Proposed

LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK

(Cornfield Site)

Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report

March 2005

Department Mission

"To provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation."

The *Mission* sets the fundamental parameters within which the California Department of Parks and Recreation acquires, plans, and manages its more than 270 park units.

For general information regarding this document, or to request additional copies, please contact:

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(Cornfield Site)

Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report

State Clearinghouse #2003031096

March 2005

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Governor

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The Committee saw the Cornfield as a place to engage both nature and culture, to create a regional gathering space around the theme of a larger, more diverse L.A. history, which re-connected the city to the river.

-- Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee

Recommendations Report

Sense of Place

Who are Angelenos? What is Los Angeles? As noted historian Dr. Leonard Pitt stated, "No other available 32 acres holds as much opportunity to enlighten us about the history and culture of Los Angeles and this region…" The Park site and its surroundings have a sense of place rooted in a long history of settlement. There are opportunities for discovery and revelation based on the untold stories, some contained in the remnant material culture of the site. The tangible resources today appear to be few, but we can still hear the whispers of the past resonating in the voices of the present, proclaiming the future of the area.

Looking more closely, or through different filters, other features can be seen or sensed, contributing to the uniqueness of the site. These features include the nearby rolling hills, the more distant mountains, and the relative proximity to the Los Angeles River; the industrial and commercial tradition of the site; nearby 19th Century architecture; and the surrounding cityscape. The success of the Park will be the physical manifestation of the site based on the memories and stories of the people and their cultural heritage, which will make the Park a vital component of the city, region, and state.

The site has been the crossroads and hub for many peoples in the past and is still in a transportation corridor that is connected to the larger region by rail, the nearby river, and major thoroughfares. It has been the scene of discovery, adventure, and tragedy. Struggles and triumphs were part of the changing landscape of the people passing through, moving in, moving out, forced out, and returning. It is the core of a town that grew to a megalopolis with global influence that was, and still is, often veiled in myth and controversy.

On the other hand, the Park is nestled into the heart of Los Angeles' urban core surrounded by clusters or pockets of identifiable neighborhoods and communities that have long rooted connections to the history of the city. While intimately connected to the surrounding dense urban development, the open space of the 32 acres of this site will be able to provide escape from the structure and pace of urban life.

The people and stories have changed over time. How the people lived on and used the land changed, but the stories remained - stories whispered, stories shouted, stories remembered, and stories forgotten. Now the stories will be shared and heard by many – the flow of history will continue.

Southwest view of the Cornfield Site, bordered by North Broadway on the right and North Spring Street on the left, witl the City of Los Angeles in the background.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Overview

1.2 Park Acquisition

1.3 Community Involvement

1.4 Park Unit Classification

1.5 Park Name

1.6 General Plan Purpose

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for insertion of Figure 1-1, Base Map.

1. INTRODUCTION

The proposed Los Angeles State Historic Park (Cornfield Site), most recently known as the Cornfield or Chinatown Yard property, is a 32-acre site linked to the long and varied history of the city and its diverse people. The site has historical significance and associations at many levels to the Los Angeles story, including its very existence as a State Park, due to the efforts of one of the most diverse coalitions of local citizens, activists, and environmental justice advocates ever assembled. The story of this community effort to protect the land from industrial development and save it as a public park reflects not only the statewide significance of the site, but its opportunity to become a venue for study, celebration, civic engagement, and recreation for the residents and guests of the City of Los Angeles.

1.1 Site Overview

The Park is located within half a mile from El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, on what has been recorded as communal agricultural land during the pueblo's early years. At its northern end, the site is about 150 feet from the Los Angeles River. Within one mile of this once fertile property is the last recorded location of Yang-na, one of the largest Tongva villages in the area. Surrounding the Park are the historic and ethnically diverse communities of Lincoln Heights, Elysian Park, Solano Canyon, Chinatown, Chavez Ravine, and William Mead Homes.

