

CHAPTER 9

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

NOP AND RESPONSES AND SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR SCOPING MEETING

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- Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
- Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District
- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
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Public Scoping Meeting Announcement

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P A R K S & R E C R E A T I O N D E P A R T M E N T

October 5, 2005

REVISED

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN**

THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION DATED JUNE 22, 2005 HAS BEEN REVISED BASED ON SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL DIRECTION AT THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 MEETING. AN APPROXIMATELY 5.7 ACRE AREA AT THE NORTH END OF THE PROJECT SITE THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY EXCLUDED FROM THE PARK MASTER PLAN BOUNDARIES WILL NOW BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN.

The City of Santa Cruz will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Arana Gulch Master Plan. This document is a Park Master Plan; however, the title of the project is the Arana Gulch Master Plan. Originally, the Notice of Preparation for the project stated that a 5.7 acre area would be excluded from the Master Plan boundaries. There was no specific description of what would occur within the 5.7 acre area in the original NOP. There had, however, been prior discussion of the possibility of allowing new residential development on this City owned land. On September 27, 2005, the Santa Cruz City Council directed city staff to include the 5.7 acre area in the Arana Gulch Master Plan as parkland. Thus, there will be no residential development within the City-owned Arana Gulch property.

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project, if any is required. The revised project description, location and the potential environmental effects are contained in Attachment 1. A copy of the Initial Study is not attached.

Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please include the name and phone number of a contact person at your agency in your response. Please send your response to:

Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Project Title: Arana Gulch Master Plan

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Project Applicant: City of Santa Cruz

Signature	<u><i>Susan Harris</i></u>	Date	<u>October 5, 2005</u>
Name	Susan Harris		
Title	Associate Planner		
Phone	(831) 420-5362		

ATTACHMENT 1

REVISED
NOTICE OR PREPARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

for the
ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN

City of Santa Cruz
County of Santa Cruz, California
October 2005

I. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The Draft Arana Gulch Master Plan addresses an approximately 67.7-acre natural area located approximately 1.5 miles east of downtown Santa Cruz in the eastern part of the City. The project site is bounded by the Santa Cruz Harbor at the south and residential development to the west, east, and north. The City/County line is just within the eastern boundary of most of the site (See Site Location figure). Part of the project site (8.4 acres) is within the County of Santa Cruz and must be annexed to the City (See Existing Setting figure)

Most of the project site was purchased by the City of Santa Cruz in 1994 as part of a phased effort to acquire Greenbelt properties. Prior to the City's ownership, the property was privately owned. Cattle were grazed on the property until the late 1980s. Since acquisition, the City Parks and Recreation Department has been responsible for management and maintenance of Arana Gulch. In 1997, the Santa Cruz City Council approved an Interim Management Plan for the Arana Gulch property. This Interim Plan was intended to outline actions necessary to manage and maintain the natural resources within Arana Gulch. Land use decisions were not part of the Interim Management Plan and were intended to be addressed at a future date when the Arana Gulch Master Plan was prepared, the subject of the EIR. The Arana Gulch Master Plan will supercede the Interim Management Plan.

The City plans to finalize the Master Plan concurrently with the EIR, allowing the incorporation of relevant mitigation measures into the Master Plan before it is adopted. The concurrent effort is being undertaken to ensure that environmental impacts are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Existing Conditions

There is no public parking on-site or public vehicle access. Existing pedestrian access is available from the following points: 1) Agnes Street at the north and 2) the parking lot of the Upper Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor at the south (owned by the Port District). These two entrance points provide access to trails within Arana Gulch. These pathways existed prior to the City's ownership of the property. Existing designated trails include a north-south bicycle/pedestrian trail from the Agnes Street entrance to the Upper Harbor. There is also an existing pedestrian trail encircling the meadow area. In addition to the designated City-maintained trails, there are several unauthorized pathways crossing the meadow area. Dogs must be on leash at all times and must remain on designated trails.

The Arana Gulch property features valuable habitats, including grassland (coastal prairie and annual grassland), riparian scrub and woodland, oak woodland, seasonal wetlands, emergent wetland, and open water. The southernmost portion of Arana Gulch Creek flows through the eastern portion of the site, and Hagemann Gulch flows along the western edge of the site. Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holcarpha macrodenia*), listed as "endangered" by the State of California and "threatened" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, has been identified within the Master Plan boundaries.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Arana Gulch Master Plan will address the long-term uses and management for the 67.7-acre open space property. The key components of the Master Plan will include:

- Resource Management Areas
- Resource Management and Public Use Guidelines
- Interpretive Trail System
- Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program

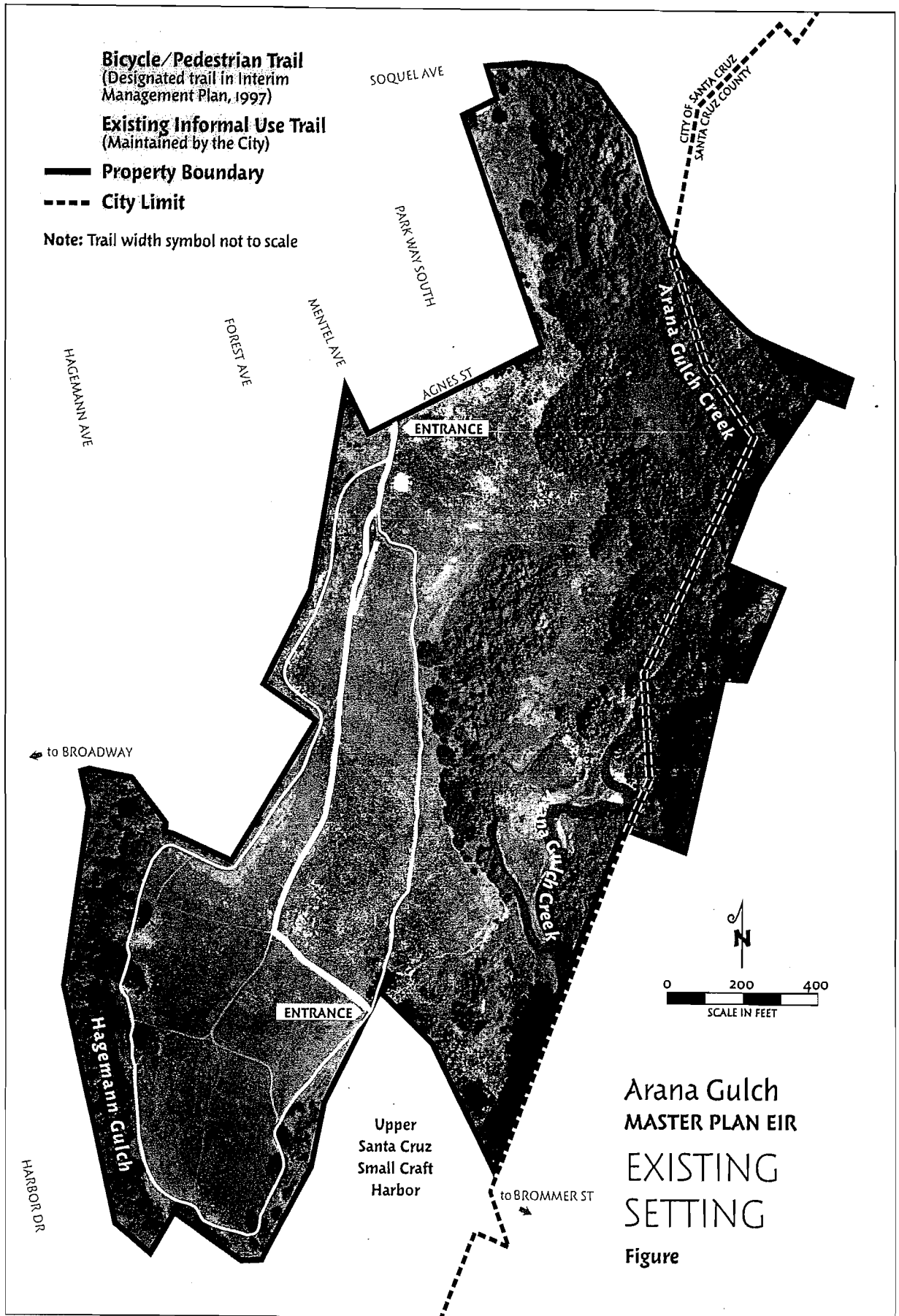
No new vehicle parking within the Arana Gulch boundaries will be provided as there is adequate existing on-street parking near the entrances.

Resource Management Areas

Management Areas have been designated within Arana Gulch based on natural resources (See Table 1 and Management Area figure). The intent of designating these areas is to more effectively focus resource management and enhancement efforts. The three Management Areas include: 1) Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area; 2) Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area, and 3) Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Area. Specific management guidelines have been developed for each area. These Management Areas are briefly highlighted in this attachment.

Table 1
Summary of Arana Gulch Master Plan Management Areas

Management Area	Acreage	Natural Resources	Proposed Public Use
Coastal Prairie/Tarplant	30.2 acres approximately	Santa Cruz tarplant populations; annual grassland with scattered wildflowers and native grasses; seasonal wetlands; bird, reptile and small mammal habitat	Nature viewing; multi-use and pedestrian interpretive trails; dogs on leash
Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland	34.5 acres approximately	Arana Gulch Creek; salt and brackish marsh; willow riparian forest; emergent wetlands; bird, fisheries, amphibian, and reptile habitat	Nature viewing; pedestrian interpretive trail; no dogs
Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland	3 acres approximately	Oak woodland; riparian forest; bird and small mammal habitat	Nature viewing; multi-use interpretive trail; dogs on leash
TOTAL	67.7 acres approximately		



Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area. The open prairie of the Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area is the primary visitor area of Arana Gulch. A key goal within this approximately 30 acre area is to enhance the tarplant and other native prairie species populations, while reducing the abundance of invasive non-native grasses. This area offers opportunities for visitors to enjoy meadow views and learn about prairie habitat. The following are the Resource Management Guidelines and Public Use Guidelines for the Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area:

Resource Management Guidelines for Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area

- Implement the Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program to ensure the long-term viability of the Santa Cruz tarplant subpopulations. This Program (to be included as an Appendix in the Master Plan) sets forth potential management actions, monitoring protocols, and an organizational framework involving botanists to ensure the program is carried out in the long-term. Management actions may include grazing, mowing, scraping and prescribed burns.
- Preserve seasonal wetlands located within the grassland.
- Monitor impacts of trail users near sensitive species. As needed, install fencing and/or signs or implement other strategies to deter off-trail use.
- Close unauthorized trails transecting the coastal prairie habitat.
- Remove blackberry, poison oak, and non-native invasive shrubs to prevent further loss of coastal prairie acreage.
- Conduct annual fuel break mowing along the property boundaries to reduce the fuel load within the grassland areas.
- Coordinate with the City of Santa Cruz Fire Department to conduct prescribed burns. Consult with a qualified botanist under the Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program to determine the appropriate timing and location of the prescribed burns.
- Discourage use of chemical treatments for non-native vegetation management. Any treatment shall be in accordance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Program.
- Preserve the heritage roses located on the upper slope of Hagemann Gulch. Relocate the roses within Arana Gulch, only if no other alternative to preserve in place is feasible. Any relocation should be done in consultation with the Central Coast Heritage Rose Group.

Public Use Guidelines for Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area

- Provide multi-use interpretive trails connecting surrounding neighborhoods to the Upper Santa Cruz Harbor area. Multi-use trails shall be wheelchair accessible. Ensure the pathways minimize disturbance to the coastal prairie habitat and Santa Cruz tarplant. Minimize grading and alteration of natural drainage patterns. Align trails to avoid smaller, isolated seasonal wetlands where feasible.
- Provide a pedestrian-only interpretive loop trail encircling the coastal prairie to allow visitors to enjoy the scenic vistas of the meadows and the harbor overlook.
- All dogs on-leash on designated trails within the Coastal Prairie Management Area. Strictly prohibit off-leash dog use.

- Prohibit off-trail use to avoid impacts to tarplant populations and other plant and animal species.
- Provide interpretive displays along trails at designated locations. Displays shall be compatible with the open space setting.

Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area. Arana Gulch Creek and the broad floodplain along the eastern portion of the project site comprise this Management Area. Totalling approximately 34 ½ acres, the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area, features valuable habitat for aquatic species and birds. A pedestrian trail along the western edge offers overlooks of the creek and coastal marsh. Public access within the wetland habitat areas shall be prohibited to protect wildlife habitat. The following are the Resource Management Guidelines and Public Use Guidelines for the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area:

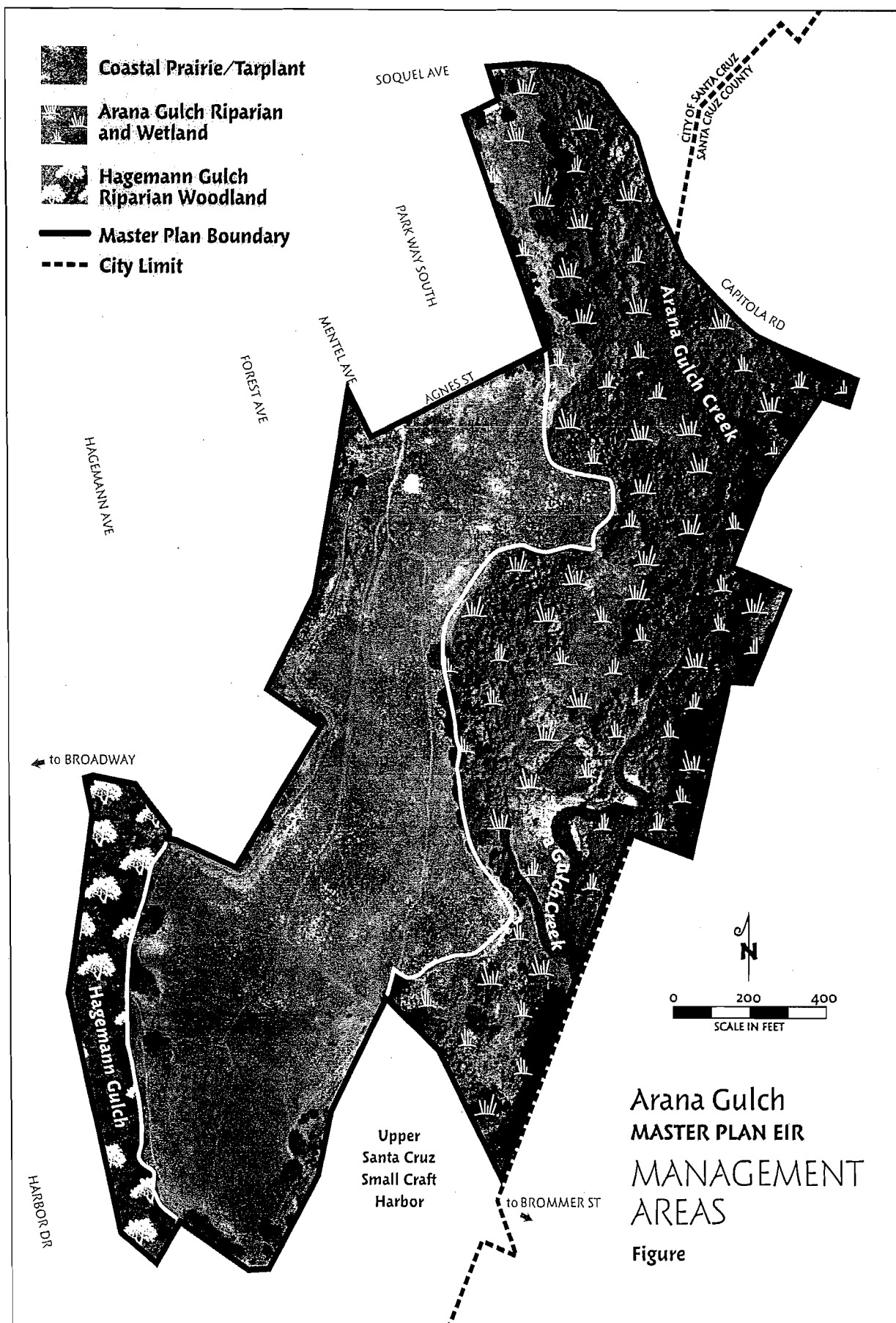
Resource Management Guidelines for the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area

- Conduct further hydrologic analysis regarding accelerated head cutting and bank collapse along the tidal reach of Arana Gulch Creek. Design and implement a bank restoration project that reduces sedimentation, and enhances fisheries and wildlife habitat along Arana Gulch Creek.
- Restore the eroded gully in the northern portion of Arana Gulch. Design and implement a restoration project that reduces sedimentation and blends with the natural setting.
- Remove non-native invasive vegetation. Discourage use of chemical treatments for non-native vegetation management. Any treatment shall be in accordance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Program.
- Close unauthorized trails within the wetland and riparian habitat areas.
- Monitor impacts of trail users near sensitive wetland and riparian habitats. As needed, install fencing and/or signs or implement other strategies to deter off-trail use.
- Prohibit use of pressure-treated wood products in fences, interpretive displays, signs and benches surrounding riparian and wetland habitats.

Public Use Guidelines for the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area

- Enhance the existing trail along the western boundary of the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area. The trail shall be pedestrian-only.
- To avoid disturbance to wildlife, primarily waterfowl, prohibit dogs within the riparian and wetland habitat of Arana Gulch Creek and on the pedestrian trail.
- Provide interpretive displays along trails at designated locations. Displays shall be compatible with the open space setting.
- Conduct mosquito abatement as needed in a manner that minimizes impacts to the wildlife species.

Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Management Area. Along the southwestern boundary of Arana Gulch is the smallest of the Management Areas, Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland. This 3-acre wooded canyon features a mix of riparian trees and scrub, though the habitat value is lessened by the number of invasive species in the



canyon. Due to the steep terrain, public use would be limited to a new bridge providing a key trail connection between Arana Gulch and the adjoining neighborhoods. This bridge would also provide an interpretive overlook into the canyon and tree canopy. The following are the Resource Management Guidelines and Public Use Guidelines for the Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Management Area:

Resource Management Guidelines for the Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Management Area

- Remove non-native understory species, such as broom and ivy, to the extent feasible.
- Contain expansion of the eucalyptus trees and reduce the fire hazard within Hagemann Gulch through various treatments. These may include pruning lower branches of eucalyptus, and removal of smaller trees and saplings.
- Discourage use of chemical treatments for non-native vegetation management. Any treatment shall be in accordance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Program.
- Close unauthorized trails within Hagemann Gulch.
- Preserve the "Rose of Castile" heritage roses located on the upper slope of Hagemann Gulch. Relocate the roses within Arana Gulch in the vicinity of existing roses, only if no other alternative is feasible. Any relocation should be done in consultation with the Central Coast Heritage Rose Group. Removal of oak saplings in immediate vicinity of heritage roses may be needed. Oak saplings may be replanted as feasible in another location.

Public Use Guidelines for the Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Management Area

- Establish a new west entrance at Hagemann Gulch to provide a connection between Arana Gulch and the residential Seabright neighborhood of Santa Cruz.
- Provide a new multi-use trail and bridge crossing over Hagemann Gulch, featuring an interpretive overlook. The bridge shall be designed to minimize impacts to heritage trees and habitat values, and to blend with the natural setting as much as possible. The new multi-use trail would be open to pedestrians, wheelchair users, and bicyclists.

Further discussion of the trail system is presented below.

Trails

An interpretive trail system is the focus of public use within Arana Gulch. The proposed trail system, totaling approximately 2 miles, would provide public access for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and bicyclists. A key goal of the trail system is to allow opportunities for nature viewing and learning about sensitive habitats for visitors of all abilities. This trail system would be developed and maintained in a manner that does not result in significant degradation of habitat values. Another important goal is to close and restore informal or unauthorized trails within Arana Gulch.

The existing trail system provides opportunities for pedestrians and bicycles; however, there are no trails accessible to wheelchair users. The proposed trail system would

include trails that are fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Within the City's other Greenbelt properties, the steep terrain and site constraints have precluded developing ADA-compliant trails.

In addition to providing opportunities to view nature and wildlife, the Arana Gulch Master Plan trail system would also provide pathway connections from adjacent communities through Arana Gulch to the coast and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail is a recreation and interpretive pathway that links existing and new trail segments into a continuous coastal trail around Monterey Bay. The Sanctuary Scenic Trail provides an interpretive and recreational pathway for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, local residents, and visitors.

Within Arana Gulch, an existing north-south unpaved trail provides access for pedestrians and bicyclists from the Agnes Street entrance to the Upper Santa Cruz Harbor. The proposed trail system would improve this north-south trail route to provide for wheelchair users. The new trail system would also feature a new west-east trail connection between the Seabright residential neighborhood to the west of Arana Gulch and the Harbor at the southeast.

Existing Trails. Prior to the City's ownership of Arana Gulch, the meadow area featured numerous cattle trails. These trails are visible on aerial photographs taken over the past several decades. When the City acquired the property in 1994, several informal trails continued to exist. The *Arana Gulch Interim Management Plan*, adopted by City Council in 1997, identifies only one of these informal trails as a "designated trail" to be maintained by the City Parks and Recreation Department. This unpaved trail, less than one-quarter mile in length, is the primary north-south connection between Agnes Street and the Santa Cruz Harbor. Since the City approved the Interim Management Plan, an unpaved loop trail along the perimeter of the meadow area has become increasingly popular with pedestrians.

The existing trail system maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department totals approximately 1.2 miles (see Existing Setting Figure). This includes the north-south trail and loop trail encircling the meadow area. Neither of these existing trails is accessible to wheelchair users due to the unpaved, rough surface and steep gradients in some trail sections.

In addition to these designated trails, there are numerous informal pathways crossing the coastal prairie and tarplant habitat areas. These trails are either used as cut-through routes by pedestrians and bicycles, or for illegal off-leash dog use. The Parks and Recreation Department has made efforts to close these undesignated trails and enforce leash laws, but available resources and management actions have been limited under the Interim Management Plan. A key goal of the Arana Gulch Master Plan is to close unauthorized trails and discourage off-trail use to better protect sensitive habitat areas.

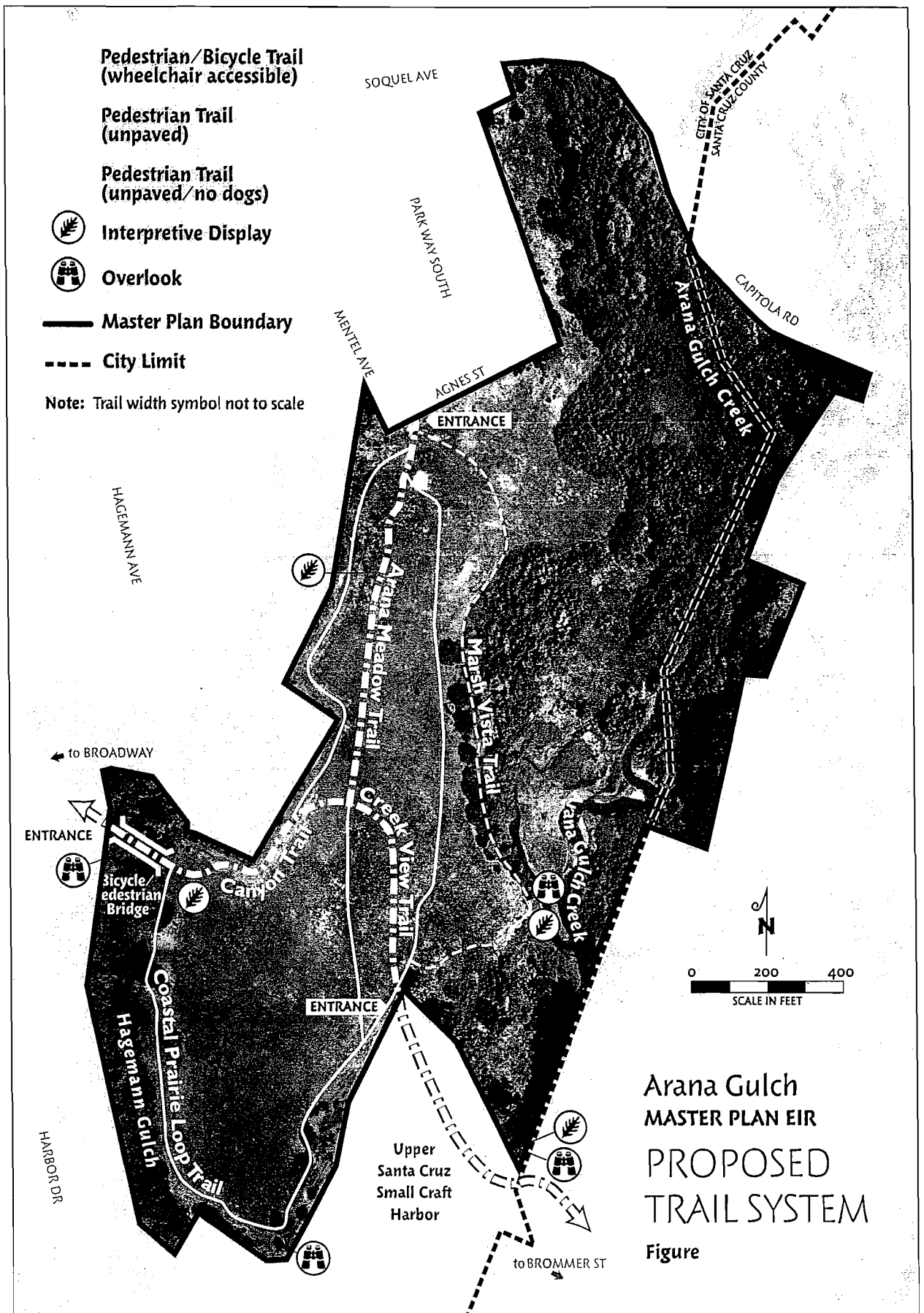


Table 2
Summary of Existing and Proposed Trails for Arana Gulch Master Plan

Name of Trail	Distance of Trail	Trail Description
Multi-Use Interpretive Trails		
Arana Meadow Trail	0.3 mile	Access to coastal prairie habitat; existing trail improved to meet ADA requirements; not to exceed 8 feet in width; interpretive display at northern entrance to trail
Creek View Trail	0.2 mile	New trail to connect to Arana Meadow Trail and to Upper Harbor and Brommer Street; to be located on City and Port District lands; to meet ADA requirements; to be approximately 8 feet in width; retaining wall needed at eastern edge of Port District storage area; to provide scenic overlook of coastal stream
Canyon Trail	0.1 mile	New trail to provide new entrance and trail connection to parkland from Seabright residential neighborhood; to meet ADA requirements; to include bridge over Hagemann Gulch; access from east end of Broadway Avenue via City-owned land; views provided into riparian and oak woodland habitat
Pedestrian Interpretive Trails		
Coastal Prairie Loop Trail	1 mile	Existing trail encircling Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area; open to pedestrians only; erosion control improvements to be done; signs and fencing installed as needed to discourage unauthorized pathways; dogs on-leash allowed; some seating may be installed; a spur trail at center would allow a shorter loop
Marsh Vista Trail	0.4 mile	Some segments currently exist; trail to be realigned and improved to connect with Coastal Prairie Loop Trail; provides views into Arana Gulch Creek riparian area; open to pedestrians only and dogs prohibited.

Along Arana Gulch Creek, there are also problems with undesignated trails and illegal activities, including camping. The dense riparian vegetation helps to shield unauthorized users from public view. In addition to closing undesignated pathways within the riparian and wetland habitat areas, there is a need for a designated trail along the edge of the corridor that would increase visibility into the area and encourage appropriate public nature viewing and trail use.

