction of the boardwalk could directly impact nesting, foraging, or wintering SNPL and foraging or wintering CLTE and would remove habitat. The addition of the RV campground in the future phase would introduce more visitors to this area of the Park. Visitors could deposit additional trash in the area, which would attract SNPL predators. Although dogs are prohibited in



this area, visitors could also introduce dogs to this area, which could harass, destroy eggs or nests, or kill SNPL young. Increased visitor activities could result in stress, reproductive failure, reduced foraging success, illness, or even death to SNPL (see HCP EIR Appendix D (2020) for an exhaustive list of impacts from existing park activities on SNPL and CLTE).

These impacts to SNPL and CLTE would be potentially significant; however, construction disturbance would be temporary, the proposed development projects have been designed to avoid impacts to special-status species habitat to the extent feasible as mandated in the DOM (CDPR 2004), and Parks would seek an amendment to the HCP for the Oso Flaco Improvement Project because it would represent changes to the use pattern in the area. The HCP specifies AMMs to protect SNPL and CLTE, including but not limited to, visitor and employee education, posted speed limits, trash management and predator control, seasonal exclosure and single-nest exclosure fencing, monitoring, habitat enhancement, and no-disturbance buffers. The AMMs target areas where SNPL and CLTE are known to nest along the shoreline, but also include other suitable habitat areas where SNPL and CLTE could occur. Additionally, with the implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies (SNPL and CLTE management programs), along with implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-2** (Protect Breeding and Nesting SNPL and Compensate for Habitat Impacts), impacts would be reduced to *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measure 7-1: Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat.

The intent of this mitigation measure is to restore disturbed habitat to pre-construction conditions or to the desired future conditions per State Park's goals and objectives. Impacts to native vegetation communities and special-status species habitat shall be avoided during the design phase to the extent feasible. Prior to final design, State Parks shall map the community type and acreage of vegetation that would be subject to project disturbance. Prior to implementation of each project affecting native vegetation communities that could support special-status species State Parks shall prepare a Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan to support the construction design specifications that shall include at a minimum, as required by the State Parks' Natural Resources Handbook (CDPR, n.d.), the following:

- Objective of the revegetation;
- Characterization of the site including the identification of sensitive species;
- Measures to avoid or reduce damage to native communities and sensitive species;
- Vegetation expected to occupy the site in the absence of human disturbance;
- Sources of materials to be used for revegetation;
- Quantities of materials to be used;
- Planting techniques
- Appropriate planting density;
- Certified Weed Free site stabilization materials;
- Source and cost of labor to be used;
- Timing likely to yield the best chance of success;
- Any special conditions, such as short-term irrigation, or herbivore control, necessary to ensure establishment;



- Success criteria; and
- A monitoring program to measure success.

The replacement ratios for native vegetation will be as follows: woodland vegetation (2:1), riparian vegetation (3:1); shrub-dominated vegetation (1:1), and herbaceous vegetation (1:1). Habitat enhancement such as supplemental planting with native species in disturbed areas and/or invasive weed control shall also be acceptable to compensate for impacts on natural vegetation communities, as the same ratios described above. Habitat restoration can occur anywhere in the park, and ongoing habitat enhancement and use of native vegetation for dust mitigation that creates habitat would count toward the compensation ratios. The creation or restoration of habitat shall be monitored annually for up to five years. Remediation activities (e.g. additional planting, removal of non-native invasive species, trash removal, or erosion control) shall be undertaken as necessary to ensure the success of the restoration effort. If it can be clearly demonstrated that the intent of the mitigation measure has been met prior to the end of the 5-year monitoring period, monitoring may cease prior to the full length of the period. If the mitigation fails to meet the established performance criteria after the maintenance and monitoring period, monitoring and remedial activities shall be extended beyond the original period until the criteria are met.

Mitigation Measure 7-2: Protect Breeding and Nesting SNPL and Compensate for Habitat Impacts.

Construction of the Oso Flaco Boardwalk in suitable habitat for SNPL shall be constructed outside of the SNPL breeding season (March 1 to September 30). Prior to construction, preconstruction surveys within 500 feet of the work area shall be conducted for SNPL that may be foraging in the area during the non-breeding season. If SNPL are present, no work shall commence until they have left the area on their own. Daily monitoring of construction activities shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. If SNPL are observed within 100 feet during construction activities, work shall cease until the bird has left the area.

After construction of the Oso Flaco boardwalk, this amenity will only be available during the non-breeding season (October – February). During the SNPL breeding season, the boardwalk extension will be closed in the location where it splits from the current boardwalk and exclosure fencing shall be installed just south of the existing trail that leads from Oso Flaco Lake down to the beach and around the new boardwalk area to protect nesting SNPL. Signs in English and Spanish shall be posted identifying this area as closed due to nesting SNPL and warning violators of penalties for trespassing into the closed area. State Park rangers will have the responsibility to enforce park regulations enacted to protect SNPL, including issuing citations for incidents of trespass into the area closed for nesting. In addition, resource staff monitors will contact visitors who violate park regulations and, where appropriate, contact rangers who will issue a citation.

Prior to opening this new boardwalk section to the public, the entire length will be assessed for maintenance to remove accumulated sand, repair sections that were damaged during the closure, and any ongoing deterioration. This activity will follow the AMMs identified in the HCP for all maintenance activities on developed infrastructure within the covered lands.



Daily monitoring will take place during and immediately after the SNPL breeding season (when enclosure fencing is removed) to enable better identification of potential human use-related threats to SNPL and to summon law enforcement assistance, if needed, to prevent or eliminate any human use related threats to the species. Weekly monitoring for the location of SNPL within the project area will occur during the non-breeding season (October 1 through February 29), as staff levels and weather conditions allow. Monitoring will be increased if necessary (e.g., during storm events). During the non-breeding season, if determined to be necessary to protect wintering SNPL, Parks staff may temporarily close the Oso Flaco Boardwalk area through suitable habitat.

Approximately 0.542 acre of SNPL critical habitat will be impacted by the construction of the Oso Flaco Boardwalk. In addition, it is anticipated that 0.806 acre of SNPL known breeding/nesting habitat will be impacted by the changes in visitor use patterns, lifeguard tower, and other associated changes that result from the addition of the Oso Flaco campground. To compensate for this habitat impact, Parks shall prepare a Restoration Plan for enhancement of SNPL breeding/nesting habitat elsewhere in the Park at a 3:1 ratio where deemed appropriate. Enhancement can take the form of creation of new foredune habitat, invasive exotic species control in suitable habitat, and/or increased management and monitoring of known habitat. Enhancement of the SNPL habitat shall be monitored for 3 years for restoration success, and indefinitely for use by SNPL. It is possible that the HCP will need to be amended and updated to include the proposed improvements for the Oso Flaco Interim and Future improvements if the loss of habitat or take numbers increase beyond the current levels identified in the HCP.

The following proposed Development Projects would not impact SNPL and CLTE breeding habitat; however, they could result in direct or indirect impacts on SNPL and CLTE because they would be constructed immediately adjacent to or within secondary habitat:

- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project - This project would include construction of a boardwalk within SNPL secondary habitat. Boardwalk construction and pedestrians accessing the boardwalk could disrupt and disturb SNPL during the non-breeding season if SNPL roost or forage nearby. Disturbance to approximately 8.498 acres of potential foraging habitat is anticipated; however, this area would only support marginal SNPL foraging habitat due to the ongoing high level of recreation in the dunes, including on the nearby trails. Habitats impacted include active interior dune/open space, central coast dune scrub, and foredunes as shown in Table 7-1.
- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project – The project could include trail construction adjacent to potential SNPL and CLTE secondary habitat. No site-specific habitat mapping or surveys have been conducted and this assessment is based on aerial photograph interpretation only. Quantification of habitat would have to take place once mapping has been conducted and the conceptual design has moved forward. The project is included here at the program level only.

These impacts to SNPL and CLTE would be potentially significant; however, construction disturbance would be temporary and the proposed Development Projects have been designed to avoid impacts to special-status species habitat to the extent feasible as mandated in the DOM (CDPR 2004). The HCP specifies AMMs to protect SNPL and CLTE, including, but not limited to, visitor and employee education, posted speed limits, trash



management and predator control, seasonal enclosure and single-nest enclosure fencing, monitoring, habitat enhancement, and no-disturbance buffers. The AMMS target areas where SNPL and CLTE are known to nest along the shoreline, but also include other suitable habitat areas where SNPL and CLTE could occur. HCP AMMs for SNPL and CLTE may also provide protection for migrant and winter resident birds, as well as some other nesting birds (e.g., ground nesting birds such as California horned lark). Additionally, with the implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies (SNPL and CLTE management programs), along with implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-2** (Protect Breeding and Nesting SNPL and Compensate for Habitat Impacts), impacts would be reduced to *less than significant*.

The following Small Development Project was analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur outside of SNPL suitable habitat and would have **no impact** on breeding, foraging, or wintering birds:

- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement – No impact to SNPL.

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and could result in direct or indirect impacts to SNPL and/or CLTE:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation – The floating bridge is outside of SNPL and CLTE breeding habitat and would have no impact on nesting SNPL or CLTE; however, the seasonal bridge could impact roosting and foraging SNPL and CLTE.

Construction would be temporary and with implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies such as preconstruction surveys, avoidance, and monitoring, and HCP SNPL AMM 114 and CLTE AMM 101, these impacts would be reduced to *less than significant*.