The City of Los Angeles long ago recognized the local significance of the site and dedicated it as Cultural Monument #82 for its role as the Southern Pacific's River Station railroad yard. Yet the cultural significance of the property and adjacent area is much more than the site's use as a railroad yard. The Park

provides a place where people can come together to understand and learn from the broader story and innumerable viewpoints of the fascinating, influential, and sometimes painful history of Los Angeles.

1.2 Park Acquisition

The grass-roots movement for the restoration of the Los Angeles River and the vision for the 52-mile greenway are linked to the establishment of this park. Many of the same organizations and individuals who pioneered the grass-roots movement for river restoration were some of the first to identify the potential of this property for public use. Planning efforts for the river, such as the 1998 "River Through Downtown" plan, noted the valuable role that the former railroad property could play in the larger Los Angeles River restoration efforts. As such, the coalition of river advocates, environmental groups, local, statewide, and federal agencies and jurisdictions have all supported efforts in the preservation, acquisition, and planning for this park property.

The fundamental ideals for using the river as invaluable park and open space for the citizens of Los Angeles has helped provide a catalyst for the recent visioning efforts for the Cornfield property, as well as the State Park property at Taylor Yards. Each of these park properties provides an opportunity to reestablish valuable open space in the city core and reconnect people with the significance of Los Angeles history by providing river-oriented park enhancements at Taylor Yards and historic park emphasis at the Cornfield site.

The general plan provides a vision for the Park that presents a unique opportunity to complement State Parks existing historic parks and properties by adding recreational opportunities and focusing on interpreting the comprehensive history of the greater Los Angeles area.

The map on the following page (Figure 1-2, Regional State Parks), shows the strategic location of this Park site and the other State Parks in this region.

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1.3 Community Involvement

State Parks recognizes that the future success of the new State Historic Park depends on the continued involvement by members of the community, many of whom already have expended great effort and expense in helping fight to preserve the property for public use and in providing invaluable input throughout the planning process that has led to this General Plan.

In order to ensure that the community was involved in the park planning process, Senate Bill 1177 was passed, establishing a Cornfield Advisory Committee (the Committee). The Committee consisted of thirty-six members representing the communities and property owners surrounding the Park, environmental justice and civil rights organizations, historians, business leaders, educators, local/state/federal governmental agencies, and non-profit groups. (See Chapter 8, Acknowledgements).

The Committee met numerous times over a period of two years, working together with State Parks staff in developing a park vision, reviewing Interim Public Use (IPU) plans, providing input on park naming and classification, participating in public meetings, and providing input for this General Plan. In February 2003, the Committee submitted its recommendation report to the Director of California State Parks, identifying a park vision based on four conceptual themes: connectivity; cultural/historical; recreation; and, transportation.

Although at times the discussions were arduous, heated, and contentious, the Committee and public input process was invaluable for both the park constituents and State Parks. The extensive efforts of State Parks to meet with community representatives earned the respect and trust of stakeholders involved in the struggle to preserve the property and transform it into a park.

Through its outreach campaign to garner community input, State Parks learned much about the divergent nature of the previously proposed uses, community needs, and recreational preferences for the site. These past proposals have included a large-scale industrial/warehouse park, a Los Angeles River-oriented mixed use plan, and various community plans and redevelopment plans consisting of mixed land use combinations. State Parks also became more aware, and able to address, the varied cultural perspectives of these diverse communities. Our new stakeholders, in turn, grew to appreciate the benefits and values that State Parks, as the primary stewards of California's natural and cultural resources, brought to their community.

One important factor that State Parks recognized is that the Park's local constituents and its surrounding communities are a microcosm of California's diverse ethnic heritage. And as such, the Park, and its associated history and stories reflect Los Angeles' and the State's cultural uniqueness. In order to

effectively take advantage of this unique opportunity for examination of this cultural heritage, a partnership between State Parks and key stakeholders will be important to the future stewardship and success of this extraordinary park. The General Plan process was the first step in providing all those that have been involved an opportunity to assist in the development of a State Historic Park that will become a model for State Parks in dealing with the trends and challenges of the 21st Century California population.