Proposed Trail Alignments and Improvements. The proposed Arana Gulch Master Plan trail system would total approximately 2 miles. The system would feature two types of trails: multi-use trails and pedestrian-only trails. Most of the trails, approximately 1.4 miles, would be limited to pedestrian use only, with dogs restricted to on-leash use at all times. Multi-use trails would be designed for pedestrian, bicycle, and wheelchair use. Dogs would be permitted on-leash on multi-use trails. Less than one-third of the total trail system within Arana Gulch would be multi-use trails (See Proposed Trail System figure).

Multi-use trails would feature a hardened surface and gradient that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The trail width would be no greater than 8 feet, except for the proposed bridge over Hagemann Gulch and Arana Gulch Creek overlook which may be wider to accommodate interpretive displays and nature viewing areas. Retaining walls would be needed for the eastern portion of the Creek View Trail on Port District property. The proposed retaining walls would vary in height up to 6 feet, 7 inches.

Pedestrian-only trails would be maintained as narrow, earthen footpaths. Most of the pedestrian trails in the trail system are existing pathways, though some realignments and improvements are necessary for erosion control and for enhancement of interpretive opportunities. The trail bed width would be approximately 1.5 to 2 feet.

Interpretive overlooks and displays would be located along the trail routes at locations that minimize impacts to sensitive habitats. Seating would be provided at scenic overlooks, but the number of benches would be limited. Fencing and signs would be installed as needed to discourage off-trail use. The amount of fencing would be limited to those locations where off-trail use cannot be controlled through other measures. No lighting would be installed along the trails within the meadow area of Arana Gulch. Low level lighting may be installed at the Hagemann Gulch bridge and Upper Harbor area if it is deemed necessary for public safety.

The preliminary proposed trail system is presented in the Proposed Trail System figure and summarized in the Table 2.

Required Approvals

A variety of actions and approvals are required related to the Arana Gulch Master Plan. The following are the required approvals expected for the project:

City Actions

- Certification of the Final EIR by the Santa Cruz City Council;
- Approval of the Arana Gulch Master Plan by the City Council;
- Grading permit from City of Santa Cruz for construction of certain trails;
- Heritage Tree Removal permit;
- Coastal Permit;
- Amendment to General Plan/Local Coastal Program to include the Arana Gulch Master Plan;
- Amendment to General Plan/Local Coastal Program Policy 2.2.7 of the Land Use Element to: eliminate the requirement for a specific plan for Arana Gulch and replace with the requirement for master plan/resource management plan. Amendment to delete the sections of the policy that require: clustering development; a variety of housing including 35% affordable units; a possible community facility including a school and neighborhood park of at least 10 developable acres; and improvement of Soquel Ave. and Soquel Ave./South Park Way intersection improvements;
- Amendment to the General Plan/Local Coastal Program land use map to change the land use designation from Community Facilities and Very Low Residential to Natural Area. Delete the symbol for the requirement of a specific plan on the property; and
- Amendment to the Zoning Map/Local Coastal Program to rezone the property from R-1-5 (Single Family Residential) to PK (Parks).

County and Regional Actions

- Annexation approval by the Local Agency Formation Commission and Santa Cruz County for annexation of about 8.4 acres into the City of Santa Cruz.

State Actions

- California Coastal Commission approval of Local Coastal Plan (LCP) amendment to include Arana Gulch Master Plan;
- Coastal permits from California Coastal Commission for development of structures called for in Arana Gulch Master Plan; and
- Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game for removal of riparian vegetation in Hagemann Gulch for bridge construction.

III. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The primary issues to be addressed in the EIR are anticipated to include:

- Land Use and Planning
- Biological Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Visual Quality and Aesthetics

The potential effects for each of these topics are briefly discussed below.

Land Use and Planning

The EIR will document land use compatibility, issues, land use designations and restrictions related to the site, as well as policies related to land use. This will include:

- Description of existing land use and zoning designations for the site (City and County);
- Summary of relevant policies from the City of Santa Cruz General Plan related to on-site uses (i.e., Land Use Element and Parks and Recreation Element) and how the project may or may not conform to such policies, and analysis of amendments proposed.
- Description of existing on-site and surrounding land uses.
- Analysis of the project's compatibility with the General Plan land use and zoning designations and regulations; and
- Development of mitigation measures, if necessary, for any identified land use impacts.

Biological Resources

The EIR will focus on documenting the site's sensitive habitats and evaluating potential impacts and mitigation opportunities related to implementation of the proposed Arana Gulch Master Plan. This will include:

- Evaluation of all Master Plan components in the EIR, including proposed new multi-use trails, a new bridge spanning Hagemann Gulch, improvements to existing trails, interpretive displays, and resource management actions;
- Qualitative evaluation of potential impacts to biotic resources from the expected increase in trail use;
- Incorporation of results of studies performed for Arana Gulch. Previous surveys have documented the biotic features of the property as well as the occurrence of sensitive botanical and wildlife resources. Special status species include Santa Cruz tarplant and steelhead trout. Special status habitats include coastal terrace prairie, wetlands and riparian habitat;
- Assessment of roosting and possible nesting activities;
- Determination of potential wetland areas in the vicinity of proposed multi-use trails;
- Analysis of indirect impacts to sensitive resources from public use. Examples of indirect impacts include trampling of vegetation by off-trail use, changes in drainage patterns, and disturbances to sensitive wildlife;
- As per CEQA Guidelines, evaluation of the proposed project as to its consistency with Federal, State and City laws, policies and/or ordinances;
- Development of mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts to a level of insignificance, if needed; and
- Identification of opportunities for on-site mitigation of significant impacts, such as areas that can be preserved, restored or revegetated. Management actions required for the protection of rare/sensitive species will be identified, as well as techniques for the re-establishment of sensitive resources, as applicable.

Geology and Soils

The EIR will characterize the geology, seismic and soil environments of the Arana Gulch Master Plan site with special attention to the proposed trail system. This will include:

- Description of geologic and soil conditions;
- Review and incorporation of previous studies;
- Characterization of site geology and soils using published geologic references, local hydrogeologic and technical reports, and unpublished research by the consultant;
- Assessment of potential erosion and other soil-related impacts from the proposed trail system and proposed Hagemann Gulch bridge;

- Development of mitigation measures, as needed, for geologic/soils related impacts associated with the Arana Gulch Master Plan. An emphasis will be placed on measures to avoid and reduce potential erosion from trail use. Construction-related, as well as operation-related, mitigation measures will be recommended.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The EIR will address hydrology and drainage issues related to the Arana Gulch Master Plan with special attention to the proposed trail system. This will include:

- Description of hydrologic conditions and erosion concerns at Arana Gulch using existing information;
- Review and incorporation of hydrologic studies that have been previously prepared;
- Review of potential effects on hydrology and runoff from new trail and bridge development;
- Development of mitigation measures for hydrologic and water quality impacts associated with the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Visual Quality and Aesthetics

The EIR will include a full characterization of the visual setting and describe the changes the proposed project would have on the visual character of Arana Gulch. This will include:

- Documentation of existing visual conditions with black and white photographs.
- Description of existing vegetation, slope, and visual quality of project site, with an emphasis on determining the visibility of the site from public locations and identifying scenic vistas and scenic resources present or near the site.
- Documentation and analysis of potential impacts from development of the new multi-use trails and Hagemann Gulch bridge.

Other Topics

The EIR will briefly address the following topics which are expected not to include any significant impacts:

- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Mitigation measures included in the Master Plan to minimize or eliminate impacts such as controls on construction-related noise will be included in the EIR as needed.

Alternatives

No more than three alternatives to the proposed project will be evaluated to comply with CEQA requirements. The first alternative will be the "No Project Alternative" which will

assume no changes from existing conditions. The other alternatives will include alternative trail systems.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts will address potential impacts associated with the proposed project in conjunction with other off-site proposed, permitted, or under-construction projects. Cumulative impacts will be summarized by topic (i.e. land use, traffic, etc.) and mitigation measures will be identified if any significant cumulative impacts are identified. The focus of the cumulative analysis will be on impacts related to the proposed project.



Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA **REC'D OCT 17 REC'D**
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Sean Walsh
Director

Notice of Preparation

October 11, 2005

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Arana Gluch Park Master Plan
SCH# 2005062141

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Arana Gluch Park Master Plan draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

**Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan

Scott Morgan
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2005062141
Project Title Arana Gluch Park Master Plan
Lead Agency Santa Cruz, City of

Type NOP Notice of Preparation
Description Master plan for 67.7 acre open space, to include resource management, trails and interpretive displays.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Susan Harris
Agency City of Santa Cruz
Phone 831 420-5362 **Fax**
email
Address Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
City Santa Cruz **State** CA **Zip** 95060

Project Location

County Santa Cruz
City
Region
Cross Streets
Parcel No.
Township

Range

Section

Base

Proximity to:

Highways 1
Airports
Railways
Waterways Arana Gulch Creek
Schools
Land Use Community Facility, Residential, Floodplain, Natural Area

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Coastal Zone; Geologic/Seismic; Recreation/Parks; Soil
Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Vegetation; Water Quality; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife; Landuse

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; California Coastal Commission; Department of Forestry and Fire Protection;
Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Game,
Region 3; Native American Heritage Commission; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 5; Air
Resources Board, Transportation Projects; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 3

Date Received 10/11/2005 **Start of Review** 10/11/2005 **End of Review** 11/09/2005

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Resources Agency</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish & Game Region 3</u> Robert Floerke	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Public Utilities Commission</u> Ken Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 8</u> Dan Kopulsky	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Resources Agency</u> Nadell Gayou	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish & Game Region 4</u> Mike Mulligan	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>State Lands Commission</u> Jean Sarino	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 9</u> Gayle Rosander	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 1</u> Cathleen Hudson North Coast Region (1)
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Boating & Waterways</u> David Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish & Game Region 5</u> Don Chadwick Habitat Conservation Program	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)</u> Cherry Jacques	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 10</u> Tom Dumas	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 2</u> Environmental Document Coordinator San Francisco Bay Region (2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>California Coastal Commission</u> Elizabeth A. Fuchs	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish & Game Region 6</u> Gabrina Gatchel Habitat Conservation Program	<u>Business, Trans & Housing</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 11</u> Mario Orso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 3</u> Central Coast Region (3)
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Colorado River Board</u> Gerald R. Zimmerman	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish & Game Region 6 I/M</u> Tammy Allen Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics</u> Sandy Heshard	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 12</u> Bob Joseph	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 4</u> Jonathan Bishop Los Angeles Region (4)
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Conservation</u> Roseanne Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Fish & Game M</u> George Isaac Marine Region	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans - Planning</u> Terri Pencovic	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cal EPA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 5S</u> Central Valley Region (5)
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>California Energy Commission</u> Roger Johnson	<u>Other Departments</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>California Highway Patrol</u> John Olejnik Office of Special Projects	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Air Resources Board</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 5F</u> Central Valley Region (5) Fresno Branch Office
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection</u> Allen Robertson	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Food & Agriculture</u> Steve Shaffer Dept. of Food and Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Housing & Community Development</u> Lisa Nichols Housing Policy Division	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Alr Resources Board</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 5R</u> Central Valley Region (5) Redding Branch Office
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Office of Historic Preservation</u> Wayne Donaldson	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of General Services</u> Public School Construction	<u>Dept. of Transportation</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>California Integrated Waste Management Board</u> Sue O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 6</u> Lahontan Region (6) Victorville Branch Office
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Parks & Recreation</u> Environmental Stewardship Section	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of General Services</u> Robert Sleppey Environmental Services Section	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 1</u> Rex Jackman	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>State Water Resources Control Board</u> Jim Hockenberry Division of Financial Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 6V</u> Lahontan Region (6) Victorville Branch Office
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Reclamation Board</u> DeeDee Jones	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Health Services</u> Veronica Rameriz Dept. of Health/Drinking Water	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 2</u> Marcelino Gonzalez	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>State Water Resources Control Board</u> Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit Division of Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 7</u> Colorado River Basin Region (7)
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.</u> Steve McAdam	<u>Independent Commissions/Boards</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 3</u> Katherine Eastham	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>State Water Resources Control Board</u> Steven Herrera Division of Water Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 8</u> Santa Ana Region (8)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Water Resources</u> Resources Agency Nadell Gayou	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Delta Protection Commission</u> Debby Eddy	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 4</u> Tim Sable	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>State Water Resources Control Board</u> CEQA Tracking Center	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>RWQCB 9</u> San Diego Region (9)
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Conservancy</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Office of Emergency Services</u> Dennis Castnillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 5</u> David Murray	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Toxic Substances Control</u> Department of Pesticide Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Other</u>
<u>Fish and Game</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Governor's Office of Planning & Research</u> State Clearinghouse	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 6</u> Marc Blimbaum		
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Dept. of Fish & Game</u> Scott Flint Environmental Services Division	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Native American Heritage Comm.</u> Debbie Treadway	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Caltrans, District 7</u> Cheryl J. Powell		
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish & Game Region 1</u> Donald Koch				
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Fish & Game Region 2</u> Banky Curtis				



MONTEREY BAY

Unified Air Pollution Control District
serving Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER
Douglas Quetin

24580 Silver Cloud Court • Monterey, California 93940 • 831/647-9411 • FAX 831/647-8501

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October 19, 2005

Ms. Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: REVISED NOP FOR DEIR FOR ARANA GULCH PARK MASTER PLAN

Dear Ms. Harris:

The City of Santa Cruz's recent decision to include the 5.7 acre area that had been excluded from the original Arana Gulch Master Plan boundaries does not prompt additional comments from the District. The July 5, 2005 letter (attached) includes the issues the District would like evaluated in the EIR.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the revised NOP.