- Replacement of the Safety and Education Center – This project is outside of the typical nesting area for SNPL and CLTE; however, there is a low potential for nesting and foraging that could be disrupted during construction. Disturbance to approximately 0.016 acre of potential foraging habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space as shown in Table 7-2.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, construction would be temporary and with implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies such as preconstruction surveys, avoidance, and monitoring, and HCP SNPL AMMs 8-19 and SNPL AMM 102, and CLTE AMMs 7-16, and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, these impacts would be reduced to *less than significant*.

- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement – This project could disturb roosting and foraging CLTE during construction. The boardwalk would be replaced in place; however, disturbance of up to approximately 1.5 acres of potential aquatic habitat is anticipated and included in the HCP. Any acreage of habitat impacted outside of that would be included in the up to 3-acre disturbance annually occurring in the Park as part of implementation of routine maintenance activities.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, construction would be temporary and with implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies such as preconstruction surveys, avoidance, and monitoring, and CLTE AMMs 102 and 103, and



implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, these impacts would be reduced to *less than significant*.

The following additional Small Development Project was not previously analyzed in the HCP EIR but would occur outside of SNPL and CLTE suitable habitat and would have *no impact* on these species:

- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project;

The following additional Small Development Project was not fully analyzed in the HCP EIR and could result in direct or indirect impacts to SNPL and/or CLTE:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation – No impact to SNPL; however, CLTE have been observed flying through this area and could potentially be struck by a vehicle during construction or operations.
- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management - This project is outside of the typical nesting area for SNPL and CLTE; however, there is a low potential for nesting and foraging that could be disrupted during construction. Disturbance to approximately 0.062 acre of potential foraging habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space as shown in Table 7-2.

With implementation of State Park’s standard practices and policies such as preconstruction surveys, avoidance, and monitoring, and HCP AMMs for SNPL and CLTE, this impact would be reduced to *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measure: Implement Mitigation Measures 7-1 and 7-2.

California Red-legged Frog (CRLF), Western Pond Turtle (WPT), Western Spadefoot Toad (WST)

The following proposed Development Projects would occur outside of CRLF, WPT and/or WST suitable habitat and would have *no impact*:

- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project – No impact to WST;
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers – No impact to CRLF, WPT and WST;
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project – No impact to WST;
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project – No impact to CRLF, WPT and WST.

Impact 7-2 Direct and Indirect Impacts on CRLF, WPT, and WST

The following proposed Development Projects would result in direct or indirect impacts on CRLF, WPT and WST because they would be constructed immediately adjacent to or within suitable habitat:

- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project – This project would include constructing a pedestrian trail and vegetation buffer around Oso Flaco Lake and a trail across aquatic habitat within suitable habitat for CRLF; therefore, CRLF individuals, tadpoles, and egg masses in aquatic habitat could be impacted by project construction and



the project could also cause mortality or injury of dispersing adults and juveniles, and loss of habitat. This project could also impact WPT individuals in aquatic habitat or adjacent habitat and could cause mortality or injury and loss of habitat. The project could also impact WST dispersal that could cause mortality or injury and loss of habitat. Disturbance of up to 7.258 acres of potential habitat is anticipated including arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, dune swale, freshwater lake, riparian, wetland, and woodlands as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 1 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.341 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, riparian and wetland as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 2 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.288 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, freshwater lake, and riparian as shown in Table 7-1.

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project – While the Park Corporation Yard itself does not provide suitable habitat for these species, the construction of the bridge over Meadow Creek for beach access could impact suitable aestivating habitat for WPT and dispersal habitat for CRLF and WST and could cause mortality or injury to these species. Disturbance of up to 0.854 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, riparian, and woodlands as shown in Table 7-1.
- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project – This project is adjacent to and within suitable riparian and creek habitat for CRLF and WPT and could result in mortality or injury of dispersing adult and juvenile frogs and turtles. Disturbance of approximately 0.744 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including riparian and woodlands as shown in Table 7-1.
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project – This project is adjacent to suitable riparian and creek habitat for CRLF and WPT and could result in mortality or injury of dispersing adult and juvenile frogs or turtles and loss of habitat if the adjacent habitat was encroached upon.
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project – Although there is no documentation of these species occurring in the project area, there is potential suitable dispersal habitat for CRLF, WPT and WST and potential aestivating habitat for WPT that could cause direct mortality or injury of dispersing adult and juvenile CRLF, WPT and WST during construction of the boardwalk. Disturbance to approximately 0.239 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket and woodlands as shown in Table 7-1.
- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project – This project site includes aquatic and riparian habitat within and adjacent to the site that could support CRLF and WPT, as well as habitat that could support WST. Construction activities could cause injury or mortality and degrade and/or cause loss of habitat. No site-specific habitat mapping or surveys have been conducted and this assessment is based on aerial photograph interpretation only. Quantification of habitat would have to take place once mapping has been conducted and the conceptual design has moved forward. The project is included here at the program level only.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, with implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies, wildlife management programs, and HCP CRLF AMMs 1-49, as applicable (specifically CFLF AMMs 16, 17, and 24-33) that would also protect and minimize impacts to WPT and WST, and implementation of **Mitigation**



Measure 7-1 (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), these impacts would be reduced to *less than significant*.

MM 7-3: Preconstruction Surveys for Special-Status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring

Within 30 days prior to construction, reconnaissance-level preconstruction surveys shall be conducted for special-status species (other than SNPL and CLTE) and their habitat by a qualified biologist approved by the applicable agency (CDFW and/or USFWS for listed species) to conduct surveys and handle special-status species, if necessary.

If special-status species habitat is present within the project area, focused surveys shall be conducted for the potentially occurring special-status species, if necessary, to identify and implement appropriate avoidance and minimization measures. The surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in accordance with all currently applicable presence and absences survey and/or species protocols established by CDFW and/or USFWS ("Species Protocols"), as applicable. In the absence of any approved Species Protocols, the survey shall extend for a minimum of 125 feet around areas where any ground-disturbing activities will occur, provided that permission to access has been obtained. Surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate season(s) to detect the species, if present. To meet seasonal requirements stipulated by Species Protocols, some surveys may be required more than 30 days before ground disturbances. In that case, follow-up pre-disturbance surveys also shall be required within 30 days before the start of the ground disturbance to confirm that no changes in species status have occurred in the survey area since the original survey. To avoid any impact during construction in areas where special-status species have been documented, the HCP AMMs shall be implemented along with any other necessary AMMs as determined by Parks Staff while preparing the Project Evaluation Forms (PEFs) for project activities, such as implementing exclusion buffers, installation of flagging and/or fencing, timing of work activities,

If impacts on special-status species habitat are unavoidable and special-status species are observed, they may be relocated upon determination by the agency-approved biologist that an appropriate relocation site exists, and relocation is the preferred avoidance method. The agency-approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move special-status species from the work site before work activities begin. Only agency approved biologists will participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of special-status species.

For areas where special-status species have been documented or where their habitat is present, an agency-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel before any ground disturbing project activities occur. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the special-status species that have potential to occur in the area and their habitat, the importance of their habitat, the general AMMS that are implemented to conserve habitat as they relate to the project, and the potential project impacts.

Immediately prior to the start of any ground disturbing project activities, the agency-approved biologist will conduct a survey sweep of the project area to



ensure no special-status species remain in the work area. If special-status species are observed, the agency-approved biologist will relocate them as necessary.

The agency-approved biologist will be present at the work site until the removal of all special-status species and instruction of workers, and will remain available/on-call during habitat disturbance. The agency-approved biologist may determine the level of monitoring necessary and can designate a Park representative and/or the contractor or permittee to designate a person to monitor on-site compliance with all applicable AMMs. The agency-approved biologist will ensure that this individual receives training and identification of special-status species. The monitor and the agency-approved biologist will have the authority to halt any action that might result in impacts to special-status species.

The following Small Development Project was analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur outside of CRLF, WPT and/or WST suitable habitat and would have ***no impact***:

- Replacement of Safety & Education Center – This project is outside CRLF, WPT and WST habitat.

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and could result in direct or indirect impacts to CRLF, WPT and WST:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation – The floating bridge would be installed in aquatic habitat; however, CRLF are not known to occur in Pismo Creek at this location due to the intrusion of saltwater and potential for occurrence is low. WPT is not likely to occur at this location as WST are very uncommon in the Park and also likely to avoid saltwater intruded habitat and therefore not likely to occur in this location.

Because CRLF, WPT and WST are unlikely to occur at this location, project activities would have a ***less than significant impact***.

- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement Project – This project spans approximately 940 linear feet of aquatic habitat including wetlands and open water where CRLF and WPT are known to occur. Replacement of the boardwalk would cause temporary disturbance to CRLF and WPT aquatic habitat and could potentially impact individual CRLF and WPT by injury or mortality if they are present in the work area during construction. CRLF adults, juveniles, or tadpoles, and WPT adults or juveniles could also be temporarily disturbed by activities. Disturbance of up to approximately 1.5 acres of potential aquatic habitat is anticipated and included in the HCP.

Construction would be temporary and with implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies, wildlife management programs, and HCP CRLF AMMs 38-41 that would also protect and minimize impacts to WPT and WST, along with implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), these impacts would be reduced to ***less than significant***. Additionally, the HCP includes the loss of up to 1.5 acres of CRLF aquatic habitat for the boardwalk replacement. Oso Flaco Lake is not considered suitable breeding habitat for WST; therefore, ***no impact*** to WST would occur.



The following other Small Development Project not analyzed in the HCP EIR would occur outside of CRLF, WPT and WST suitable habitat and would have ***no impact*** on these species:

- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management – This project is outside CRLF, WPT and WST habitat.

The following other Small Development Projects not analyzed in the HCP EIR could result in direct or indirect impacts to CRLF and WPT:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation – This project is outside of aquatic habitat and CRLF, WPT and WST are unlikely to disperse through the area.