Interim Public Use Project

One of the most valuable partnership actions between State Parks and the Cornfield Advisory Committee was in preparation for an Interim Public Use (IPU) plan and development of this General Plan. In order to place permanent capital improvements on any State Park property, a State Park and Recreation Commission approved General Plan is required. The California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5002.2(e) however does allow the Department to make units of the State Park system accessible and usable to the general public at the earliest opportunity. The Advisory Committee contributed valuable information to State Parks for planning and design of the IPU, which will provide interim improvements that will allow public access to the new park property prior to approval of this General Plan, and prior to funding, planning, or development of any of its recommended permanent improvements. The coordination of the IPU planning and review will allow public park use at the site by the summer of 2005.

Public Input in the Planning Process

A series of meetings and workshops were held in order to involve the general public in the park planning process. To encourage participation by the diverse communities surrounding the Park, the public was notified of planning meetings using printed materials written in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Vietnamese. During the first public meeting, translators were available to accommodate Spanish and Cantonese public speakers and daycare was provided for children less than five years. "Mini scoping" meetings with students at Castelar and Solano Canyon elementary schools and Cathedral High School were held to ensure that younger age groups had an opportunity to comment on the vision for the Park. Based on the variety of public input, three alternative park concepts

were created to document the community's suggestions. (See Chapter 4, The Plan, and Section 5.10 for a discussion of the alternatives).

Community involvement was also provided on April 17, 2004 when the Department held a "flow of history" workshop to solicit input in the development of interpretive and educational programming for the General Plan. The workshop focused on the significant and diverse stories pertaining to the site and the educational and interpretive programs that currently existed with regard to the natural, cultural, and historic stories of Los Angeles.

In addition to these public meetings, State Parks representatives met with Council District One staff and other City of Los Angeles officials on a regular basis and sought additional feedback about plan development from the following organizations:

- Center for Law in the Public Interest
- Chinatown Yards Alliance
- Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles/Chinatown Community Advisory Committee
- Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Friends of the Los Angeles River
- Northeast Trees
- Chinese Historical Society
- Latino Urban Forum
- William Mead Housing Resident Advisory Council

The third general plan public meeting, on July 13, 2004, highlighted the public's most popular concepts and presented a Preferred Alternative. The development of the Preferred Alternative considered the local community's input received at the previous public meetings, statewide interests, Resources Agency rules and regulations, the Park's purpose and vision, environmental constraints and resources, as well as the written comment letters received before and after the general public meetings. (See Chapter 4, The Plan).

1.4 Park Unit Classification

This park's historical significance transcends its historic uses and existing resources and is also linked to its role at the origin of Los Angeles' meteoric rise from remote frontier community to 21st Century urban megalopolis and international economic power. Its association with the first public works project (*zanja madre*) and early agriculture, its donation to the Southern Pacific Railroad as enticement to bring the transcontinental link to Los Angeles in the 1870s, and its role as a pioneer and catalyst for the city and region's unprecedented commercial,

industrial, and social growth make it a unique place for tracing Los Angeles' cultural history from its origins to today.

A series of discussions were held with stakeholders, including the Cornfield Advisory Committee, and other concerned individuals about possible park unit classification for the site. It was unanimously determined that the Park be given the State Historic Park designation because this classification provides an opportunity to create a park with educational and recreational programming in a natural outdoor setting focusing on the significant events that link the people of the past to present day events.

In an effort to enhance the diversity of State Parks holdings, the creation of this unique urban State Historic Park will broaden the historical representations and investigations of one of California's most well-known and historically significant, but often misunderstood, places—urban Los Angeles.

1.5 Park Name

Historically, the name "River Station" has held the longest tenure for the site. Previously the property had several "owners" but its general land use as communal agricultural lands indicates no record of a proper name specific to the site. The name "Cornfield" has its origins as a nickname given to the lower yard by railroad workers in the mid-1900s associated with the large amount of agricultural freight moving through the site and to the adjacent Capitol Mill. Its direct use as the name for the proposed Park property appears to be a more recent interpretation of the historic land uses and is notably linked to the struggles to save the site from development during the last decade. The other name most commonly seen during the last decade is Chinatown Yard, also affiliated with the fight to save the property for a park.