Yours truly,

Jean Getchell
Supervising Planner
Planning and Air Monitoring

Attachment



MONTEREY BAY

Unified Air Pollution Control District
serving Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER
Douglas Quetin

24580 Silver Cloud Court • Monterey, California 93940 • 831/647-9411 • FAX 831/647-8501

July 5, 2005

Ms. Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: NOP FOR DEIR FOR ARANA GULCH PARK MASTER PLAN

Staff has reviewed the referenced document and has the following recommendations for a scope of work for the air quality analysis:

1. Direct and indirect source emissions (VOC and NO_x) from all proposed operational activities should be quantified and assessed. VOC and NO_x emissions need not be quantified for "typical" construction activity. Staff should be consulted regarding potential construction equipment to be used on the project.
2. If project or cumulative traffic would cause LOS to decline from D or better to E or F, dispersion modeling should be undertaken to determine if carbon monoxide concentrations would violate ambient air quality standards at sensitive receptor locations.
3. Project operational and construction PM₁₀ emissions should be quantified. If emissions would exceed 82 lb/day, the project would have a significant impact on air quality. However, PM₁₀ modeling could be undertaken to verify or dispute this finding per the District's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines.
4. If the project might expose sensitive receptors in adjacent land uses to air quality problems such as odors or toxic air contaminants (e.g., diesel exhaust), the DEIR should include an assessment of these impacts. The impact of prescribed burning on sensitive receptors who would reside in the project area should also be addressed.
5. Mitigation measures should be identified for any significant impacts on air quality. The EIR should quantify the emission reduction effectiveness of each measure, identify agencies responsible for implementation and monitoring, and conclude whether mitigation measures would reduce impacts below significance levels.

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Monterey County

6. Prior to conducting any prescribed burns (P. 8. Resource Management Guidelines for Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area), please contact Ms. Amy Taketomo in the District's Enforcement Division at 647-9411 x241, to discuss District permitting requirements.
7. Project consistency with the 2004 Air Quality Management Plan for the Monterey Bay Region should be addressed. The District should be contacted for a formal consistency determination, which should be included in the DEIR.

The District's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines may be used to prepare the air quality analysis. The Guidelines are available on the District's website – www.mbuapcd.org.

Please call if you have any questions or would like assistance.

Sincerely,

Jean Getchell
Supervising Planner
Planning and Air Monitoring

cc: Amy Taketomo, Enforcement Division



ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

November 15, 2005

Ms. Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Planning and Community Development Dept.
809 Center Street, Rm. 207
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Re: MCH# 100506- Notice of Preparation of a Revised EIR
Arana Gulch Master Plan**

Dear Ms. Harris:

AMBAG's Regional Clearinghouse circulated a summary of notice of your environmental document to our member agencies and interested parties for review and comment.

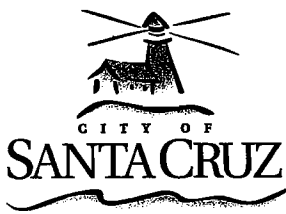
The AMBAG Board of Directors considered the project on **November 9, 2005** and has no comments at this time.

Thank you for complying with the Clearinghouse process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicolas Papadakis", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicolas Papadakis
Executive Director



P A R K S & R E C R E A T I O N D E P A R T M E N T

June 22, 2005

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE ARANA GULCH PARK MASTER PLAN

The City of Santa Cruz will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project, if any is required.

The project description, location and the potential environmental effects are contained in Attachment 1. A copy of the Initial Study is not attached.

Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please include the name and phone number of a contact person at your agency in your response.

Please send your response to:

Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

A public scoping meeting will be held on July 21, 2005, 7:00 p.m., at the Police Department Community Room, 155 Center Street, Santa Cruz.

Project Title: Arana Gulch Park Master Plan

Project Applicant: City of Santa Cruz

Signature Susan Harris Date June 23, 2005

Name Susan Harris
Title Associate Planner
Phone (831) 420-5362

ATTACHMENT 1

**NOTICE OR PREPARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**for the
ARANA GULCH PARK MASTER PLAN**

City of Santa Cruz
County of Santa Cruz, California
June 2005

I. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The Draft Arana Gulch Park Master Plan addresses a 62-acre natural area located approximately 1.5 miles east of downtown Santa Cruz in the eastern part of the City. The project site is bounded by the Santa Cruz Harbor at the south and residential development to the west, east, and north. The City/County line is just within the eastern boundary of most of the site (See Site Location Figure).

The project site, for purposes of this NOP and the EIR, refers to the 62 acres that make up the natural area included in the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. Part of the project site (8.4 acres) is within the County of Santa Cruz and must be annexed. An additional, adjacent 5.7 acres at the northern end of the project site is not included as part of the Park Master Plan (See Existing Setting Figure).

Most of the project site was purchased by the City of Santa Cruz in 1994 as part of a phased effort to acquire Greenbelt properties. Prior to the City's ownership, the property was privately owned. Cattle were grazed on the property until the late 1980s. Since acquisition, the City Parks and Recreation Department has been responsible for management and maintenance of Arana Gulch. In 1997, the Santa Cruz City Council approved an Interim Management Plan for the Arana Gulch property. This Interim Plan was intended to outline actions necessary to manage and maintain the natural resources within Arana Gulch. Land use decisions were not part of the Interim Management Plan and were intended to be addressed at a future date when the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan was prepared, the subject of the EIR. The Arana Gulch Park Master Plan will supercede the Interim Management Plan.

The City plans to finalize the Park Master Plan concurrently with the EIR, allowing the incorporation of relevant mitigation measures into the Park Master Plan before it is adopted. The concurrent effort is being undertaken to ensure that environmental impacts are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Existing Conditions

There is no public parking on-site or public vehicle access. Existing pedestrian access is available from the following points: 1) Agnes Street at the north and 2) the parking lot of the Upper Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor at the south. These two entrance points provide access to trails within Arana Gulch. These pathways existed prior to the City's ownership of the property. Existing designated trails include a north-south connection from the Agnes Street entrance to the Upper Harbor, which is open to bicyclists and pedestrians. There is also an existing pedestrian pathway encircling the meadow area. In addition to the designated City-maintained trails, there are several unauthorized pathways crossing the meadow area. Dogs must be on leash at all times and remain on designated trails.

The Arana Gulch property features valuable habitats, including grassland (coastal prairie and annual grassland), riparian scrub and woodland, oak woodland, seasonal wetlands, emergent wetland, and open water. The southernmost portion of Arana Gulch Creek

flows along the eastern area of the site, and Hagemann Gulch flows along the western edge of the site. Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holcarpha macrodenia*), listed as "endangered" by the State of California and "threatened" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, has been identified within the Park Master Plan boundaries.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Arana Gulch Park Master Plan will address the long-term uses and management for the 62-acre open space property. The key components of the Park Master Plan will include:

- Resource Management Areas
- Resource Management and Public Use Guidelines
- Interpretive Trail System
- Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program

No new vehicle parking within the park boundaries will be provided as there is adequate existing on-street parking near the entrances. A small restroom facility and drinking fountain may be developed at a future date near the Agnes Street entrance; however it would be outside of the Park Master Plan area boundaries. An City-owned area adjacent to the northern boundary of the Park Master Plan area, bordering Agnes Street and the alleyway, is not included as part of the Park Master Plan. The existing residential and community facility land use designations for this approximately 5.7 acre area would remain unchanged.

Resource Management Areas

Management Areas have been designated within Arana Gulch based on natural resources (See Table 1 and Management Area Figure). The intent of designating these areas is to more effectively focus resource management and enhancement efforts. The three Management Areas include: 1) Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area; 2) Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area, and 3) Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Area. Specific management guidelines have been developed for each area. These Management Areas are briefly highlighted in this attachment.

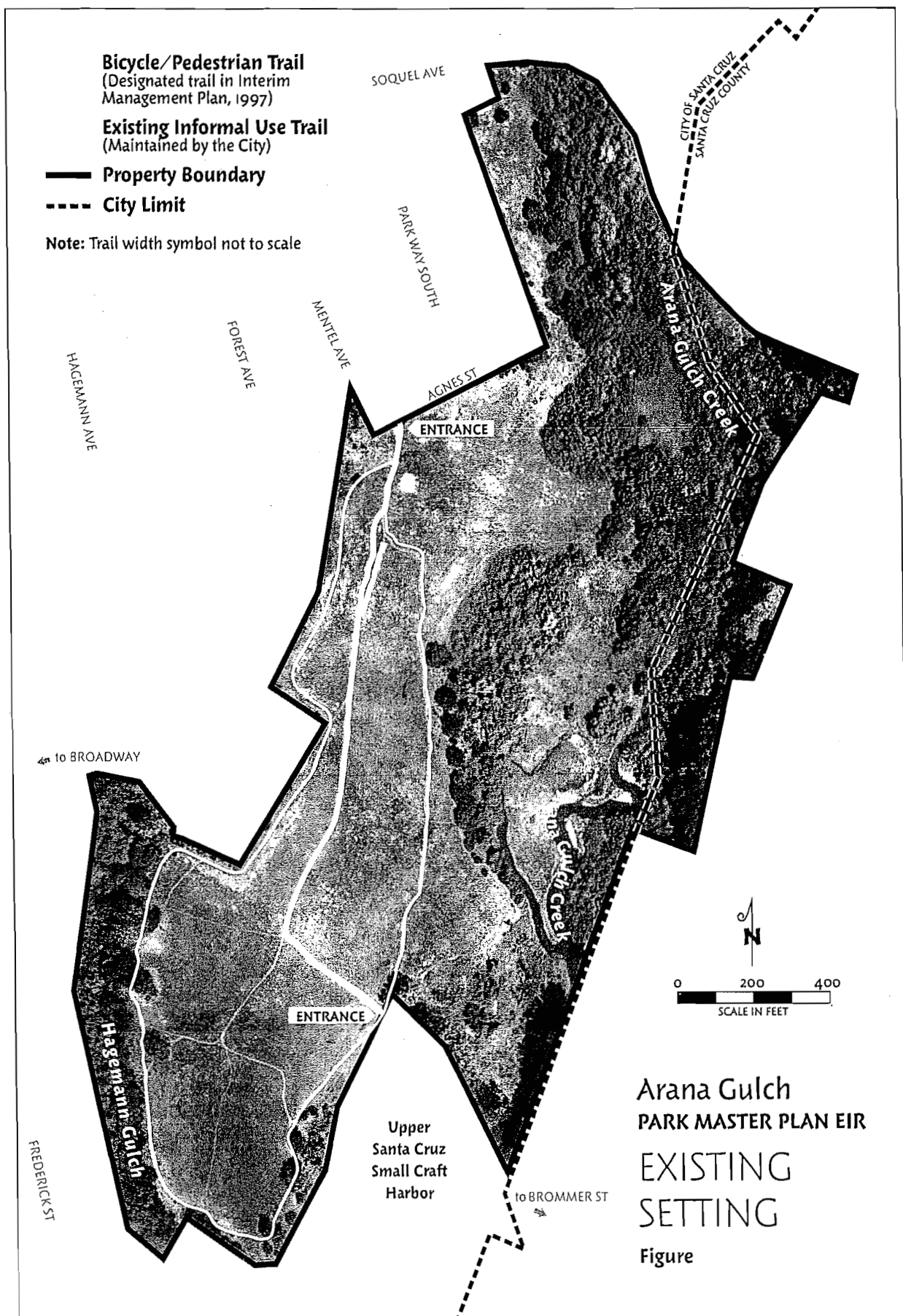


Table 1
Summary of Arana Gulch Park Master Plan Management Areas

Management Area	Acreage	Natural Resources	Proposed Public Use
Coastal Prairie/Tarplant	26 acres	Santa Cruz tarplant populations; annual grassland with scattered wildflowers and native grasses; seasonal wetlands; bird, reptile and small mammal habitat	Nature viewing; multi-use and pedestrian interpretive trails; dogs on leash
Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland	33 acres	Arana Gulch Creek; salt and brackish marsh; willow riparian forest; emergent wetlands; bird, fisheries, amphibian, and reptile habitat	Nature viewing; pedestrian interpretive trail; no dogs
Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland	3 acres	Oak woodland; riparian forest; bird and small mammal habitat	Nature viewing; multi-use interpretive trail; dogs on leash
TOTAL	62 acres approximately		

Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area. The open prairie of the Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area is the primary visitor area of Arana Gulch. A key goal within this 26-acre area is to enhance the tarplant and other native prairie species populations, while reducing the abundance of invasive non-native grasses. This area offers opportunities for visitors to enjoy meadow views and learn about prairie habitat. The following are the Resource Management Guidelines and Public Use Guidelines for the Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area:

Resource Management Guidelines for Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area

- Implement the Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program to ensure the long-term viability of the Santa Cruz tarplant subpopulations. This Program (to be included as an Appendix in the Park Master Plan) sets forth potential management actions, monitoring protocols, and an organizational framework involving botanists to ensure the program is carried out in the long-term. Management actions may include grazing, mowing, scraping and prescribed burns.
- Preserve seasonal wetlands located within the grassland.
- Monitor impacts of trail users near sensitive species. As needed, install fencing and/or signs or implement other strategies to deter off-trail use.
- Close unauthorized trails transecting the coastal prairie habitat.
- Remove blackberry, poison oak, and non-native invasive shrubs to prevent further loss of coastal prairie acreage.

- Conduct annual fuel break mowing along the property boundaries to reduce the fuel load within the grassland areas.
- Coordinate with the City of Santa Cruz Fire Department to conduct prescribed burns. Consult with a qualified botanist under the Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program to determine the appropriate timing and location of the prescribed burns.
- Discourage use of chemical treatments for non-native vegetation management. Any treatment shall be in accordance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Program.
- Preserve the heritage roses located on the upper slope of Hagemann Gulch. Relocate the roses within Arana Gulch, only if no other alternative to preserve in place is feasible. Any relocation should be done in consultation with the Central Coast Heritage Rose Group.