Because CRLF, WPT and WST are unlikely to occur at this location, project activities would have a ***less than significant*** impact.

- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project – This project is the replacement of existing facilities in a developed area; however, the project is adjacent to riparian and creek habitat that has potential habitat for CRLF and WPT and could result in mortality or injury of dispersing adult and juvenile frogs or turtles. Disturbance to approximately 0.005 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including woodlands as shown in Table 7-2.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, with implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies, wildlife management programs, and HCP CRLF AMMs 38-41 that would also protect and minimize impacts to WPT and WST, and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), these impacts would be reduced to ***less than significant***.

Mitigation Measures: Implement Mitigation Measures 7-1 and 7-3.

Coast (California) Horned Lizard and Silvery Legless Lizard

The following proposed Development Projects would occur outside of coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard suitable habitat and would have ***no impact*** on these species:

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project;
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project.

Impact 7-3 Direct and Indirect Impacts on Coast (California) Horned Lizard and Silvery Legless Lizard

The following proposed Development Projects could result in direct or indirect impacts on coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard because they would be constructed within suitable habitat:

- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project – Coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard could occur in dune scrub or other vegetated dune habitats. Construction activities could cause injury or mortality and degrade and/or remove suitable habitat. Disturbance of approximately 2.34 acres of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, central coast dune scrub, dune swale, foredunes, and



woodlands as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 1 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.786 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space and central coast dune scrub as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 2 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.742 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space and central coast dune scrub as shown in Table 7-1.

- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project – Silvery legless lizard has been observed in the campground. Construction activities could cause injury or mortality and degrade and/or remove suitable habitat. Disturbance of approximately 0.596 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including woodlands as shown in Table 7-1.
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers – The sandy habitats adjacent to these project areas could support silvery legless lizard. Construction activities could cause injury or mortality and degrade and/or remove suitable adjacent habitat. These projects include replacement of existing facilities within the same footprint and no habitat impacts are anticipated.
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project – Silvery legless lizard has been observed in the campground. The construction footprint is all within disturbed/developed land; however, construction activities could cause injury or mortality and degrade and/or remove suitable adjacent if it was encroached upon.
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project - Coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard could occur in the dune scrub or other vegetated habitats. Construction activities could cause injury or mortality and degrade and/or remove suitable habitat. Disturbance of approximately 8.53 acres of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, central coast dune scrub, foredunes, and woodlands as shown in Table 7-1.
- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project – No site-specific habitat mapping or surveys have been conducted and this assessment is based on aerial photograph interpretation only. Quantification of habitat would have to take place once mapping has been conducted and the conceptual design has moved forward. The project is included here at the program level only.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, with implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies, wildlife management programs, and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), impacts to coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard would be *less than significant*.

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur outside of coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard suitable habitat and would have *no impact* on these species:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation;
- Replacement of the Safety and Education Center;



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- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement.

The following other Small Development Projects not analyzed in the HCP EIR could result in direct or indirect impacts to coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation – Coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard could occur in the dune scrub or other vegetated dune habitats. Construction activities of the trail could cause injury or mortality to these species and degrade and/or remove suitable habitat. Vegetation within the 40 Acres site would be removed along up to 2 miles of trail alignment at a maximum width of 20 feet. This would result in a loss of up to 4.8 acres of suitable habitat including central coastal dune scrub as shown in Table 7-2.
- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project – This project involves the replacement of existing facilities in a developed area; however, silvery legless lizard has been observed in the adjacent campground. Construction activities could cause injury or mortality and degrade and/or remove suitable habitat. Disturbance of approximately 0.049 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including central coast dune scrub as shown in Table 7-2.
- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 and Beach Trash Management – This project is within open beach habitat. Coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard could occur in dune scrub or other vegetated habitats north of Post 6 and disperse through the area. Construction activities and operations activities could cause injury or mortality to these species if present. Disturbance of approximately 0.062 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space as shown in Table 7-2.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, with implementation of State Park's standard practices and policies, wildlife management programs, and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), impacts to coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures: Implement Mitigation Measures 7-1 and 7-3.

Western Burrowing Owl (BUOW)

The following proposed Development Projects would occur outside of western burrowing owl suitable habitat and would have *no impact* on breeding, foraging, or wintering birds:

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project;
- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project;
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project;
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project.



Impact 7-4 Direct and Indirect Impacts on BUOW

The following proposed Development Projects could result in direct or indirect impacts on BUOW because they would be constructed within suitable wintering habitat:

- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project – BUOW have been observed at Oso Flaco Lake. Construction activities could disturb BUOW individuals and impact BUOW wintering habitat. Disturbance of approximately 4.528 acres of potential suitable habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, central coast dune scrub, dune swale, foredunes, freshwater lake, and wetland as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 1 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.501 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, central coast dune scrub, and wetland as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 2 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.427 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, central coast dune scrub, and freshwater lake as shown in Table 7-1.
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers Project – BUOW have been observed near the Grand Avenue ramp. Construction activities could temporarily impact wintering habitat. These projects will replace existing facilities within the same footprint; therefore, no new permanent disturbance would occur.
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project – BUOW have been observed near the Grand Avenue ramp. Construction activities could impact wintering habitat. Disturbance of approximately 8.498 acres of suitable habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, central coast dune scrub, and foredunes.
- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project – No site-specific habitat mapping or surveys have been conducted and this assessment is based on aerial photograph interpretation only. Quantification of habitat would have to take place once mapping has been conducted and the conceptual design has moved forward. The project is included here at the program level only and is expected to support BUOW habitat.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, construction activities would be temporary and with implementation of State Park’s standard practices and policies, wildlife management programs, and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), impacts to BUOW would be ***less than significant***.

The following Small Development Project was analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur outside of BUOW suitable habitat and would have ***no impact*** on this species:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation.

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and could result in direct or indirect impacts on BUOW:

- Replacement of Safety & Education Center – Although uncommon in the area, construction activities could cause injury or mortality to BUOW or damage their burrows. Disturbance of



approximately 0.016 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space as shown in Table 7-2.

- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement Project – BUOW habitat occurs in the project area. Construction activities could temporarily disturb owls foraging in the area.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, with implementation of State Park’s standard practices and policies, wildlife management programs, and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), impacts to BUOW would be *less than significant*.

The following other Small Development Project not analyzed in the HCP EIR would occur outside of BUOW suitable habitat and would have *no impact* on this species:

- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project.

The following Small Development Projects were not fully analyzed in the HCP EIR and could result in direct or indirect impacts on BUOW:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation – Although uncommon in the area, construction activities could cause injury or mortality to BUOW and degrade habitat or damage their burrows. Disturbance of approximately 4.8 acres of potential habitat is anticipated including central coast dune scrub as shown in Table 7-2.
- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management - Although uncommon in the area, construction activities could cause injury or mortality to BUOW or damage their burrows. Disturbance of approximately 0.062 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space as shown in Table 7-2.

With implementation of State Park’s standard practices and policies, wildlife management programs, and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat) and **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), impacts to BUOW would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures: Implement Mitigation Measures 7-1 and 7-3.

Nesting and Wintering/Migratory Birds

Impact 7-5 Direct and Indirect Impacts on Nesting and Wintering/Migrating Birds

Nesting birds could occur anywhere throughout the PWP planning area and could be impacted by construction activities, or other routine maintenance and Park upkeep activities that involved habitat impacts which could cause injury, mortality, and disturbance to nesting birds, their young, and their habitat.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, State Parks would implement **Mitigation Measure 7-4** (Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys, Avoidance, and Monitoring), and as part of State Park’s standard practices and policies, wildlife



management programs, and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat), this impact would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measure 7-4: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys, Avoidance, and Monitoring

To the extent possible, project activities that could result in impacts to nesting birds as a result of noise or habitat removal will be scheduled to occur outside of the bird breeding season (March 1 to August 31). Any work that cannot be avoided during the bird breeding season that requires disturbance of vegetation suitable for nesting, or results in an increase in noise or other disturbance that could cause nest failure, will require prior approval from a DPR-approved biologist; and a nesting bird survey within 5 days of commencement of work will be required in and around the project area. Actively nesting birds will be protected with a no disturbance buffer to be determined by the DPR-approved biologist to ensure that project activities do not result in nest failure, and a biological monitor may be required to be onsite to monitor active nests as determined by the DPR-approved biologist.

State Park's PWP projects would not result in injury or mortality of foraging/migratory birds. PWP projects could result in temporary disturbance of foraging or roosting wintering/migratory birds. Specifically, individuals or flocks could be displaced from foraging or roosting habitat during the period of disturbance and/or could be deterred from foraging or roosting during the period of disturbance. However, most activities would be temporary and short in duration. Furthermore, the footprint of any PWP project is small compared to the overall presence of natural habitat in the park, and therefore abundant suitable foraging and roosting habitat would be present away from any construction activities. Additionally, **Mitigation Measure 7-1** would restore foraging and roosting habitat. As a result, impacts to foraging/migratory birds would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures: Implement Mitigation Measures 7-1 and 7-4

American Badger

The following proposed Development Projects would occur in areas of limited suitable habitat where American badger is not likely to occur and would have *no impact*:

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project;
- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project;
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers;
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project;
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project.