State Parks received numerous ideas for naming the Park. These varied potential names came from individuals, organizations, and State Parks staff. The sensitivity to, and contention with, the entire issue of naming the Park, led the Cornfield Advisory Committee to not formally recommend a name in their recommendations report. During the General Planning process, various names were submitted to State Parks staff and the planning team directly, as well as through public meetings. For example, at the third public meeting State Park's staff polled the audience on the issue of a park name. Several received partisan support, but no particular name has of yet captured a majority of support from all the varied constituents of the Park.

Some of the names that have most regularly been suggested by the Committee members, members of the public, and State Parks staff include:

- Angeles Crossing State Historic Park
- Cornfield State Historic Park

- El Parque de Los Angeles State Historic Park
- La Reina de Los Angeles State Historic Park
- Los Angeles State Historic Park
- Los Angeles Crossroads State Historic Park
- Los Angeles River Crossing State Historic Park
- Tongva/Gabrieleno State Historic Park
- Zanja Madre State Historic Park

Although all of these names have connections to the history and purpose of the Park, State Parks is proposing the name "Los Angeles State Historic Park." The name is recommended in an effort to support the broad interpretive purpose of the Park in telling the whole cultural story of Los Angeles. Concerns with focusing on a name associated directly with a specific historical resource, event, time period, or group led State Parks to select a name that would help visitors and users understand and experience the heritage of Los Angeles and the statewide, national, and international influence of its cultural history.

1.6 General Plan Purpose

This General Plan was developed to serve as a long-range management tool that provides guidelines for achieving the vision and purpose of the Park. This document does not attempt to provide detailed management recommendations, but rather provides conceptual parameters for future management actions. This general plan:

- Establishes the unit's purpose, vision, and long-term goals;
- Becomes the primary document and framework for the Park's development, management, and public use;
- Serves as the basis for developing focused management plans and project plans;
- Serves as a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 establishes a requirement for state agencies to analyze and disclose the potential environmental effects of a proposed action. The familiar environmental impact report (EIR), prepared by state and local governments, is usually a freestanding document intended to meet the requirements of CEQA. However, CEQA also encourages options to avoid needless redundancy and duplication, such as combining General Plans and EIRs (CEQA Guidelines Section 15166) and the use of tiering, a process where a lead agency prepares a series of EIRs, progressing from general concerns to more site-specific evaluations with the preparation of each new document (CEQA Guidelines Section 15152). When the lead agency combines a General Plan and an EIR, all requirements of CEQA must be covered and the document must identify where the requirements are met. (See Appendix J, Location of EIR Required Content).

The General Plan/EIR in its whole constitutes the required content of an EIR, therefore this document refers to the "General Plan/EIR" to reinforce the concept of a single document fulfilling the dual requirements of park general planning and CEQA compliance.

Together with future management plans, this General Plan/EIR endeavors to protect, enhance, and interpret the Park's resources while providing opportunities for public use and enjoyment. It is an effort that will require the ability of management to respond appropriately as new challenges to the overall goals of this General Plan become known. The Plan allows for a creative, yet strategic framework for responding to the Park's major issues and opportunities in order to create a visionary park and preserve the Park's cultural and open space values for the benefit of all Californians.

The Plan includes a Preferred Park Alternative based on the culmination of community participation with additional research and analysis undertaken by State Parks. Among the highlights proposed in the Preferred Park Concept are to:

- Create the entire park as an interpretive entity for telling and celebrating the comprehensive "Story of Los Angeles."

- Develop the Park as a unified organic whole that is composed of interwoven and mutually supportive areas providing a multi-faceted interpretive and recreational experience.

- Integrate the park elements with regional and surrounding community access, education, and planning networks.

- Provide a variety of open space areas (plaza, gathering areas, etc.) that can accommodate a diversity of informal recreation activities, from reflection and relaxation to active participation in individual and group activities for park visitors of all ages and abilities.

- Establish and steward a park that will be a gathering place where people from all social, economic, and cultural backgrounds can meet, interact, and engage in a "civic dialogue" that promotes a vibrant community spirit and where park visitors learn about and celebrate the entirety of Los Angeles' past, present, and future.