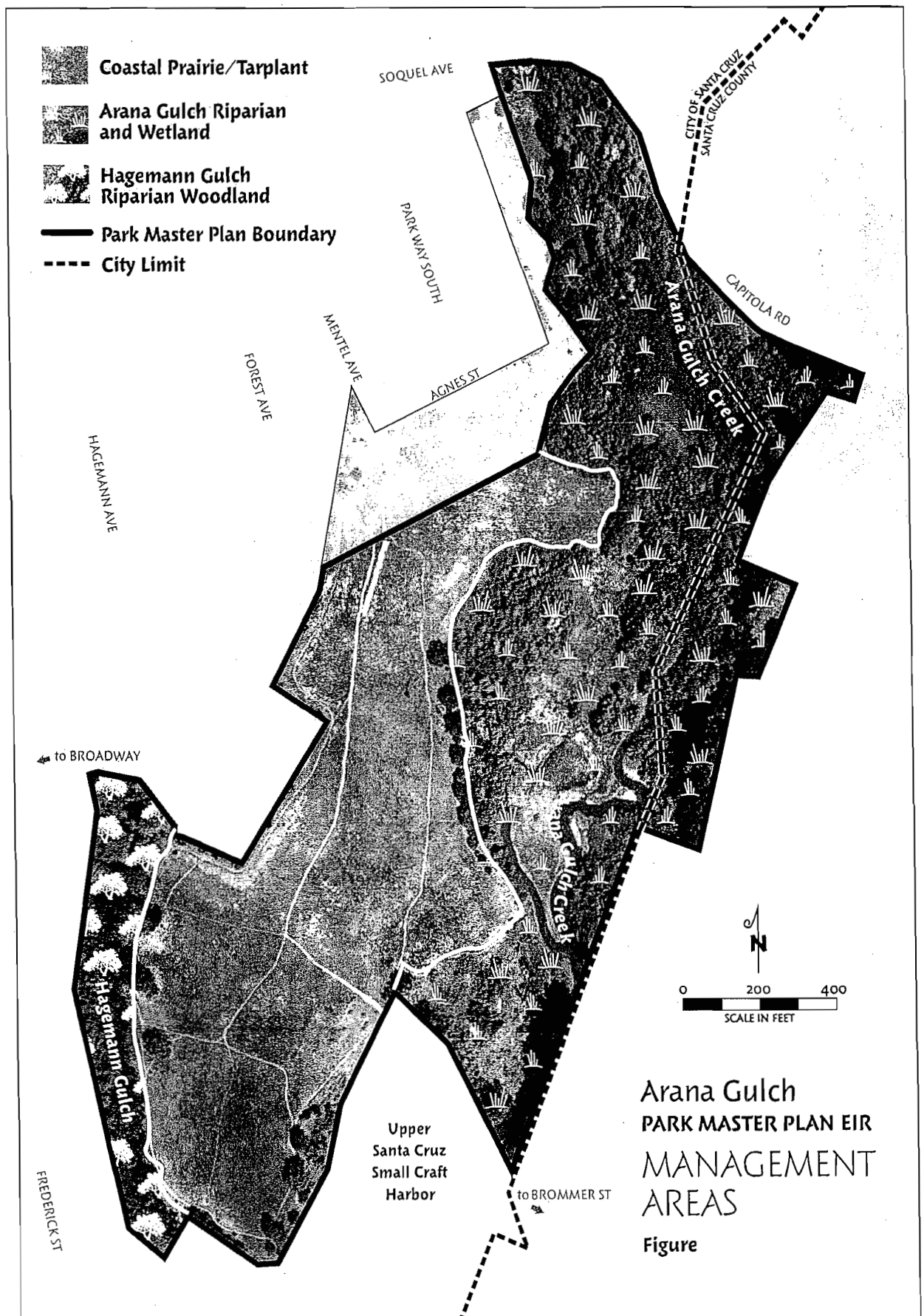
Public Use Guidelines for Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area

- Provide multi-use interpretive trails connecting surrounding neighborhoods to the Upper Santa Cruz Harbor area. Multi-use trails shall be wheelchair accessible. Ensure the pathways minimize disturbance to the coastal prairie habitat and Santa Cruz tarplant. Minimize grading and alteration of natural drainage patterns. Align trails to avoid smaller, isolated seasonal wetlands where feasible.
- Provide a pedestrian-only interpretive loop trail encircling the coastal prairie to allow visitors to enjoy the scenic vistas of the meadows and the harbor overlook.
- Dogs are allowed on-leash on designated trails within the Coastal Prairie Management Area. Strictly prohibit off-leash dog use and off-trail use to avoid impacts to tarplant populations and other plant and animal species.
- Provide interpretive displays along trails at designated locations. Displays shall be compatible with the open space setting.

Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area. Arana Gulch Creek and the broad floodplain along the eastern portion of the project site comprise this Management Area. Totalling approximately 24 acres, the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area, features valuable habitat for aquatic species and birds. A pedestrian trail along the western edge offers overlooks of the creek and coastal marsh. Public access within the wetland habitat areas would be prohibited to protect wildlife habitat. The following are the Resource Management Guidelines and Public Use Guidelines for the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area:

Resource Management Guidelines for the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area

- Conduct further hydrologic analysis regarding accelerated head cutting and bank collapse along the tidal reach of Arana Gulch Creek. Design and implement a bank restoration project that reduces sedimentation, and enhances fisheries and wildlife habitat along Arana Gulch Creek.
- Restore the eroded gully in the northern portion of Arana Gulch. Design and implement a restoration project that reduces sedimentation and blends with the natural setting.



- Remove non-native invasive vegetation. Discourage use of chemical treatments for non-native vegetation management. Any treatment shall be in accordance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Program.
- Close unauthorized trails within the wetland and riparian habitat areas.
- Monitor impacts of trail users near sensitive wetland and riparian habitats. As needed, install fencing and/or signs or implement other strategies to deter off-trail use.
- Prohibit use of pressure-treated wood products in fences, interpretive displays, signs and benches surrounding riparian and wetland habitats.

Public Use Guidelines for the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area

- Enhance the existing trail along the western boundary of the Arana Gulch Riparian and Wetland Management Area. The trail shall be pedestrian-only.
- To avoid disturbance to wildlife, primarily waterfowl, prohibit dogs within the riparian and wetland habitat of Arana Gulch Creek and on the pedestrian trail.
- Conduct mosquito abatement as needed in a manner that minimizes impacts to the wildlife species.

Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Management Area. Along the southwestern boundary of Arana Gulch is the smallest of the Management Areas, Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland. This 3-acre wooded canyon features a mix of riparian trees and scrub, though the habitat value is lessened by the number of invasive species in the canyon. Due to the steep terrain, public use would be limited to a new bridge providing a key trail connection between Arana Gulch and the adjoining neighborhoods. This bridge would also provide an interpretive overlook into the canyon and tree canopy. The following are the Resource Management Guidelines and Public Use Guidelines for the Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Management Area:

Resource Management Guidelines for the Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Management Area

- Remove non-native understory species, such as broom and ivy, to the extent feasible.
- Contain expansion of the eucalyptus trees and reduce the fire hazard within Hagemann Gulch through various treatments. These may include pruning lower branches of eucalyptus, and removal of smaller trees and saplings.
- Discourage use of chemical treatments for non-native vegetation management. Any treatment shall be in accordance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Program.
- Close unauthorized trails within Hagemann Gulch.
- Preserve the "Rose of Castile" heritage roses located on the upper slope of Hagemann Gulch. Relocate the roses within Arana Gulch in the vicinity of existing roses, only if no other alternative is feasible. Any relocation should be done in consultation with the Central Coast Heritage Rose Group. Removal and replanting of oak saplings in immediate vicinity of heritage roses may be needed.

Public Use Guidelines for the Hagemann Gulch Riparian Woodland Management Area

- Establish a new west entrance at Hagemann Gulch to provide a connection between Arana Gulch and the residential Seabright neighborhood of Santa Cruz.
- Provide a new multi-use trail and bridge crossing over Hagemann Gulch, featuring an interpretive overlook. The bridge shall be designed to minimize impacts to heritage trees and habitat values, and to blend with the natural setting as much as possible. The new multi-use trail would be open to pedestrians, wheelchair users, and bicyclists.

Further discussion of the trail system is presented below.

Trails

An interpretive trail system is the focus of public use within Arana Gulch. The proposed trail system, totaling approximately 1.8 miles, would provide public access for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and bicyclists. A key goal of the trail system is to allow opportunities for nature viewing and learning about sensitive habitats for visitors of all abilities. This trail system would be developed and maintained in a manner that does not result in significant degradation of habitat values. Another important goal is to close and restore informal or unauthorized trails within Arana Gulch.

The existing trail system provides opportunities for pedestrians and bicycles; however, there are no trails accessible to wheelchair users. The proposed trail system would include trails that are fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Within the City's other greenbelt properties, the steep terrain and site constraints have precluded developing ADA-compliant trails.

In addition to providing opportunities to view nature and wildlife, the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan trail system would also provide pathway connections from adjacent communities through Arana Gulch to the coast and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail is a recreation and interpretive pathway that links existing and new trail segments into a continuous coastal trail around Monterey Bay. The Sanctuary Scenic Trail provides an interpretive and recreational pathway for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, local residents, and visitors.

Within Arana Gulch, an existing north-south unpaved trail provides access for pedestrians and bicyclists from the Agnes Street entrance to the upper Santa Cruz Harbor. The proposed trail system would improve this north-south trail route to provide for wheelchair users. The new trail system would also feature a new west-east trail connection between the Seabright residential neighborhood to the west of Arana Gulch and the Harbor at the southeast.

Existing Trails. Prior to the City's ownership of Arana Gulch, the meadow area featured numerous cattle trails. These trails are visible on aerial photographs taken over the past several decades. When the City acquired the property in 1994, several informal trails continued to exist. The *Arana Gulch Interim Management Plan*, adopted by City Council in 1997, identifies only one of these informal trails as a "designated trail" to be maintained by the City Parks and Recreation Department. This unpaved trail, less than

one-quarter mile in length, is the primary north-south connection between Agnes Street and the Santa Cruz Harbor. Since the City approved the Interim Management Plan, an unpaved loop trail along the perimeter of the meadow area has become increasingly popular with pedestrians.

The existing trail system maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department totals approximately 1.2 miles (see Existing Setting Figure). This includes the north-south trail and loop trail encircling the meadow area. Neither of these existing trails is accessible to wheelchair users due to the unpaved, rough surface and steep gradients in some trail sections.

In addition to these designated trails, there are numerous informal pathways crossing the coastal prairie and tarplant habitat areas. These trails are either used as cut-through routes by pedestrians and bicycles, or for illegal off-leash dog use. The Parks and Recreation Department has made efforts to close these undesignated trails and enforce leash laws, but available resources and management actions have been limited under the Interim Management Plan. A key goal of this Park Master Plan is to close unauthorized trails and discourage off-trail use to better protect sensitive habitat areas.

Along Arana Gulch Creek, there are also problems with undesignated trails and illegal activities, including camping. The dense riparian vegetation helps to shield unauthorized users from public view. In addition to closing undesignated pathways within the riparian and wetland habitat areas, there is a need for a designated trail along the edge of the corridor that would increase visibility into the area and encourage appropriate public nature viewing and trail use.

Proposed Trail Alignments and Improvements. The proposed Arana Gulch Park Master Plan trail system would total approximately 1.8 miles. The system would feature two types of trails: multi-use trails and pedestrian-only trails. Most of the trails would be limited to pedestrian use only, with dogs restricted to on-leash use at all times. Multi-use trails would be designed for pedestrian, bicycle, and wheelchair use. Dogs would be permitted on-leash. Less than one-third of the total trail system within Arana Gulch would be multi-use trails (See Proposed Trail System Figure).

Multi-use trails would feature a hardened surface and gradient that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The trail width would be no greater than 8 feet, except for the proposed bridge over Hagemann Gulch and Arana Gulch Creek overlook which may be wider to accommodate interpretive displays and nature viewing areas. Retaining walls would be needed for the eastern portion of the Creek View Trail on Port District property. The proposed retaining walls would vary in height up to 6 feet, 7 inches.