Impact 7-6 Direct and Indirect Impacts on American Badger

The following proposed Development Projects could result in direct or indirect impacts on American badger; however, it is unlikely as American badgers and/or badger dens have never been observed within the areas open to motorized recreation and tracks have only been observed once in April 2019:



- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project and Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project – American badger habitat is present and tracks were observed in the open riding area within and near BBQ flats and adjacent vegetation islands. Therefore, construction activities could result in disturbance to American badger and ultimately result in burrow abandonment and relocation; however, this is unlikely. For the Oso Flaco Improvement Project, disturbance of approximately 9.398 acres of suitable, but unlikely habitat, is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, dune swale, foredunes, freshwater lake, riparian, wetland, and woodlands as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 1 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.734 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, riparian, and wetland as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 2 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.659 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, freshwater lake, and riparian as shown in Table 7-1. For the Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project, disturbance of approximately 8.737 acres of suitable, but unlikely habitat, is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, foredunes, and woodland as shown in Table 7-1.
- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project - No site-specific habitat mapping or surveys have been conducted and this assessment is based on aerial photograph interpretation only. Quantification of habitat would have to take place once mapping has been conducted and the conceptual design has moved forward. The project is included here at the program level only and is expected to support American badger habitat.

Because the potential for American badgers is low and with the implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-3** (Preconstruction Surveys for Special-status Species, Avoidance or Relocation, and Monitoring), this impact would be ***less than significant***.

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur outside of American badger suitable habitat or outside of areas where badger tracks have been observed and would have ***no impact*** on this species:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation;
- Replacement of Safety & Education Center;
- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement.

The following other Small Development Projects not analyzed in the HCP EIR would also occur outside of American badger suitable habitat or outside of areas where badger tracks have been observed and would have ***no impact*** on this species:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation;
- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project;
- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management.

Mitigation Measures: Implement Mitigation Measure 7-3.



Plants

The following proposed Development Projects would not occur within suitable special-status plant habitat and would have ***no impact***:

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project;
- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project;
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project;
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project.

Impact 7-7 Direct and Indirect Impacts on Special-Status Plants

The following proposed Development Projects could result in impacts on special-status plants:

- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project – This project occurs in areas where rare plants, including Gambel’s watercress, marsh sandwort, red sand verbena, La Graciosa thistle, Blochman’s leafy daisy, suffrutescent wallflower, fuzzy prickly phlox, crisp monardella, San Luis Obispo monardella, and/or California spineflower have previously been documented. Special-status plants could be crushed or removed during construction if present within the construction footprint. Disturbance of approximately 9.398 acres of habitat would be impacted by the project including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, dune swale, foredunes, freshwater lake, riparian, wetland, and woodlands. If OHV Access Trail Option 1 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.734 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, riparian, and wetland as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 2 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.659 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, freshwater lake, and riparian as shown in Table 7-1. While the entire area may not be suitable for special-status plants, the full acreage is included here for a conservative approach, which includes all natural habitat in the Oso Flaco project area.
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers – The habitats adjacent to these project areas could support CNPS list 4 plants. Construction activities could cause damage or cause mortality and degrade and/or remove suitable adjacent habitat. These projects include replacement of existing facilities within the same footprint and no habitat impacts are anticipated.
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project – This project occurs in areas where rare plants, including red sand verbena, La Graciosa thistle, Blochman’s leafy daisy, suffrutescent wallflower, fuzzy prickly phlox, crisp monardella, San Luis Obispo monardella, and/or California spineflower have been found. Special-status plants could be crushed or removed during construction if present within the construction footprint. Disturbance of approximately 8.737 acres of habitat would be impacted by the project including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, foredunes, and woodlands. While the entire area may not be suitable for special-status plants, the full acreage is included here for a conservative approach.



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- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project - The site is known to support numerous occurrences of Nipomo lupine, a species federally listed as endangered and is also known to support other special-status plant species. Special-status plants could be crushed or removed during construction if present in the construction footprint. Nipomo lupine is a covered species in the HCP, but take at this site is not included in the current HCP. No habitat assessment or site-specific surveys have been conducted at the Philipps 66 site. The project is included here at the program level only to disclose potential impacts. The known presence of special-status plants was taken into consideration during development of the conceptual design for the project included in Volume 1. State Parks continues to work with CDFW to develop sustainable potential solutions for the Philipps 66 site. The project is included here to disclose a known potential impact. However, the true extent and intensity of any impact on special-status plant species cannot be determined at this time.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of its standard practices and policies, State Parks would conduct a survey for special-status plant species prior to the start of construction during the appropriate phenological period, if determined to be necessary by a State Parks Environmental Scientist (CDPR 2004). Additionally, State Parks would implement HCP Plants AMMs 1-38. Any special-status plant species found would be flagged and/or fenced off and avoided during construction. In addition, State Parks will also continue to provide educational content to workers and pedestrians in the area, which includes information on what they can do to prevent introducing invasive species. State Parks would also implement **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, which would require restoration and compensation for natural vegetation loss. For any take of federally or state listed plants that is unavoidable, State Parks would seek coverage under the HCP and the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). With implementation of these standard practices and measures, impacts on special-status plants would be *less than significant*.

The following other Small Development Project was analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur outside suitable special-status plant habitat and would have **no impact** on these species:

- Replacement of Safety & Education Center;

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur in special-status plant suitable habitat:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation – Installing the seasonal floating bridge should reduce the pedestrian impact on Pismo Creek by reducing erosion and providing an alternative to walking through the mouth of the creek. As a result, overall impacts to special-status plants in the area and their habitat would be **beneficial**. Although unlikely, La Graciosa thistle and red sand verbena have the potential to occur along the Pismo Creek estuary. Construction activities could result in the damage or mortality of individual special-status plants and/or seed bank, if they are present in the work area. Construction activities and/or pedestrian traffic across the bridge—once it is operational—could introduce invasive weeds to the area, which could outcompete special-status plant species.
- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement - Replacement of the boardwalk occurs where special-status plants are known to occur, including Gambel's watercress and marsh sandwort. Construction activities could result in the damage or mortality of individual special-status plants if they are present in the work area.



These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of its standard practices and policies, State Parks would conduct a survey for special-status plant species prior to the start of construction during the appropriate phenological period, if determined to be necessary by a State Park Environmental Scientist (CDPR 2004). Any special-status plant species found would be flagged and/or fenced off and avoided during construction. Trails open to vehicles will be sited with adequate buffers from any known occurrences of special-status plants and select segments could also be fenced to protect populations from driving or trampling by park visitors. In addition, State Parks will also continue to provide educational content to workers and pedestrians in the area, which includes information on what they can do to prevent introducing invasive species. For any take of federally or state listed plants that is unavoidable, State Parks would seek coverage under the HCP and NCCP. Along with these measures and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat), impacts on special-status plants would be *less than significant*.

The following other Small Development Projects not analyzed in the HCP EIR would also occur outside of special-status plants suitable habitat and would have *no impact*:

- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project;
- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management.

The following Small Development Project was not fully analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur in special-status plant suitable habitat:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation – The 40 Acre area includes potentially suitable habitat for special-status plant species coastal goosefoot, Blochman's leafy daisy, suffrutescent wallflower, fuzzy prickly phlox, crisp monardella, San Luis Obispo monardella, California spineflower, and Blochman's groundsel. Construction activities could result in mechanical or physical removal of vegetation and modification of the seed bank due to grading and/or excavation. Also, construction activities and/or motorized vehicle traffic on the trail once it is operational could introduce invasive weeds to the area, which could outcompete special-status plant species. Disturbance of approximately 4.80 acres of habitat would be impacted by the project including central coast dune scrub. While the entire area may not be suitable for special-status plants, the full acreage is included here for a conservative approach.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of its standard practices and policies, State Parks would conduct a survey for special-status plant species prior to the start of construction during the appropriate phenological period, if determined to be necessary by a State Park Environmental Scientist (CDPR 2004). Any special-status plant species found would be flagged and/or fenced off and avoided during construction. Trails open to vehicles will be sited with adequate buffers from any known occurrences of special-status plants and select segments could also be fenced to protect populations from driving or trampling by park visitors. In addition, State Parks will also continue to provide educational content to workers and pedestrians in the area, which includes information on what they can do to prevent introducing invasive species. For any take of federally or state listed plants that is unavoidable, State Parks would seek coverage under the HCP and NCCP. Along with these measures and implementation of **Mitigation Measure 7-1** (Restore and Compensate for Impacts on Native Vegetation Communities and Special-status Species Habitat), impacts on special-status plants would be *less than significant*.



Mitigation Measures: Implement Mitigation Measure 7-1.

7.3.2 Riparian and other Sensitive Natural Communities/Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA)

7.3.2.1 Impacts on Riparian and other Sensitive Habitats/ESHA from Proposed PWP Implementation

Impacts from Park management activities could include impacts on riparian and/or other sensitive natural communities that also qualify as ESHA under the California Coastal Act. However, State Parks would continue to implement their standard practices and AMMs currently in place for existing and future management activities. These AMMs can be found in the HCP EIR Appendix B (CDPR 2020). Besides negative impacts to these sensitive habitats, there are also beneficial effects due to State Park's ongoing standard practices and AMMs, including surveys, restoration work, and monitoring. Therefore, impacts to riparian and other sensitive habitats/ESHAs from existing park activities would be *less than significant*.

7.3.2.2 Impacts on Riparian and other Sensitive Natural Communities/ESHA from Development Projects

The following proposed Development Projects would not occur within riparian or other sensitive natural communities/ESHAs and would have *no impact*:

- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project;
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project. The woodland habitat at this site is ESHA and will not be impacted by the project. The native coastal scrub garden at this site has been planted by volunteers and is not considered a sensitive natural community or ESHA in the intent of the law. However, any plantings that would be removed as a result of project implementation would be compensated for by planting of native vegetation at the site. Thus, the project would not result in a net loss of native vegetation, sensitive natural communities, or ESHA and there would be no impact.