- Provide visitor use facilities that offer the opportunity for diverse visitor experiences, maximizing visitor and staff use while minimizing negative effects on viewsheds, cultural or natural resources, or other conflicts.

PLANNING HIERARCHY

Department Mission: A broad statement of purpose derived from an organization's values and goals for all units of the California State Park System. (Quoted on inside front cover)

Classification: Establishes broad management guidelines and direction for public use. Along with all units that have been designated as State Historic Parks, this park will be managed under the direction of Public Resources Code Section 5019.59.

Declaration of Purpose: The "mission statement" for each unit of the State Park System. It is the guiding statement (unique to the future park at the Cornfield site) that provides direction for park management and the preparation of this General Plan.

Vision : A compelling image (description) of a desirable state of reality made possible by accomplishing the Department's mission in a way that is consistent with the core values of key stakeholders. The vision statement is an inspiring view of the preferred alternative and desired future conditions.

Park Principles: Planning principles that provide a nexus to the preferred Park Concept, which exemplifies the park's vision.

Park Concept: Translates the park's Purpose and Vision into an overall concept based on the guiding principals, with distinctive elements of park area design, interpretation, resource management, appropriate development, and desirable future uses.

Goals and Guidelines: Guidance that is relevant for the park, regarding resources, interpretation, facilities, and operations.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Cultural Resources

2.3 Recreation Resources

2.4 Natural Resources

2.5 Aesthetic Resources

2.6 Educational and Interpretive Resources

2.7 Existing Facilities

2.8 Planning and Environmental Influences

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the surrounding context and existing conditions at the Park site. The first sections consist of discussions of the significant resource values, existing land use, and existing facilities of the site. Further details of existing conditions may also be found in Chapter 5, Environmental Analysis. Information derived from studies of the significant resources was used directly in planning the Park and to develop the planning concepts. Extensive background material gathered on these significant resources and the region was compiled as part of this planning effort and is contained in the Park's unit data file, the working file that consists of an organized body of information about a park unit. The unit data file acts as a library of both unit data and the status of current issues.

Following the discussion of significant resources and existing conditions is a discussion of the planning and environmental influences. These influences are important in order to understand the resources, land use, and facilities in a larger context. These influences can consist of system-wide planning, regional planning, demographics, and public concerns through extensive community involvement in the planning process.

The surrounding land uses, resources, existing conditions, and planning influences are an integral part of developing an analysis of the issues related to future planning for the Park to determine the park concept and goals and guidelines for park management.

2.2 Cultural Resources

This section provides an overview of the Park's cultural resources and the site's greater historical significance. Interest in the importance of this property is not new. The property's use as the Southern Pacific Railroad's River Station and rail yard for over 120 years justified the property's listing as a City Historical Monument in 1971. However, recent attention to the property by community members, planners, and scholars during the last decade has uncovered a larger context, revealing a broader connection between this small piece of land and the greater Los Angeles story.

Site Background

The property's land use history reveals its historical and cultural significance. Its prominent location on shelf-land above the Los Angeles River provided a

physical nexus to this essential natural resource in a semi-arid region. Prehistoric culture groups such as the Tongva/Gabrieleno utilized the area for thousands of years prior to Euro-American contact. Within a mile of the Park property was the last known location of the large Tongva/Gabrieleno Indian village generally referred to as *Yang-Na* or *Yabit*. Historic period activities date to the earliest exploration and settlement of the area in the 18th Century through Los Angeles' growth from small 19th Century frontier community to 21st Century urban megalopolis. The site's role in early water development projects, agricultural land use, and as the site of the Southern Pacific Railroad's first major facility and transcontinental station and yards, parallel Los Angeles' urban, economic, and social histories.