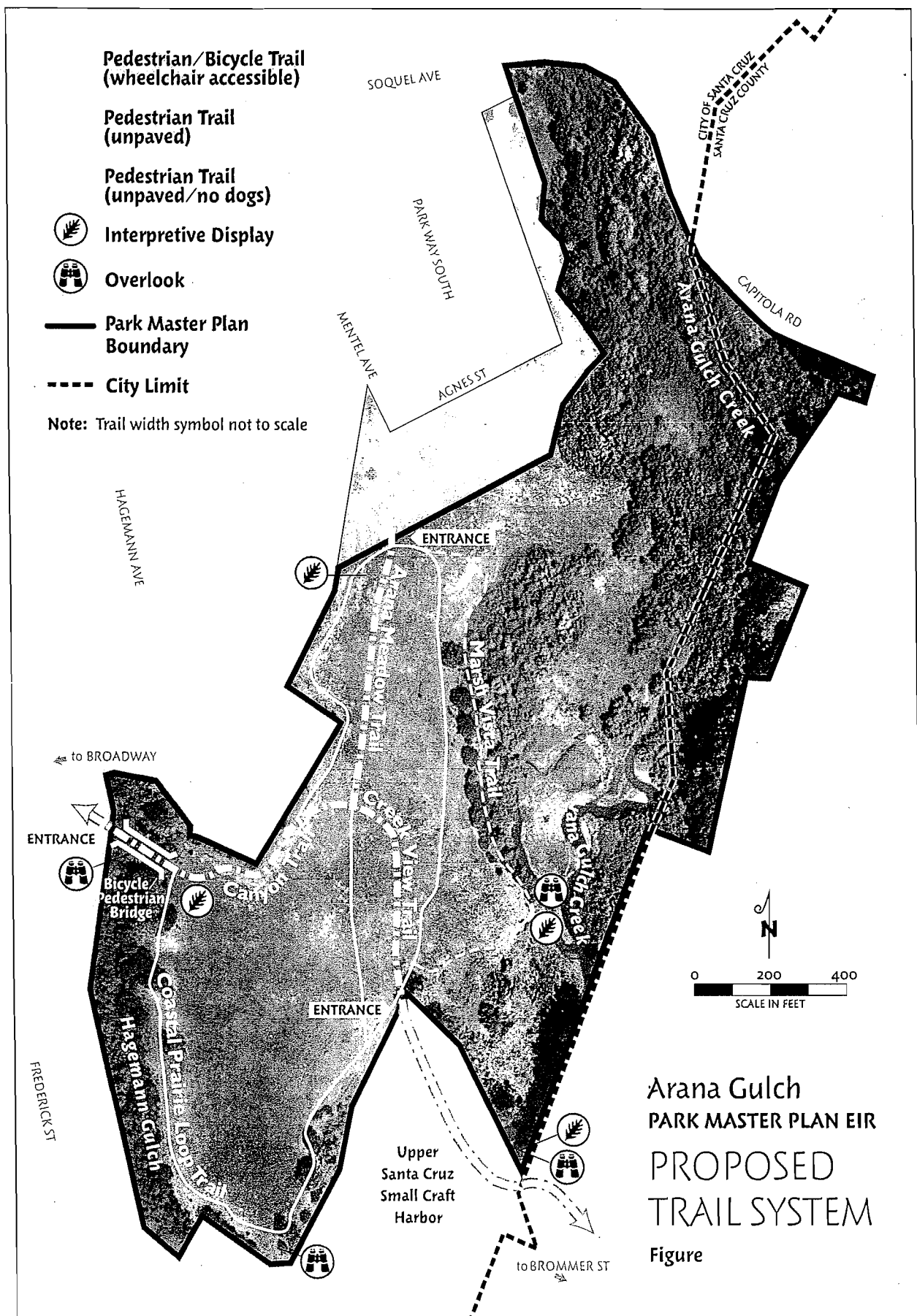
Pedestrian-only trails would be maintained as narrow, earthen footpaths. Most of the pedestrian trails in the trail system are existing pathways, though some realignments and improvements are necessary for erosion control and to enhance interpretive opportunities. The trail bed width would be approximately 1.5 to 2 feet.

Interpretive overlooks and displays would be located along the trail routes at locations that minimize impacts to sensitive habitats. Seating would be provided at scenic overlooks, but the number of benches would be limited. Fencing and signs would be installed as needed to discourage off-trail use. The amount of fencing would be limited to those locations where off-trail use cannot be controlled through other measures. No lighting would be installed along the trails within the meadow area of Arana Gulch. Low level lighting may be installed at the Hagemann Gulch bridge and Upper Harbor area if it is deemed necessary for public safety.

The preliminary proposed trail system is presented in the Proposed Trail System Figure and summarized in the Table 2.

Table 2
Summary of Existing and Proposed Trails for Arana Gulch Park Master Plan

Name of Trail	Distance of Trail	Trail Description
Multi-Use Interpretive Trails		
Arana Meadow Trail	0.2 mile	Access to coastal prairie habitat; existing trail improved to meet ADA requirements; not to exceed 8 feet in width; interpretive display at northern entrance to trail
Creek View Trail	0.2 mile	New trail to connect to Arana Meadow Trail and to Upper Harbor and Brommer Street; to be located on City and Port District lands; to meet ADA requirements; to be approximately 8 feet in width; retaining wall needed at eastern edge of Port District storage area; to provide scenic overlook of coastal stream
Canyon Trail	0.14 mile	New trail to provide new entrance and trail connection to parkland from Seabright residential neighborhood; to meet ADA requirements; to include bridge over Hagemann Gulch; access from east end of Broadway Avenue via City-owned land; views provided into riparian and oak woodland habitat
Pedestrian Interpretive Trails		
Coastal Prairie Loop Trail	0.9 mile	Existing trail encircling Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area; open to pedestrians only; erosion control improvements to be done; signs and fencing installed as needed to discourage unauthorized pathways; dogs on-leash allowed; some seating may be installed; a spur trail at center would allow a shorter loop
Marsh Vista Trail	0.3 mile	Some segments currently exist; trail to be realigned and improved to connect with Coastal Prairie Loop Trail; provides views into Arana Gulch Creek riparian area; open to pedestrians only and dogs prohibited.



Required Approvals

A variety of actions and approvals are required related to the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. The following are the required approvals expected for the project:

City Actions

- Certification of the Final EIR by the Santa Cruz City Council;
- Approval of the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan by the City Council;
- Grading permit from City of Santa Cruz for construction of certain trails;
- Heritage Tree Removal permit;
- Coastal Permit;
- Amendment to General Plan/Local Coastal Program to include Arana Gulch Park Master Plan;
- Amendment to General Plan/Local Coastal Program Policy 2.2.7 of the Land Use Element to: eliminate the requirement for a specific plan for Arana Gulch and replace with the requirement for park master plan/resource management plan. Amendment to delete the sections of the policy that require: clustering development; a variety of housing including 35% affordable units; a possible community facility including a school and neighborhood park of at least 10 developable acres; and improvement of Soquel Ave. and Soquel Ave./South Park Way intersection improvements;
- Amendment to the General Plan/Local Coastal Program land use map to change the land use designation on the site from Community Facilities to Natural Area. Delete the symbol for the requirement of a specific plan on the property. Remove the area designated Very Low Residential from the boundary of the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan property; and
- Amendment to the Zoning Map/Local Coastal Program to rezone the property from R-1-5 (Single Family Residential) to PK (Parks).

County and Regional Actions

- Annexation approval by the Local Agency Formation Commission and Santa Cruz County for annexation of about 8.4 acres into the City of Santa Cruz.

State Actions

- California Coastal Commission approval of Local Coastal Plan (LCP) amendment to include Arana Gulch Park Master Plan;
- Coastal permits from California Coastal Commission for development of structures called for in Arana Gulch Park Master Plan; and
- Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game for removal of riparian vegetation in Hagemann Gulch for bridge construction.

III. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The primary issues to be addressed in the EIR are anticipated to include:

- Land Use and Planning
- Biological Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hydrology and Water Quality

Visual Quality and Aesthetics

The potential effects for each of these topics are briefly discussed below.

Land Use and Planning

The EIR will document land use compatibility, issues, land use designations and restrictions related to the site, as well as policies related to land use. This will include:

- Description of existing land use and zoning designations for the site from the City of Santa Cruz General Plan and Zoning Ordinance;
- Summary of relevant policies from the City of Santa Cruz General Plan related to on-site uses (i.e., Land Use Element and Parks and Recreation Element) and how the project may or may not conform to such policies, and analysis of amendments proposed.
- Description of existing on-site and surrounding land uses (extending to an area about one-fourth mile outside of the project boundaries).
- Analysis of the project's compatibility with the General Plan land use and zoning designations and regulations; and
- Development of mitigation measures, if necessary, for any identified land use impacts.

Biological Resources

The EIR will focus on documenting the site's sensitive habitats and evaluating potential impacts and mitigation opportunities related to implementation of the proposed Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. This will include:

- Evaluation of all Park Master Plan components in the EIR, including proposed new multi-use trails, a new bridge spanning Hagemann Gulch, improvements to existing trails, interpretive displays, and resource management actions;
- Qualitative evaluation of potential impacts to biotic resources from the expected increase in trail use;
- Incorporation of results of studies performed for Arana Gulch. Previous surveys have documented the biotic features of the property as well as the occurrence of sensitive botanical and wildlife resources. Special status species include Santa Cruz tarplant and steelhead trout. Special status habitats include coastal terrace prairie, wetlands and riparian habitat;
- Assessment of roosting and possible nesting activities;
- Determination of potential wetland areas in the vicinity of proposed multi-use trails;
- Analysis of indirect impacts to sensitive resources from public use. Examples of indirect impacts trampling of vegetation by off-trail use, changes in drainage patterns; and an disturbances to sensitive wildlife;
- As per CEQA Guidelines, evaluation of the proposed project as to its consistency with Federal, State and City laws, policies and/or ordinances;
- Development of mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts to a level of insignificance, if needed; and
- Identification of opportunities for on-site mitigation of significant impacts, such as areas that can be preserved, restored or revegetated. Management actions required for the protection of rare/sensitive species will be identified, as well as techniques for the re-establishment of sensitive resources, as applicable.

Geology and Soils

The EIR will characterize the geology, seismic and soil environments of the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan site with special attention to the proposed trail system. This will include:

- Description of geologic and soil conditions;
- Review and incorporation of previous studies;
- Characterization of site geology and soils using published geologic references, local hydrogeologic and technical reports, and unpublished research by the consultant;
- Assess potential erosion and other soil-related impacts from the proposed trail system and proposed Hagemann Gulch bridge;
- Development of mitigation measures, as needed, for geologic/soils related impacts associated with the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. An emphasis will be placed on measures to avoid and reduce potential erosion from trail use. Construction-related, as well as operation-related, mitigation measures will be recommended.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The EIR will address hydrology and drainage issues related to the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan with special attention to the proposed trail system. This will include:

- Description of hydrologic conditions and erosion concerns at Arana Gulch using existing information;
- Review and incorporation of hydrologic studies that have been previously prepared;
- Review potential effects on hydrology and runoff from new trail and bridge development;
- Development of mitigation measures for hydrologic and water quality impacts associated with the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan.

Visual Quality and Aesthetics

The EIR will include a full characterization of the visual setting and describe the changes the proposed project would have on the visual character of Arana Gulch. This will include:

- Documentation of existing visual conditions with black and white photographs.
- Description of existing vegetation, slope, and visual quality of project site, with an emphasis on determining the visibility of the site from public locations and identifying scenic vistas and scenic resources present or near the site.
- Documentation and analysis of potential impacts from development of the new multi-use trails and Hagemann Gulch bridge.

Other Topics

The EIR will briefly address the following topics which are expected not to include any significant impacts:

- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services

- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Mitigation measures included in the Master Plan to minimize or eliminate impacts such as controls on construction-related noise will be included in the EIR as needed.

Alternatives

No more than three alternatives to the proposed project will be evaluated to comply with CEQA requirements. The first alternative will be the "No Project Alternative" which will assume no changes from existing conditions. The other alternatives will include alternative trail systems.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts will address potential impacts associated with the proposed project in conjunction with other off-site proposed, permitted, or under-construction projects. Cumulative impacts will be summarized by topic (i.e. land use, traffic, etc.) and mitigation measures will be identified if any significant cumulative impacts are identified. The focus of the cumulative analysis will be on impacts related to the proposed project.

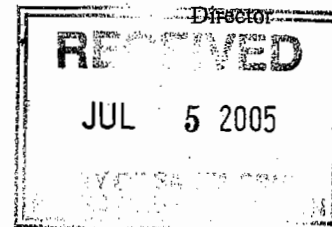


STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

Sean Walsh
Director



Notice of Preparation

June 27, 2005

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Arana Gluch Park Master Plan
SCH# 2005062141

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Arana Gluch Park Master Plan draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2005062141
Project Title Arana Gluch Park Master Plan
Lead Agency Santa Cruz, City of

Type NOP Notice of Preparation
Description The Arana Gluch Park Master Plan will address the long-term uses and management for the 62-acre open space property. The key components of the Park Master Plan will include:
Resource Management Areas
Resource Management and Public Use Guidelines
Interpretive Trail System
Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program

Lead Agency Contact

Name Susan Harris
Agency City of Santa Cruz
Phone 831 420-5362 **Fax**
email
Address Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
City Santa Cruz **State** CA **Zip** 95060

Project Location

County Santa Cruz
City
Region
Cross Streets
Parcel No.

Township	Range	Section	Base
-----------------	--------------	----------------	-------------

Proximity to:

Highways
Airports
Railways
Waterways
Schools
Land Use

Project Issues Landuse; Biological Resources; Geologic/Seismic; Water Quality; Aesthetic/Visual

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; California Coastal Commission; Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Game, Region 3; Native American Heritage Commission; Caltrans, District 4; Air Resources Board, Transportation Projects; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 3

Date Received 06/27/2005 **Start of Review** 06/27/2005 **End of Review** 07/26/2005

Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region 3 Robert Floerke	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission Ken Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 8 John Pagano	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region 4 William Laudemilk	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower LA Rivers Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 9 Gayle Rosander	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 1 Cathleen Hudson North Coast Region (1)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region 5 Don Chadwick	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission Jean Sartho	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 10 Tom Dumas	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 2 Environmental Document Coordinator San Francisco Bay Region (2)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region 6 Gabrina Gatchel	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Cherry Jacques	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 11 Mario Orso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 3 Central Coast Region (3)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region 6 I/M Tammy Allen	<input type="checkbox"/> Business, Trans & Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 12 Bob Joseph	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 4 Jonathan Bishop Los Angeles Region (4)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Fish & Game M George Isaac	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics Sandy Hesnard	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 5S Central Valley Region (5)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Fish & Game M Marine Region	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans - Planning Terri Pencovic	<input type="checkbox"/> Airport Projects Jim Lerner	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 5F Central Valley Region (5) Fresno Branch Office
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture Steve Shaffer	<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol John Olejnik	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Projects Kurt Karperos	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 5R Central Valley Region (5) Redding Branch Office
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Food and Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Special Projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Projects Mike Tollstrup	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 6 Lahontan Region (6)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of General Services Public School Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development Lisa Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/> California Integrated Waste Management Board Sue O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 6V Lahontan Region (6) Victorville Branch Office
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of General Services Robert Sleepy	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing Policy Division	<input type="checkbox"/> State Water Resources Control Board Jim Hockenberry	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 7 Colorado River Basin Region (7)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Services Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Division of Financial Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 8 Santa Ana Region (8)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Health Services Veronica Ramenz	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 1 Mike Eagan	<input type="checkbox"/> State Water Resources Control Board Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit	<input type="checkbox"/> RWQCB 9 San Diego Region (9)
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Health/Drinking Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 2 Don Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/> Division of Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 3 Jeff Pulverman	<input type="checkbox"/> State Water Resources Control Board Steven Herrera	
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission Debbie Eddy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 4 Tim Sable	<input type="checkbox"/> Division of Water Rights	
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services Dennis Castirilo	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 5 David Murray	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Toxic Substances Control CEQA Tracking Center	
Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Office of Planning & Research State Clearinghouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 6 Marc Birnbaum	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Pesticide Regulation	
Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Comm. Debbie Treadway	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 7 Cheryl J. Powell		



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1523 PACIFIC AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-3911 • 831/ 460-3200 • FAX 831/ 460-3215

August 5, 2005

SERVICE AUTHORITY
FOR FREEWAY
EMERGENCIES
(SAFE) ☐

Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RAIL/TRAIL
AUTHORITY ☐

Re: Scope of Arana Gulch Park Master Plan EIR

COMMUTE
SOLUTIONS ☐

Dear Ms. Harris,

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) staff would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Report for the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan.