Impact 7-8 Direct and Indirect Impacts on Riparian and other Sensitive Natural Communities/ESHA

The following proposed Development Projects would occur within riparian or other sensitive natural communities/ESHA:

- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project – The project area contains sensitive natural communities, including, but not limited to central dune scrub, central foredunes, wetlands, and riparian woodland habitat. These communities would also be considered ESHA, including riparian woodland, freshwater lakes, sand dunes, and wetlands are also present within or adjacent to the project areas. Construction and use of these projects could directly and indirectly affect sensitive natural communities/ESHA in the project area by removing vegetation within these communities, creating erosion, and/or introducing non-native, invasive species. Disturbance of approximately 9.398 acres of potentially sensitive habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, dune swale, foredunes, freshwater lake, riparian, wetland, and woodlands as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 1 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.734 acre of potentially sensitive habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle



thicket, central coast dune scrub, riparian, and wetland as shown in Table 7-1. If OHV Access Trail Option 2 were approved, additional disturbance of up to 0.659 acre of potential habitat is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, freshwater lake, and riparian as shown in Table 7-1. While the entire area may not be suitable for sensitive habitat, the full acreage is included here for a conservative approach, which includes all natural habitat in the Oso Flaco project area. The Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project also includes installation of a up to 300-foot wide riparian buffer and extensive planting of native vegetation throughout the project area, resulting in a net gain of riparian habitat in the area. Thus, the project would create up to 24.22 acres of sensitive natural communities/ESHA.

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project – The Park Corporation Yard is currently fully developed; however, a small area of riparian habitat exists within the project boundary that could be impacted (0.542 acre) if avoidance is not possible. A new access road would require removal of existing riparian vegetation, along with the installation of a bridge over the adjacent creek. Disturbance to riparian vegetation for the new access road of approximately 0.708 acre is anticipated as shown in Table 7-1.
- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project – A small amount of riparian habitat (0.148 acre) is within the boundary of this project and could potentially be impacted if avoidance is not possible as shown in Table 7-1.
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers Project – Central coast dune scrub occurs in the adjacent area around the lifeguard towers and is considered ESHA. This habitat could be impacted if construction activities were to exceed the project boundaries.
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project – The project area contains sensitive natural communities and ESHA. Disturbance of approximately 8.737 acres of potentially sensitive natural communities, which also qualify as ESHA, is anticipated including active interior dune/open space, arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, central coast dune scrub, foredunes, and woodlands as shown in Table 7-1. However, much of the central coast dune scrub is degraded by European beachgrass and therefore this impact analysis is conservative.
- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project – The project area contains adjacent riparian habitat. No habitat assessment or site-specific surveys have been conducted at the Philipps 66 site. The project is included here at the program level only to disclose potential impacts. The known presence of riparian and sensitive natural communities/ESHA was taken into consideration during development of the conceptual design for the project included in Volume 1. State Parks continues to work with CDFW to develop sustainable potential solutions for the Philipps 66 site. The project is included here to disclose a known potential impact. However, the true extent and intensity of any impact on special-status plant species cannot be determined at this time.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of State Parks' standard practices and policies, impacts to sensitive natural communities would be avoided to the extent feasible and these areas would be excluded from construction with flagging and fencing. State Parks would also implement BMPs during construction activities, as necessary, to reduce impacts. These BMPs could include fencing off adjacent areas, erosion control, and/or biological monitoring. Additionally, State Parks would implement **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, which would restore and/or mitigate for loss of sensitive natural



communities/ESHA. State Parks will also continue to provide educational content to workers and pedestrians in the area, which includes information on what they can do to prevent introducing invasive species. State Parks would obtain any necessary permits, such as a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), for impacts to jurisdictional resources such as riparian habitat. Additionally, extensive restoration of riparian habitat and other natural vegetation will occur at the Oso Flaco Improvement Project resulting in a net gain of sensitive natural communities/ESHA of up to 24.22 acres, which would be a **beneficial impact**. As a result, effects on sensitive natural communities/ESHA would be **less than significant**.

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur outside of riparian or other sensitive natural communities/ESHAs beyond impacts to jurisdictional waters (described below) and would have **no impact**:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation;
- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement.

The following Small Development Project was analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur within riparian or other sensitive natural communities/ESHAs:

- *Replacement of Safety and Education Center* – This project would occur within open sand areas within SNPL critical habitat and directly adjacent to Pavilion Hill which is critical habitat for La Graciosa thistle. Replacement of the safety and education center would occur in the same location; therefore, new permanent impacts from this activity would not occur.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of their standard practices and policies, State Parks would avoid impacts to sensitive habitats to the extent feasible and exclude these areas from construction with flagging and fencing. State Parks would also implement BMPs during construction activities, as necessary, to reduce impacts. These BMPs could include fencing off adjacent areas, erosion control, and/or biological monitoring. Additionally, State Parks would implement **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, which would restore and/or mitigate for loss of natural vegetation communities including those that qualify as sensitive natural communities/ESHA. In addition, State Parks will also continue to provide educational content to workers and pedestrians in the area, which includes information on what they can do to prevent introducing invasive species. As a result, effects on sensitive natural communities would be **less than significant**.

The following other Small Development Projects not analyzed in the HCP EIR would also occur outside of riparian or other sensitive natural communities/ESHA and would have **no impact**:

- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project;
- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management.

The following Small Development Project was not fully analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur within riparian or other sensitive natural communities/ESHAs:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation – The 40 Acres is an area that was planted by State Parks with native vegetation for dune stabilization to prevent erosion and to prevent sand from blowing into adjacent Park infrastructure such as the Oso Flaco



Boardwalk. The area is currently closed to motorized recreation. This project would remove vegetation in the silver bush lupine – mock heather dune scrub vegetation alliance, which occurs in Central Coast Dune Scrub, a CDFW listed sensitive natural community and considered ESHA for the purpose of this Draft EIR. Construction of the trail would directly affect dune vegetation by removal and could indirectly affect vegetation outside the trail footprint. This could result in altered growth or reduced seed set of vegetation, damage to underground root structures, or direct disturbance or modification, which may cause an increase in invasive weed cover. Additionally, establishing a trail in the 40 Acres site could increase wind-blown sand that eventually covers native vegetation adjacent to the trail. Disturbance of approximately 4.8 acres of natural vegetation is anticipated.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of their standard practices and policies, State Parks would avoid impacts to sensitive habitats to the extent feasible and exclude these areas from construction with flagging and fencing. State Parks would also implement BMPs during construction activities, as necessary, to reduce impacts. These BMPs could include fencing off adjacent areas, erosion control, and/or biological monitoring. Additionally, State Parks would implement **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, which would restore and/or mitigate for loss of natural vegetation communities including those that qualify as sensitive natural communities/ESHA. In addition, State Parks will also continue to provide educational content to workers and pedestrians in the area, which includes information on what they can do to prevent introducing invasive species. As a result, effects on sensitive natural communities would be *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measures: Implement Mitigation Measure 7-1.

7.3.3 Wetlands and Other Waters of the US (CWA Section 404)/ Coastal Wetlands

7.3.3.1 Impacts on Wetlands and other Waters of the US/Coastal Wetlands from Proposed PWP Implementation

Impacts from park management activities associated with PWP implementation could include impacts on wetlands and/or wetland vegetation alliances, Waters of the US (WUS), and wetlands as defined by the Coastal Commission and USFWS. However, State Parks would continue to implement their standard practices and AMMs currently in place for existing and future management activities. These AMMs can be found in the HCP EIR Appendix B (CDPR 2020). Besides negative impacts to wetlands and WUS, there are also beneficial effects due to State Park's ongoing standard practices and AMMs, including surveys, restoration work, and monitoring. Therefore, impacts to wetlands, wetland vegetation alliances, and WUS from existing park activities would be *less than significant*.

7.3.3.2 Impacts on Wetlands/WUS from Development Projects

The following proposed Development Projects would not occur within wetlands, wetland vegetation alliances, or WUS and would have *no impact*:

- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers Project;
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project.



Impact 7-9 Direct and Indirect Impacts on Wetlands/WUS

The following proposed Development Projects would occur within areas containing wetlands and/or wetland vegetation alliances, WUS, and wetlands as defined by the Coastal Commission and USFWS:

- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project – The project area contains wetlands and wetland vegetation alliances and WUS within and adjacent to the project footprint that could be impacted by construction activities. Disturbance of approximately 6.675 acres of potential wetlands and/or wetland vegetation alliances is anticipated including arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket, dune swale, foredunes, freshwater lake, riparian, and wetland as shown in Table 7-1. While the entire area may not be suitable for wetlands, WUS, and/or wetland vegetation alliances, the full acreage is included here for a conservative approach.
- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project – Although there are no mapped wetlands within the Park Corporation Yard, there is approximately 0.180 acre of arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket and 0.542 acre of riparian habitat that may be disturbed if avoidance is not feasible. These habitats may qualify as wetlands under the Coastal Commission’s “one parameter definition” (California Code of Regulations Title 14 (14 CCR)) and/or USFWS definition, which states that wetlands have one or more of the three wetland attributes (e.g. supports hydrophytic plants, hydric soil, and/or covered by water at some time during the year). The proposed new access road from the yard to the beach with a new bridge crossing Meadow Creek is anticipated to disturb approximately 0.008 acre of arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket and 0.708 acre of riparian habitat, which may qualify as wetlands under the Coastal Commission and USFWS. Impacts to riparian vegetation are addressed above under sensitive natural communities/ESHA.
- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project – The project area contains approximately 0.148 acre of riparian vegetation and adjacent vegetation and/or soils that may qualify as wetlands under the Coastal Commission’s “one parameter definition” (California Code of Regulations Title 14 (14 CCR)) and/or USFWS definition as described above.
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project – The project area is within disturbed/developed land; however, adjacent wetland vegetation could be impacted if encroached upon by construction activities.
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project – The project area contains wetland vegetation alliances that would be impacted by construction. Disturbance of approximately 3.101 acres of potential wetland vegetation alliances is anticipated including arroyo willow/wax myrtle thicket and foredunes as shown in Table 7-1. While the entire area may not be suitable for wetland vegetation alliances, the full acreage is included here for a conservative approach.
- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project – The site supports wetlands and wetland vegetation alliances in the vegetated islands, the foredunes, and the backdunes that could be impacted by construction and development activities. No habitat assessment or site-specific surveys have been conducted at the Philipps 66 site. The project is included here at the program level only to disclose potential impacts. The known presence of wetlands and wetland vegetation was taken into consideration during development of the conceptual design for the project included in Volume 1. State Parks continues to work with