The Cornfield site sits uniquely at a vital geographic nexus to Los Angeles' history from its beginnings to the present. It is a vehicle for a revelatory journey through layers of history and culture, a slice through time exposing the dominant, forgotten and ignored stories alike which make Los Angeles so rich and diverse. The site embodies the culture and heritage of the pageantry of peoples in and around the site, the values of a natural, riparian environment, the pre-history of the region as embodied by the Native American village site, the region's agrarian past, the operation of the City's original public water system, and the historical site of a major Southern California railroad and transportation hub. It expresses the story of struggle, of the conflict and cooperation that the historical flow of peoples in its neighborhoods have encountered and endeavored to resolve.

-- Cornfield Advisory Committee's Cultural/Historical Work Group

Cultural Roots of Los Angeles: The Tongva/Gabrieleno

The cultural story of the Los Angeles region dates far before the historical record of the last 400 plus years. Archaeological evidence indicates human occupation of the Los Angeles plain and coastal strip from at least 10,000 years before present. Some scholars have hypothesized much earlier human arrivals in the area, although the exact time remains controversial.

The Park property is located in the known territory of the Tongva/Gabrieleno. The influence of the prehistoric Tongva/Gabrieleno was far reaching and they held territory to a large section of Southern California that includes much of today's Los Angeles Basin and several of the Channel Islands. Previous scholarship believed that the Tongva/Gabrieleno were recent entrants into California, possibly only 1500 or so years before present. More recent scholars now believe that they may have been occupying the area for well over 4500 years. In either instance, archaeological and ethnographic evidence indicates that the prehistoric Tongva/Gabrieleno were a prosperous, adaptable, and creative

people who, along with their northwesterly neighbors, the Chumash, were among the most populous, wealthy, and successful California Indian groups.

The Tongva/Gabrieleno, especially in the late prehistoric and protohistoric periods, had a complex social system and highly adaptive culture. They practiced a hunting/gathering economy with a strong maritime influence. Trade and intermarriage with neighbors and distant groups was typical. Technological innovations and specialized skills such as canoe building, healing, and other crafts were organized and highly regarded. Social structure included a complex political and family organization along with an institutionalized religious system. The Tongva/Gabrieleno culture was also marked by an extensive oral literature, and distinctive set of rituals, games, artwork, myths, songs, and stories.

The remains of the Tongva/Gabrieleno settlements, some permanent, others seasonally occupied, are relatively few in the archeological record due to Los Angeles' extensive urban development over the last century and a half. Additionally, the Tongva/Gabrieleno may have moved their villages several times over the centuries. The *Yang-na* or *Yabit* village, for instance, is known to have existed near the current Park property, although it may have been moved along various points near the Los Angeles River.

The Spanish and Mexican Origins of Los Angeles

The historic record for Alta (Upper) California dates from the 1540s when Euro-Americans first documented their journeys and explorations to the area. Although explorers claimed California for the Spanish Crown as early as 1542, the Spanish Colonials did not occupy this far northwestern territory of the Empire for over two hundred years. The Spanish Colonial occupation plan called for a series of missions, presidios (military communities), and pueblos (civil communities) to be established. The missions and missionaries' role was to spread Christianity among the native peoples to begin their transformation into Spanish Colonial citizens. The presidios were to provide military protection and the pueblos were to establish civilian population and agricultural support for the territory.

Captain Gaspar de Portola, governor and military leader of Baja California, and Fr. Junipero Serra, OFM, were placed in charge of the first expedition to colonize Alta California. On July 14, 1769 Portola took a group of roughly 50 officers, soldiers, and neophyte Indians forward from San Diego toward Monterey. Fr. Juan Crespi and engineer Miguel Costanzo documented the journey and from them comes the first descriptions of the area and site around today's Park.

On August 2, 1769 the Portola Expedition arrived at the river and valley that they would name in honor of the festival day of *Nuestra Senora de los Angeles de la Porciuncula* (Our Lady of the Angels of Porciuncula) in which they celebrated the day prior. Crespi's description of the river and valley comes from his original diaries:

> *This river flows on down nearly at ground level through a very green, lush, wide-reaching valley of level soil some leagues in extent from north to south; …which runs continually onward with a great amount of trees, lie very large, very green bottomlands, looking from afar like nothing so much as large cornfields…to my mind this spot can be given the preference in everything, in soil, water, and trees, for the purpose of becoming in time a very large plenteous mission… and so we have proclaimed it The River and Valley of Nuestra Senora de los Angeles de la Porciuncula.*