TRANSPORTATION
POLICY WORKSHOP ☐

Please include in the EIR the positive environmental effects this path will have on transportation and air quality. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Connection proposed in the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan will help fill a critical gap in the regional east-west bicycle and pedestrian network and will increase the ease and safety of bicycle and pedestrian trips for transportation purposes in and between our communities.

BUDGET &
ADMINISTRATION
PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE ☐

INTERAGENCY
TECHNICAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ☐

Please also address in the EIR that the need for this bicycle and pedestrian path does not duplicate or obviate the need for any other existing or potential bicycle or pedestrian facility in the area. Providing a complete and convenient regional bicycle and pedestrian network increases the opportunity and attractiveness of bicycle and pedestrian trips for transportation purposes which can have positive, cumulative environmental impacts.

BICYCLE COMMITTEE ☐

ELDERLY & DISABLED
TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ☐

The Broadway-Brommer Bicycle/Pedestrian Connection will also provide "universal access" to and through Arana Gulch. "Universal access" is the goal of enabling all people, including young, old and disabled persons who may have diminished perceptual or ambulatory abilities, to travel safely to destinations served by our public street and pathway system. Achieving universal access to and through Arana Gulch should be addressed in the EIR.

RTC staff encourage the Santa Cruz City Council to design the Bicycle/Pedestrian Path in a way that will minimize the environmental impacts of the project. We recognize that some modifications in the current design may be warranted to respond to environmental concerns

WWW.SCCRTC.ORG
EMAIL:INFO@SCCRTC.ORG

while keeping the other goals of the project in mind. We also encourage the Santa Cruz City Public Works staff to continue to work with the RTC's Bicycle Committee and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee to review the design plans and concepts for the project, at appropriate times.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions about the above comments, please contact Grace Blakeslee of my staff at (831) 460-3219.

Sincerely,



Pat Dellin

Acting Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Reilly
Commissioner Wormhoudt
SCCRTC Bicycle Committee
SCCRTC E&DTAC Committee
SCCRTC

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MONTEREY BAY

Unified Air Pollution Control District
serving Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER
Douglas Quetin

24580 Silver Cloud Court • Monterey, California 93940 • 831/647-9411 • FAX 831/647-8501

July 5, 2005

Ms. Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: NOP FOR DEIR FOR ARANA GULCH PARK MASTER PLAN

Staff has reviewed the referenced document and has the following recommendations for a scope of work for the air quality analysis:

1. Direct and indirect source emissions (VOC and NO_x) from all proposed operational activities should be quantified and assessed. VOC and NO_x emissions need not be quantified for "typical" construction activity. Staff should be consulted regarding potential construction equipment to be used on the project.
2. If project or cumulative traffic would cause LOS to decline from D or better to E or F, dispersion modeling should be undertaken to determine if carbon monoxide concentrations would violate ambient air quality standards at sensitive receptor locations.
3. Project operational and construction PM₁₀ emissions should be quantified. If emissions would exceed 82 lb/day, the project would have a significant impact on air quality. However, PM₁₀ modeling could be undertaken to verify or dispute this finding per the District's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines.
4. If the project might expose sensitive receptors in adjacent land uses to air quality problems such as odors or toxic air contaminants (e.g., diesel exhaust), the DEIR should include an assessment of these impacts. The impact of prescribed burning on sensitive receptors who would reside in the project area should also be addressed.
5. Mitigation measures should be identified for any significant impacts on air quality. The EIR should quantify the emission reduction effectiveness of each measure, identify agencies responsible for implementation and monitoring, and conclude whether mitigation measures would reduce impacts below significance levels.

DISTRICT
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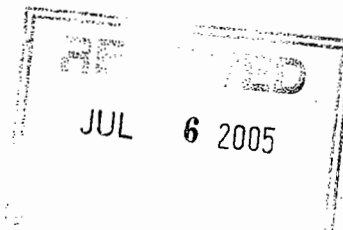
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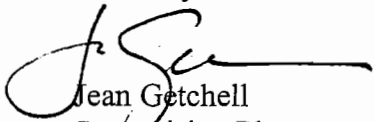


6. Prior to conducting any prescribed burns (P. 8. Resource Management Guidelines for Coastal Prairie/Tarplant Management Area), please contact Ms. Amy Taketomo in the District's Enforcement Division at 647-9411 x241, to discuss District permitting requirements.
7. Project consistency with the 2004 Air Quality Management Plan for the Monterey Bay Region should be addressed. The District should be contacted for a formal consistency determination, which should be included in the DEIR.

The District's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines may be used to prepare the air quality analysis. The Guidelines are available on the District's website – www.mbuapcd.org.

Please call if you have any questions or would like assistance.

Sincerely,



Jean Getchell
Supervising Planner
Planning and Air Monitoring

cc: Amy Taketomo, Enforcement Division



ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

August 15, 2005

Ms. Susan Harris
Associate Planner
509 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Re: MCH# 070521- Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report
Arana Gulch Park Master Plan, Santa Cruz**

Dear Ms. Harris:

AMBAG's Regional Clearinghouse circulated a summary of notice of your environmental document to our member agencies and interested parties for review and comment.

The AMBAG Board of Directors considered the project on **August 10, 2005** and has no comments at this time.

Thank you for complying with the Clearinghouse process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicolas Papadakis", written over a horizontal line.

Nicolas Papadakis
Executive Director



State of California - The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>POST OFFICE BOX 47
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599
(707) 944-5500

August 9, 2005

Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Fax: (831)420-5271

Dear Ms. Harris:

Arana Gulch Park Master Plan
Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the
Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
Santa Cruz County, SCH# 2005062141

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. Please be advised this project may result in changes to fish and wildlife resources as described in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 753.5(d)(1)(A)-(G)¹. Therefore, a de minimis determination is not appropriate, and an environmental filing fee as required under Fish and Game Code Section 711.4(d) should be paid to the Santa Cruz County Clerk on or before filing of the Notice of Determination for this project.

A complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats, should be provided in the EIR. Rare, threatened and endangered species to be addressed should include all those which meet the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) definition (see CEQA Guidelines, Section 15380). The assessment should identify any rare plants and rare natural communities, following DFG's Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities (revised May 8, 2000). The Guidelines are available www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/pdfs/quidepllt.pdf.

Please be advised that a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit must be obtained for the anticipated take of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. Issuance of a CESA Permit is subject to CEQA documentation; therefore, the CEQA document must specify impacts, mitigation measures, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting program. If the project will impact CESA listed species, early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to the project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit.

¹ <http://ccr.oal.ca.gov/>. Find California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Natural Resources, Division 1, Section 753

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

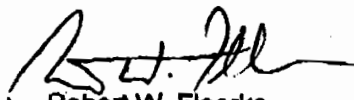
Ms. Susan Harris
August 9, 2005
Page 2

Arana Gulch supports populations of Santa Cruz tarplant *Holocarpha macradenia*, a state endangered and federally threatened species. DFG has conveyed the need for the City to apply for an incidental take permit on previous occasions, and is concerned that the EIR may be moving forward without sufficient resolution of a mitigation strategy acceptable to us. We are also concerned that the current Adaptive Management Program (AMP) outlined in the NOP, while acknowledging the need for a conservation strategy, nevertheless allows the bisecting of a population with a hardened surface multi-use bike, pedestrian and wheelchair path. The fragmentation of the populations within the proposed alignment, and the effects of the impervious path on local drainage patterns, contradict the AMP goals of ensuring long-term population and subpopulation viability. The currently proposed hardened alignments do not appear to be impacts that can be mitigated given the other commitments currently already being made for tarplant conservation within the designated critical habitat zones in the AMP. We encourage you to include an alternative(s) which would avoid the population (including all sub-populations) of tarplant entirely, including an appropriate buffer.

For any activity that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river or stream, or use material from a streambed, DFG may require a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA), pursuant to Section 1600 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code, with the applicant. The activities in the riparian zones of Arana Gulch and Hagemann Gulch will require notifications to DFG. Issuance of SAAs is subject to CEQA. DFG, as a responsible agency under CEQA, will consider the local jurisdiction's (lead agency) CEQA document for the project. The CEQA document should fully identify the potential impacts to the stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments for completion of the agreement. To obtain information about the SAA notification process, please access our website at www.dfg.ca.gov/1600; or to request a notification package, contact the Streambed Alteration Program at (707) 944-5520.

If you have comments or questions regarding this letter, please contact Serge Glushkoff, Environmental Scientist, at (707) 944-5597, or by email at SGlushkoff@dfg.ca.gov; or Scott Wilson, Habitat Conservation Supervisor, at (707) 944-5584

Sincerely,



Robert W. Floerke
Regional Manager
Central Coast Region

cc: Vince Cheap
Santa Cruz County
California Native Plant Society
4160 Jade Street, #112
Capitola, CA 95010

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 427-4863



August 3, 2005

Susan Harris, Associate Planner
City of Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Dept.
323 Church St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: ***Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Arana Gulch Park Master Plan***

Dear Susan,

Thank you for providing a copy of the referenced document for Commission staff review. We apologize that due to workload and staff constraints that we were not able to comment on the NOP within the 30-day comment period. In any event, the NOP appears to include the significant issue areas of concern, e.g., public access, Santa Cruz tarplant, coastal terrace prairie, wetlands, etc.). Please reference Commission staff's extensive previous correspondence regarding the Arana Gulch area for specific comments regarding the proposed bicycle path, Santa Cruz tarplant, and other issues. Please note that the EIR should demonstrate how the proposed Master Plan provides consistency with the Coastal Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan Craig'.

Susan Craig
Coastal Planner
Central Coast District Office



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1523 PACIFIC AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-3911 • 831/ 460-3200 • FAX 831/ 460-3215

August 5, 2005

SERVICE AUTHORITY
FOR FREEWAY
EMERGENCIES
(SAFE) ☐

Susan Harris
City of Santa Cruz
Parks and Recreation Department
323 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RAIL/TRAIL
AUTHORITY ☐

Re: Scope of Arana Gulch Park Master Plan EIR

COMMUTE
SOLUTIONS ☐

Dear Ms. Harris,

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) staff would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Report for the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan.

TRANSPORTATION
POLICY WORKSHOP ☐

Please include in the EIR the positive environmental effects this path will have on transportation and air quality. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Connection proposed in the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan will help fill a critical gap in the regional east-west bicycle and pedestrian network and will increase the ease and safety of bicycle and pedestrian trips for transportation purposes in and between our communities.

BUDGET &
ADMINISTRATION
PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE ☐

INTERAGENCY
TECHNICAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ☐

Please also address in the EIR that the need for this bicycle and pedestrian path does not duplicate or obviate the need for any other existing or potential bicycle or pedestrian facility in the area. Providing a complete and convenient regional bicycle and pedestrian network increases the opportunity and attractiveness of bicycle and pedestrian trips for transportation purposes which can have positive, cumulative environmental impacts.

BICYCLE COMMITTEE ☐

ELDERLY & DISABLED
TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ☐

The Broadway-Brommer Bicycle/Pedestrian Connection will also provide "universal access" to and through Arana Gulch. "Universal access" is the goal of enabling all people, including young, old and disabled persons who may have diminished perceptual or ambulatory abilities, to travel safely to destinations served by our public street and pathway system. Achieving universal access to and through Arana Gulch should be addressed in the EIR.


RTC staff encourage the Santa Cruz City Council to design the Bicycle/Pedestrian Path in a way that will minimize the environmental impacts of the project. We recognize that some modifications in the current design may be warranted to respond to environmental concerns

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EMAIL:INFO@SCCRTC.ORG

while keeping the other goals of the project in mind. We also encourage the Santa Cruz City Public Works staff to continue to work with the RTC's Bicycle Committee and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee to review the design plans and concepts for the project, at appropriate times.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions about the above comments, please contact Grace Blakeslee of my staff at (831) 426-3955.

Sincerely,



Pat Dellin
Acting Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Reilly
Commissioner Wormhoudt
SCCRTC Bicycle Committee
SCCRTC E&DTAC Committee
SCCRTC

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 SERVICE AUTHORITY
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☐

 RAIL/TRAIL
 AUTHORITY

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Re: Scope of Arana Gulch Park Master Plan EIR

Dear Ms. Harris,

 COMMUTE
 SOLUTIONS

☐

I am writing on behalf of the Bicycle Committee of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Report for the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. The Committee urges you to analyze in the EIR the extensive positive environmental effects this path will have on transportation and air quality. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Connection proposed in the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan will help fill a critical gap in the regional east-west bicycle and pedestrian network and will increase the ease and safety of bicycle and pedestrian trips for transportation purposes in and between our communities.

 TRANSPORTATION
 POLICY WORKSHOP

☐

 BUDGET &
 ADMINISTRATION
 PERSONNEL
 COMMITTEE

☐

Providing a complete and convenient regional bicycle and pedestrian network increases the opportunity and attractiveness of bicycle and pedestrian trips for transportation purposes which can have positive, cumulative environmental impacts.