CDFW to develop sustainable potential solutions for the Philipps 66 site. The project is included here to disclose a known potential impact. However, the true extent and intensity of any impact on wetlands and wetland vegetation cannot be determined at this time.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of their standard practices and project planning, State Parks would avoid impacts to wetlands and/or wetland vegetation alliances, WUS, and wetlands as defined by the Coastal Commission and USFWS to the extent feasible and exclude these areas from all development and construction activities with a minimum of 25-foot buffers (or less depending on site constraints), which may include flagging and/or fencing. State Parks standard practices are to implement buffers around wetlands for all construction activities. Buffers vary from 25 feet for small wetlands, to over 100 feet from major areas. State Parks would also implement BMPs during construction activities, as necessary, to reduce impacts. These BMPs could include fencing off adjacent areas, erosion control, and/or biological monitoring. Where wetlands cannot be avoided, State Parks will conduct a wetland delineation to determine the exact acreage that will be impacted by project activities. Additionally, State Parks would implement **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, which would restore and/or mitigate for natural vegetation communities, and would also include any wetland communities. State Parks would obtain any necessary permits, including a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW for any project that would require such permits, and would comply with all permit conditions during project implementation, including any specification related to wetland/WUS replacement, as applicable. As a result, effects on wetlands/wetland alliances and other WUS would be *less than significant*.

The following Small Development Project was analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur outside of wetlands, wetland vegetation alliances, and other WUS, and would have ***no impact***:

- Replacement of the Safety and Education Center.

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and would occur within wetlands, wetland vegetation alliances, and other WUS:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation – The project would be over WUS and would require permits.
- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement Project – The project would replace the existing boardwalk and would be in or near the same footprint. Construction activities could cause temporary impacts to water quality and wetland vegetation alliances. The HCP includes the loss of up to 1.5 acres of aquatic habitat for the boardwalk replacement.

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of their standard practices and project planning, State Parks would avoid impacts to wetlands to the extent feasible and exclude these areas from all development and construction activities with a minimum of 25-foot buffers (or less depending on site constraints), which may include flagging and fencing. State Parks would also implement BMPs during construction activities, as necessary, to reduce impacts. These BMPs could include fencing off adjacent areas, erosion control, and/or biological monitoring. Where wetlands cannot be avoided, State Parks will conduct a wetland delineation to determine the exact acreage that will be impacted by project activities. Additionally, State Parks would implement **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, which would



restore and/or mitigate for natural vegetation communities. Also, State Parks would obtain any necessary permits, including a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers and CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW if applicable, and would comply with all permit conditions during project implementation, including any specification related to wetland/WUS replacement, as applicable. As a result, effects on wetlands/wetland alliances and other WUS would be ***less than significant***.

The following Small Development Projects not analyzed in the HCP EIR would also occur outside of wetlands, wetland vegetation alliances, and WUS, and would have ***no impact***:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation;
- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management.

The following Small Development Project not analyzed in the HCP EIR could occur within areas containing wetlands and/or wetland vegetation alliances, WUS, and wetlands as defined by the Coastal Commission and USFWS:

- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project – Although no mapped wetlands within the campground area, disturbance of approximately 0.148 acre of riparian habitat is anticipated if avoidance is not feasible. These habitats may qualify as wetlands under the Coastal Commission’s “one parameter definition” (California Code of Regulations Title 14 (14 CCR)) and/or USFWS definition, which states that wetlands have one or more of the three wetland attributes (e.g. supports hydrophytic plants, hydric soil, and/or covered by water at some time during the year).

These impacts could be potentially significant; however, as part of their standard practices and project planning, State Parks would avoid impacts to wetlands to the extent feasible and exclude these areas from all development and construction activities with a minimum of 25-foot buffers (or less depending on site constraints), which may include flagging and fencing. State Parks would also implement BMPs during construction activities, as necessary, to reduce impacts. These BMPs could include fencing off adjacent areas, erosion control, and/or biological monitoring. Where wetlands cannot be avoided, State Parks will conduct a wetland delineation to determine the exact acreage that will be impacted by project activities. Additionally, State Parks would implement **Mitigation Measure 7-1**, which would restore and/or mitigate for natural vegetation communities. Also, State Parks would obtain any necessary permits, including a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers and CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW if applicable, and would comply with all permit conditions during project implementation, including any specification related to wetland/WUS replacement, as applicable. As a result, effects on wetlands/wetland alliances and other WUS would be ***less than significant***.

Mitigation Measures: Implement Mitigation Measure 7-1.



7.3.4 Wildlife Movement

7.3.4.1 Impacts on Wildlife Movement from Proposed PWP Implementation

Impacts on wildlife movement from existing park activities could disturb wildlife and disrupt their movements; however, wildlife would be habituated to the current existing conditions. State Parks would continue to implement their standard practices and AMMs currently in place for existing and future management activities. Besides negative impacts to wildlife movement, there are also beneficial effects due to State Park's ongoing standard practices and AMMs, such as surveying, habitat restoration, and monitoring. Therefore, impacts to wildlife movement from existing park activities would be ***less than significant***.

7.3.4.2 Impacts on Wildlife Movement from Development Projects

The following proposed Development Projects would not occur within a wildlife movement area and would have ***no impact***:

- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project;
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers Project;
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project.

Impact 7-10 Impacts on Wildlife Movement

The following proposed Development Projects could temporarily disrupt wildlife movement during project construction:

- Oso Flaco (Initial and Future) Improvement Project;
- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project (bridge over Meadow Creek);
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project;
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project;
- Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project.

Impacts would be temporary during construction and would not be expected to result in new permanent wildlife barriers. The projects would occur in areas of ample open space/natural communities and any wildlife would be able to pass through the area even during construction. As a result, effects on wildlife movement would be ***less than significant***.

The following Small Development Project was analyzed in the HCP EIR and would have ***no impact*** to wildlife movement:

- Replacement of the Safety and Education Center.

The following Small Development Projects were analyzed in the HCP EIR and could impact wildlife movement:

- *Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation* – The bridge could inhibit fish movement, especially during low flows when water levels in the estuary are low.



The bridge would be designed to allow movement of all fish species, as well as an exchange of fresh and saltwater by constructing the interlocking pieces of the bridge with wide openings. In addition, if water levels are so low that the bridge is not allowing the free movement of fish, the bridge would be removed until there is sufficient water to allow the bridge to float. As a result, wildlife movement impacts associated with the floating bridge would be ***less than significant***.

- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement – During construction and boardwalk replacement, wildlife could be temporarily deterred from moving through the area.

Construction impacts would be temporary and the new structure would be located in the same alignment at its current location; therefore, no new wildlife barriers would be constructed and the impact is ***less than significant***.

The following other Small Development Projects not analyzed in the HCP EIR would not impede wildlife movement and would have ***no impact***:

- Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project.
- Trash Enclosure at Post 2 & Beach Trash Management.

The following Small Development Project not fully analyzed in the HCP EIR could impact wildlife movement:

- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation – Trail development would enable riding in this area that is presently closed. Recreational use of the trail would create temporary human presence. As a result, wildlife could be deterred from moving through the area at times when recreation is high or during trail development.