That evening the expedition stopped on the east bank of the river, likely near the location of the current North Broadway bridge. The following day they crossed the river onto the north end of the current Park property. Crespi describes immediately encountering "…a great vineyard of grapevines [wild] and countless rose bushes having a great deal of open blossoms, all of it a very dark friable soil." They continued westerly over grass-covered terraces when at approximately one mile south encountered the large Tongva/Gabrieleno village of *Yang-na or Yabit*. Crespi refered to the settlement as "a fine rancheria" and that the inhabitants were friendly and open to the presence of the newcomers. Scholars have not definitively determined the location of the village site at the time of Crespi's description, but it appears to have been near the current plaza of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument.

Crespi's glowing description of a well-watered valley with good soils for growing crops and an ample Indian population led the Spanish Colonial government to establish a settlement at this location. Although the Spanish missionaries established the aforementioned mission along the San Gabriel River in 1771 (Mission San Gabriel, which provided the Spanish name Gabrieleno for the neophyte Tongva), in 1778 Governor Felipe de Neve received approval for the creation of a civil pueblo along the *Rio la Porciuncula*. Governor de Neve received orders to name the new pueblo *La Reina de los Angeles* (Queen of the Angels). In the summer of 1781 Captain Fernando de Rivera y Moncada led the first group of settlers from Sonora and Sinaloa provinces (approximately 46 individuals) to join a group of recently converted neophytes from *Yabit* in founding the new pueblo. As typical with the population of the Spanish Colonial frontier the settlers included people of European, African, and Indian descents.

Governor de Neve established the new pueblo to take advantage of the river and fertile river valley to assure its success as an agricultural community. Although all land was deemed the property of the King of Spain, the pueblo was assigned one square league of land for its use. The Governor directed that house lots (*solares* or *sitios*) be established around a public plaza and be assigned to each settler family. The original plaza appears to have been located somewhat northeast of the current plaza that is the center of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. In addition, large planting lots (*suertes*) were laid out between the plaza and river to the south and east and also assigned to individual settlers. The remaining lands were either set aside for future

settlers and/or as common planting lands (*propios*). The land to the north of the plaza up to the river, including that of the Park property, was originally established as a *propio*.

The earliest record of agricultural use of the Park property dates to 1804, although it may have seen some planting earlier. According to the testimony of their great-grandson, the family of Francisco Avila had been among the first to plant vineyards on the current Park site. These vineyards may have been some of the earliest in Los Angeles and the predecessors to the city's first important industry – viticulture – the pueblo's top agricultural activity until the 1860s. By 1817, the pueblo reportedly had over 53,000 vines under cultivation.

In 1821 Mexico had won its independence from Spain and Alta California became a territory of the new Mexican Republic. The political and social control of the military and religious leadership began to switch to the secular and private sector—and also to native born Californios. Being the largest civil settlement in the territory (over 650 residents by 1820), the Pueblo de Los Angeles and Angelenos began to have more and more economic and political influence in the territory. The Mexican Government had opened up trade with foreign ships and legalized immigration of foreigners. Many of these visitors, some from New England and Europe, found Alta California to their liking, converted to Catholicism, became Mexican citizens, and made the Pueblo de Los Angeles their home.

The River and the *Zanja Madre*

One of the first and most important tasks undertaken was the excavation of the *zanja madre*, or main irrigation ditch, to bring river water to the plaza and fields. The settlers used Indian labor to dig the ditch from the intake at a brush and pole dam located on the river just north of the current North Broadway or Buena Vista Bridge. The success of the *zanja* system was the first, and most essential, public works project for the new pueblo.

This connection to the river would help make the fledgling frontier settlement an agricultural success when many others in Alta California struggled. It also served as an important symbol for the community, such as its regular use in the annual *Banos del las Virjines* (Bath of the Virgins) ceremony. Some scholars believe that the early name of North Broadway as Bath Street is linked to this association.