 INTERAGENCY
 TECHNICAL
 ADVISORY
 COMMITTEE

☐

The Bicycle Committee encourages the Santa Cruz City Council, as RTC staff has done, to design the Bicycle/Pedestrian Path in a way that will minimize the environmental impacts of the project.

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

☐

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions about the above comments, please contact Cory Caletti, RTC staff at (831) 460-3201.

 ELDERLY & DISABLED
 TRANSPORTATION
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

☐

Sincerely,

Daniel Kostelec
 Chair, SCCRTC Bicycle Committee

cc: SCCRTC Bicycle Committee
 SCCRTC

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 EMAIL:INFO@SCCRTC.ORG

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MEMBER AGENCIES: SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT, COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, CALTRANS,
 CITIES OF CAPITOLA, SANTA CRUZ, SCOTTS VALLEY, WATSONVILLE

July 6, 2005

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE ARANA GULCH PARK
MASTER PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

The City of Santa Cruz is the lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. A public meeting will be held for the community to comment on the potential environmental impacts prior to the preparation of the Draft EIR.

DATE:	Thursday, July 21, 2005
TIME:	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Police Department Community Room 155 Center Street, Santa Cruz

The Arana Gulch Park Master Plan will address the long-term use and management of Arana Gulch a 62-acre City-owned Greenbelt land, situated along the eastern boundary of the City. Proposed uses at Arana Gulch include:

- ✓ Interpretive trail system, including paved multi-use trails and unpaved pedestrian trails
- ✓ Pedestrian/bicycle bridge across Hagemann Gulch
- ✓ Resource Management Areas
- ✓ Resource Management and Public Use Guidelines
- ✓ Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program

The project will also require amendments to the City General Plan/Local Coastal Program and appropriate coastal permits. The Draft Park Master Plan will be prepared concurrently with the Draft EIR. If you have any questions regarding the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan or EIR scoping meeting, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (831) 420-5362 or email sharris@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us.

Arana Gulch Park Master Plan EIR
Summary of Comments
Public Scoping Meeting held on July 21, 2005
Written comments received prior to August 8, 2005

Land Use and Planning

Use of adjacent property in County at top of Harbor access road – park?
Greenbelt would not be visible if housing is developed. If not visible, more problems with illegal camping and vandalism
How will development in excluded area affect greenbelt?
Increased use will affect Port District and Arana Gulch
7th Avenue and Brommer Street within County – future hotel?

Aesthetics, Visual Quality

Proposed bike bridge and 8-foot paved road will seriously compromise the aesthetics of this greenbelt area. Quiet and beauty would be replaced by omnipresent human element
Benches and interpretive displays are unnecessary and intrude on the enjoyment of a natural area
Aesthetic concerns of bridge

Biological Resources

Endangered species but still putting in a “405” freeway
Why escalating level of public use in limited prairie/meadow area with listed species
Intense level of public use on grassland – higher use than Pogonip/Moore Creek
Existing chain link fence along Harbor storage area marks 100-foot setback from riparian area (may encroach into riparian area). Trail would be located within setback.
Entire meadow is a critical habitat area – paved road proposed for area can’t be built
Paving of trails seems to be a contradiction to the desire for more tarplant habitat
Arana Gulch should be restored, not developed
Arana Gulch is our “name sake” natural wetland and grassland for Santa Cruz tarplant, and as such, is precious
Important not to put switchbacks on trail – more environmental impacts
No more owls and fox
Concerns about lighting
Salmon in Arana Gulch Creek
California Native Plant Society believes the concept of tarplant management program is good but concerned about the impacts to tarplant subpopulations. Entire area is critical habitat. The planned alignments of hard pathways impacts subpopulations.
Arana Gulch has rich and unusual genetic populations of tarplant.
Hagemann Gulch needs to be studied for wildlife impacts from bridge
Replacement trees for trees removed in Hagemann Gulch?
Grasses will not stop users from using unauthorized trails. Too many trails now.
Concerns about keeping people on actual trails.

Removing concrete from old building foundations would increase square footage of tarplant area
City responsibility to make sure tarplant doesn't go extinct. When management occurs, there is an increase in the tarplant population. Need a lot of disturbance to increase tarplant
Biological impacts of impervious surfaces. Concentration and increase of public use
Tarplant only exists in Santa Cruz

Geology and Soils

Eroded areas include Capitola Road culvert, Agnes Street gully, and tidal reach
Asphalt on dirt results in erosion. Use deep base rock to avoid erosion of asphalt pathway
Soils and siltation issues

Hydrology and Water Quality

Runoff from 8-foot road has got to have a negative effect on Arana Creek – soil erosion and water quality issues
Sediment discharge from Hagemann Gulch
Arana Gulch watershed sedimentation – common area of harbor culverts and lower Arana Gulch
Impervious pathway – water quality concern. Use permeable pathways.
Increased runoff from impervious surface
Impacts on wetlands

Cultural Resources

Archaeological issues
Historic issues – buildings and footprints of structures/cattle trails
Gunn property – National Historic Register – buildings and site
Greenbelt last remnant of the one of the original ranchos (aerial photos shows how much surrounding land adapted to urban use)

Transportation and Traffic

On behalf of Live Oak families, in favor of bicycle/pedestrian paths. Hard time for children to get from Live Oak to City. Low income families need to get to City. Many don't have cars. Negative impacts of No Project.
Bike and pedestrian path reduces traffic impact
Funding from Regional Transportation Commission – should be better bike path
If dogs are unleashed in Arana Gulch, you may wish to include a traffic study in your EIR as it will not just be local residents with their dogs any longer
Trail appears to be steep for ADA access (based on survey flags in field)
Proposed bike road is not an easy east-west connection
This is not as good a bicycle path as previously proposed, but it is still a bicycle path
More bicycle trips, less car trips decreases air and water pollution
Still can't ride a bike when you get to either side of Arana Gulch
No car access needed on bridge. Pathways should not be open to cars
Emergency vehicle access

Big picture – bike path gets people out of their cars. Broadway and Brommer are fairly safe bicycle streets on either side
Bike path could turn into wider road, could keep increasing
Wheelchairs and commuter bicycles – safety issues

Recreation

Concern about enforcement of bicyclists – keeping them off of pedestrian trails. How will you keep bicyclists off of pedestrian trails?
Leashed dogs should be allowed on all trails. The presence of dogs on any path is less threatening to the Gulch than the presence of people (trash, graffiti, damage to trees, etc.)
Dogs should be on leashes (comment from dog owner)
Need mitigation where pedestrian/bicycle paths meet to keep bicycles off of pedestrian pathways
Will increase number of bicyclists
Natural trail to south in mid-meadow – should shift trail route

Noise

Increase in noise levels from skateboards using paved pathway – like skateparks

Other EIR Topics

Existing problems at Arana Gulch – litter, especially along Capitola Road, filthy illegal camping, graffiti and litter around heritage trees
Management concern – more people coming to area but City unable to have financial means to police it
People partying in Arana Gulch. More people in the area will cause more problems.
Not enough patrolling. A lot of tents and camping but no Ranger. Always a Ranger there to give dogs off-leash a ticket
Safety issues with increased traffic. Not patrolled enough now.
Who is going to watch the park? No Rangers at DeLaveaga Park. Not enough staff to take care of Arana Gulch.
Positive impacts of more access and use of authorized trails. Citizen group could help.
Increased access can drive away criminal activities.
With increased usage and lack of police, there is a threat (increased) of fires, especially created in grass lands to the west driven east by prevailing winds

Alternatives

No project alternative has bad benefits
Alternative routes for east-west bike path connection – need to mention Rail-Trail project
Have Soquel bike lanes and Rail-Trail project do provide other bicycle routes
Restoration Alternative – restore watershed, no bridge over Hagemann Gulch
Restoration Alternative – partner with adjacent historic site to preserve as open space, old Rancho
Make east-west connection two feet wide – narrower trail

Other Comments

Arana Gulch doesn't have to be used differently than it is now

Excluded area concern, thought greenbelt protected but designation made "behind closed doors" as residential

Community is split about bicycle path but there was endless debate and meetings. The excluded area didn't have a public process. Ignoring public interest.

Include integration of communities, not divided. Increased coastal access.

For health and well being, keep it natural and not love it to death with bridges, trails and signs

Makes good use of land and integrates other plans of City

Unites communities of Live Oak, East Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz and coast

Lovely area should be kept free of development. Don't let it be built upon

Needs to be better communication with general public in regards to Arana Gulch land use. Get input from people who use the Gulch and who would like to use it.

When citizens of Santa Cruz voted to preserve the greenbelt we understood that this meant leave it undeveloped, unpaved and natural. No paved bike path, no bridge, no soccer fields, etc.

Source of funding to purchase Arana Gulch – CIP funds

First opposed bike path (12 feet wide, lighting, etc.) but happy it has been scaled back dramatically

Can't support north end designated for development

People Power organization does not support more housing

Concern about taking out Arana Gulch Creek bridge. Support west entrance. Ride a bike through a beautiful area

One of last green spaces

Eminent domain – wouldn't let private owner develop property. Hypocrisy for City to develop it now.

Remember how purchase of greenbelt came to be

Community is upset with history of Arana Gulch

There are no bike paths within the City of Santa Cruz. Why bike paths in Arana Gulch?

Scope of project unduly restricted

Federal money for bicycle commuter road. Changed project does not meet requirements of grant

APPENDIX B

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN (DRAFT)

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- 1.1 Introduction to Arana Gulch
- 1.2 Master Plan Purpose and Planning Process
- 1.3 Overview of the Arana Gulch Master Plan

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- 2.2 Geology and Hydrology
- 2.3 Biotic Resources
- 2.4 Historic Resources

3 The Plan

- 3.1 Arana Gulch Vision and Goals
- 3.2 Management Areas
 - 3.2.1 Coastal Prairie/Tarplant
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- 3.3 Interpretive Themes and Programs
- 3.4 Trail System
 - 3.4.1 Existing Trails
 - 3.4.2 Trail Alignments and Improvements
 - 3.4.3 Trail Design and Management Guidelines
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- 3.6 Phasing and Implementation
 - 3.6.1 Preliminary Phasing Plan
 - 3.6.2 Funding Sources

References

Figures

- 1 Location
- 2 Existing Setting
- 3 Habitat Areas
- 4 Management Areas
- 5 Proposed Trail System

Tables

- 1 Management Area Matrix
- 2 Preliminary Phasing Plan

Appendices

- A Santa Cruz Tarplant Adaptive Management Program

APPENDIX C

FAL CREEK ENGINEERING CALCULATIONS OF IMPERVIOUS SURFACE AREA



FALL CREEK ENGINEERING, INC.

Civil • Environmental • Water Resource Engineering and Sciences

Tel. (831) 426-9054

P.O. Box 7894, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Fax. (831) 426-4932

November 14, 2005

Amy Skews-Cox
P.O. Box 422
Ross, CA 94957

Subject; **Analysis of Impervious Surfaces for Arana Gulch Master Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Amy:

Fall Creek Engineering, Inc. (FCE) has prepared this letter to summarize the impervious surface analysis that we performed as part of the hydrologic and water quality impact analysis for the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Currently, the Arana Gulch area has over 2.14 miles of unpaved trails, including designated and unauthorized trails. Although these trails are unpaved they are compacted and considered to be semi-pervious. During high rainfall events a majority of the precipitation does not soak into the soils, but runs off the surface of these trails.

Under the proposed Arana Gulch Master Plan many of the trails would be closed and ultimately restored to coastal prairie. FCE estimates that the total length of trails will be reduced to 2.0 miles. The main access trail will be paved and is measured to be 0.6 miles long. The remaining 1.4 miles of trail will be unpaved dirt trails.

To estimate the change in impervious surface, FCE calculated the weighted curve number (CN) (or runoff coefficient) for the three predominant land uses in the area of the trails: grasslands, unpaved and paved trails. The CN is a value developed by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) that is based on the hydrologic characteristics of the soil, slope and land use or coverage on the soil. Generally, the CN is higher for developed land and low for natural or cropped land areas.

Under existing conditions there are two predominant land uses, grasslands (or coastal prairie) and unpaved trails that have CN equal to 80 and 89, respectively. Based on the amount of area for each land use the weighted CN was calculated for the area and is equal to 80.36.

Based on the planned trail improvements in the area, an additional land use is added, which accounts for the 0.6 mile long paved trail. Based on the three land use types and the reduced length of trails, FCE calculated the weighted CN for the area to be 80.64. Based on this calculation the change in impervious area will increase by approximately 0.35 percent. The attached Table 1 presents a summary of the calculations.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide our services on this project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (831) 426-9054.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Haase", written over a faint, illegible background.

PETER HAASE, P.E.
Principal Engineer

Attachment

Table 1. Impervious Surface Analysis
Arana Gulch Master Plan
Environmental Impact Report

EXISTING TRAILS

Description	Trail Length (feet)	Trail Length (miles)	Average Width (FT)	Area (square feet)	SCS Curve Number	Weighted Curve Number
Grassland				1,087,276	80	
Unpaved Trail	11,321	2.14	4	45,284	89	80.36
Total	11,321	2.14		1,132,560		

PROPOSED TRAILS

Description	Trail Length (feet)	Trail Length (miles)	Average Width (FT)	Area (square feet)	SCS Curve Number	Weighted Curve Number	Percent Change (%)
Grassland				1,077,520	80		
Paved Trails	3,184	0.60	8	25,472	98	80.64	0.35
Unpaved Trails	7,392	1.40	4	29,568	89		
Total	10,576	2.00		1,132,560			

Note: For purpose of this analysis a four foot trail bed width was used. This is considered to be an average width, and actual trails widths are variable at the site, ranging from 2 to 6 feet wide in different areas.