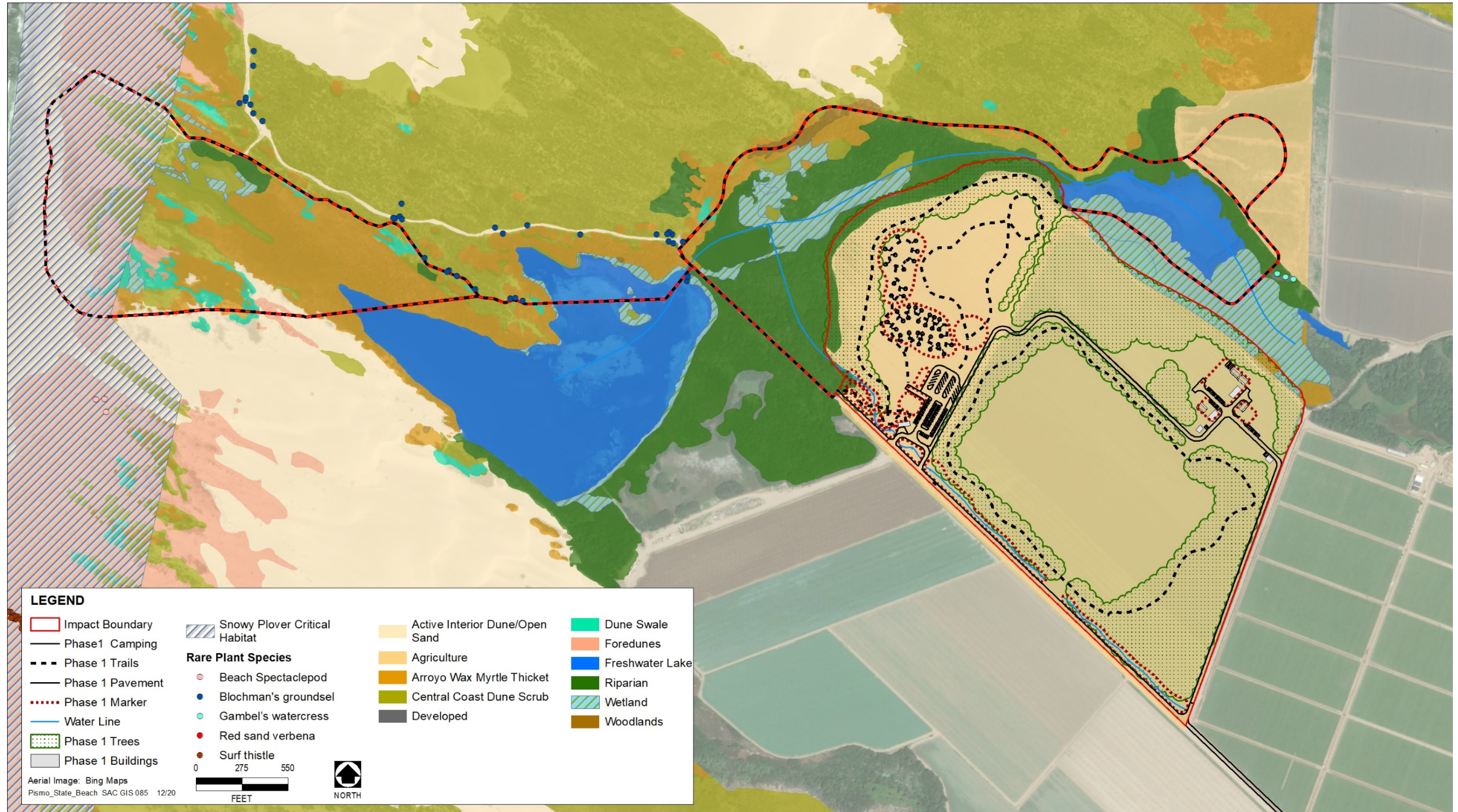
No barriers or impediment to wildlife movement would occur with this small development project. The project would occur in areas of ample open space/natural communities and any wildlife would be able to pass through the area during construction and operation; therefore, the impact would be ***less than significant***.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

7.4 Cumulative Effects

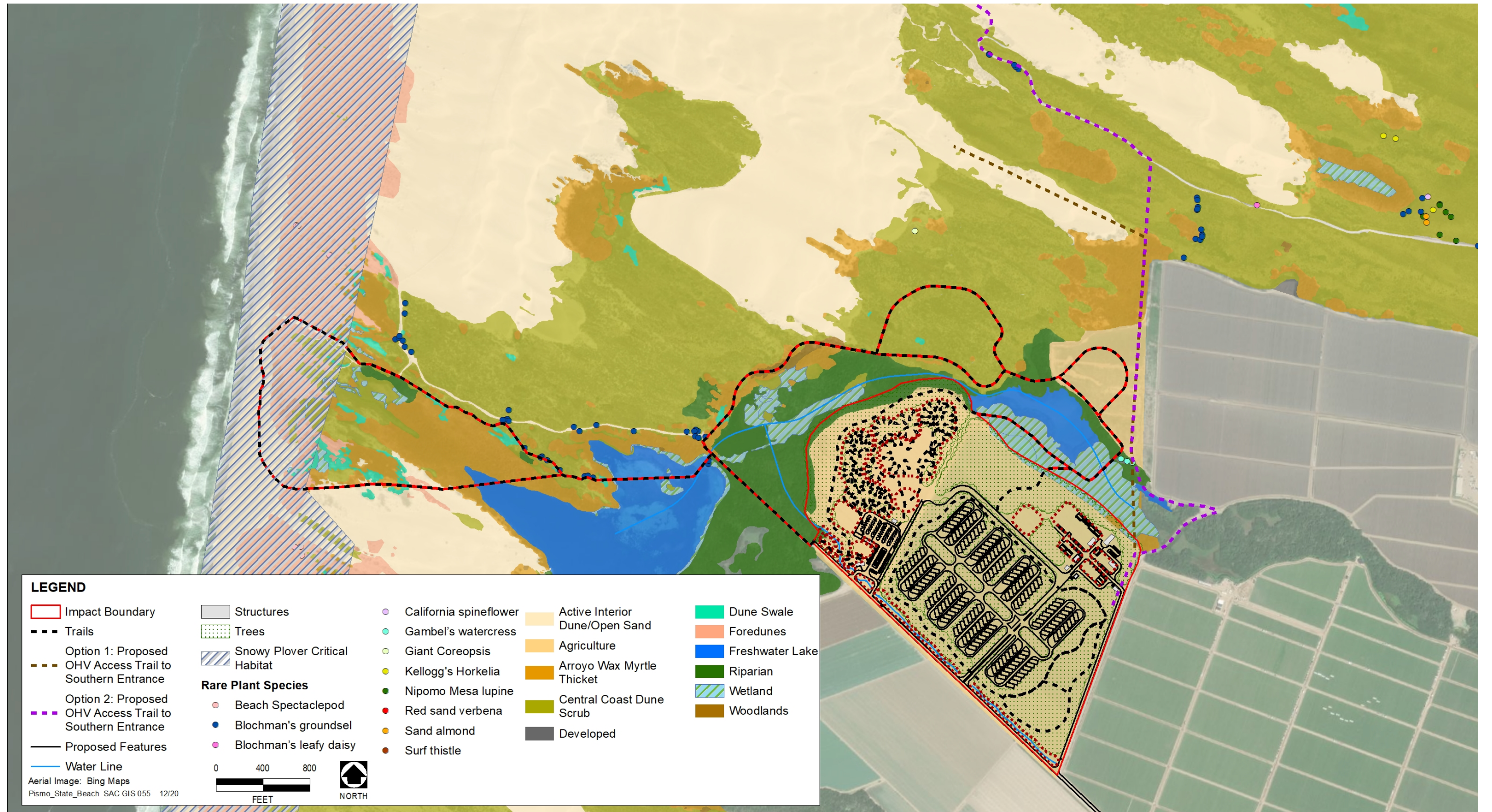
The proposed PWP and other projects evaluated for cumulative effects within the regional geographic area as discussed in Chapter 3 of this EIR underwent CEQA review and include design features, avoidance and minimization measures, and mitigation to reduce impacts to biological resources. Resource agency permits from USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW will be required for applicable resource impacts and will include additional mitigation and compensation than what is included in this EIR if deemed necessary. Therefore, implementation of the PWP and other projects analyzed will have ***less than significant*** impact on cumulative effects to biological resources. The PWP will enhance natural habitat and have a ***beneficial impact*** through restoration and revegetation projects throughout the Parks, which will benefit biological resources within the regional geographic area.





Source: AECOM 2020

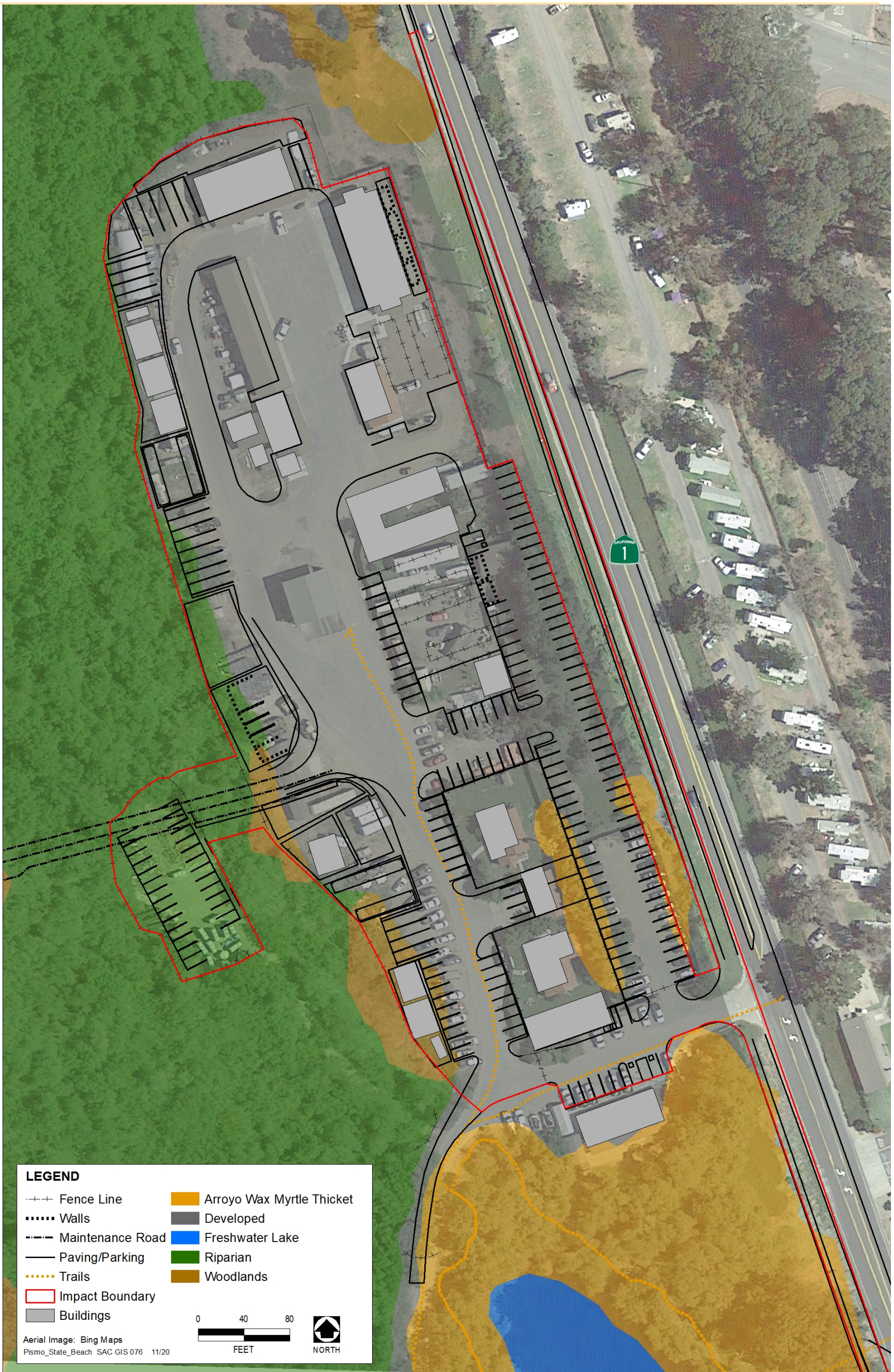
Figure 7-1: Oso Flaco (Initial) Improvement Project



Source: AECOM 2020

Figure 7-2: Oso Flaco (Future) Improvement Project





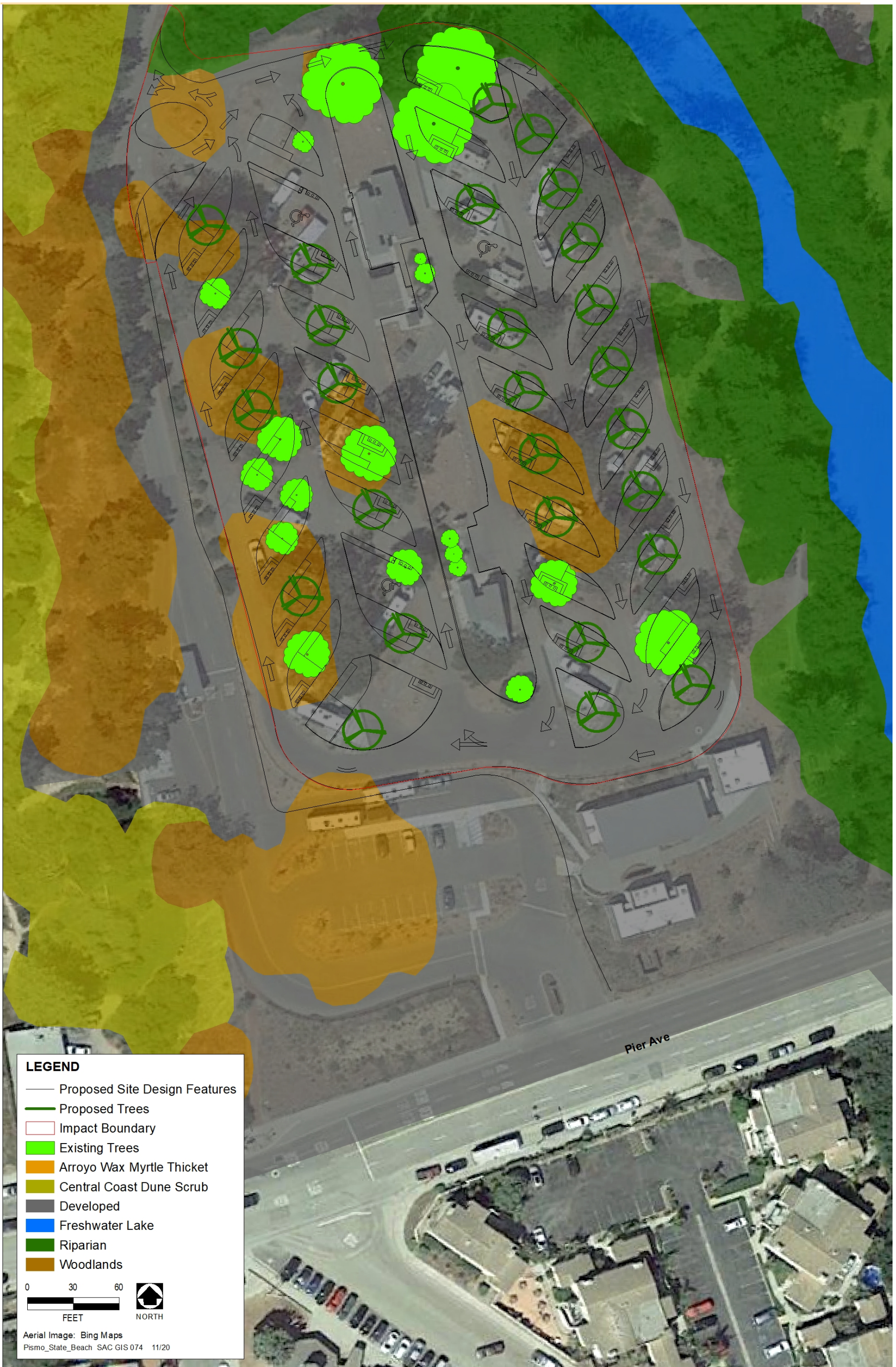
Source: AECOM 2020

Figure 7-3: Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project



Source: AECOM 2020

Figure 7-4: Park Corporation Yard Maintenance Road



Source: AECOM 2020

Figure 7-5: Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project



Source: AECOM 2020

Figure 7-6: Pier Avenue Entrance and Lifeguard Tower Projects



Source: AECOM 2020

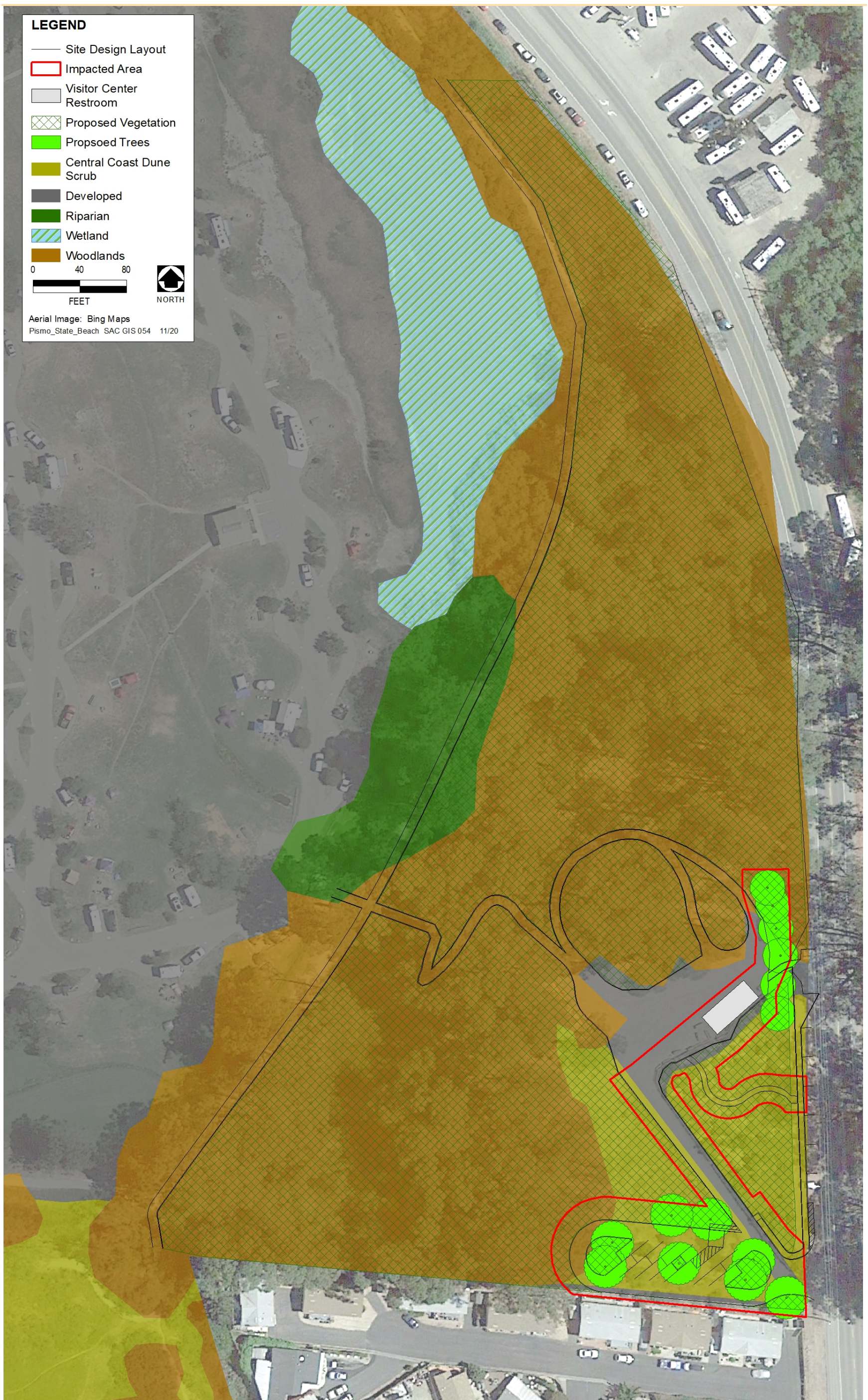
Figure 7-7: Grand Avenue Entrance and Lifeguard Tower Projects





Source: AECOM 2020

Figure 7-8: North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project



Source: AECOM 2020

Figure 7-9: Butterfly Grove Public Access Project





Source: AECOM 2020

Figure 7-10: Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project