In 1815 a large flood altered the channel of the river. This flood cut a new main channel for the Los Angeles River at the north end of the current Park property and brought it down San Fernando (North Spring) and Alameda Streets. The flood forced the movement of the plaza southwest to its current location and damaged the surrounding fields and the adjacent Tongva/Gabrieleno settlement. In 1825 another flood drove the channel back to the east.

The American Impact in Los Angeles

In 1846 troops from the United States of America began occupying Alta California; within two years the territory had become part of the United States. One year later the Gold Rush in Northern California drew thousands of gold seekers and immigrants to the territory. However, unlike Northern California where the Mexican and Indian populations were quickly outnumbered and overwhelmed by the new Anglo-American immigrants, Los Angeles still kept its Hispanic majority. The 1850 Census listed Los Angeles' population at 1,600—a 25% increase from the pre-war total of 1,200. It also indicated that Americans accounted for less than 20% of the population.

Much of Los Angeles' growth during the early Gold Rush days came from the close to 10,000 Sonoran miners who had come into California but had been expelled from the gold fields by the early 1850s due to anti-Mexican nativist discrimination. Many of these new Mexican gold seekers returned through Los Angeles and those that stayed congregated northwest of the plaza along Main and Eternity (North Broadway) in the area quickly nicknamed as "Sonoratown." By 1860 the city's population had grown to 4,385 with a large majority still being of Mexican descent. It is also during this time that the *zanja* water system was expanded and a city position of *Zanjero* (ditch man) was created to oversee the system.

<u>Southern Pacific's River Station</u>

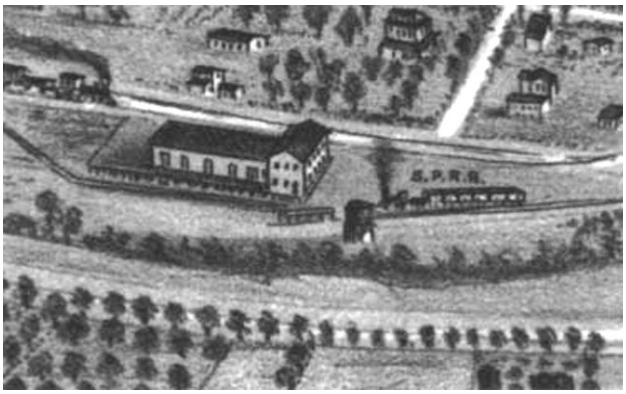
In the early 1870s, the development of the property changed rapidly and radically. Los Angeles had been considered as a potential terminus or hub for a southern transcontinental railroad since the Federal railroad surveys of the early 1850s. In 1872 the Southern Pacific Railroad company (SP) offered to build a rail connection north from San Francisco and Sacramento and then east to Yuma and beyond. They requested payment in the value of 5% of the county's total land value, the existing Los Angeles and San Pedro railroad (built in 1869 from Los Angeles to Wilmington), and land for use as a station and yard. Later that year the citizens approved a bond issue for the funds and to comply with the other demands of the railroad.

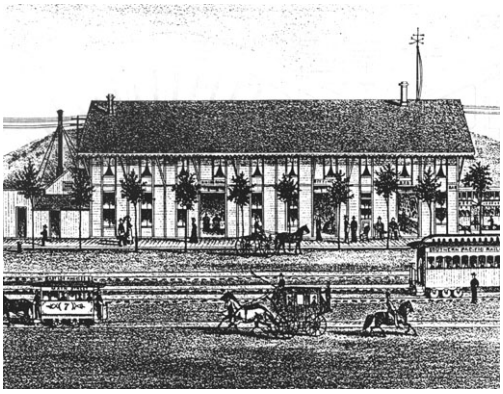
The property chosen for the new depot and yard was the land at the middle half of the current Park property. Arcadia Bandini de Stearns, daughter of a prominent Mexican Californio family and widow to Abel Stearns, was owner of the property at the time. Abel Stearns, an American merchant who had moved to Los Angeles in 1829 had acquired the property in support of his mill located off the south end of the property along the *zanja madre*. The new rail yard site was considered to be "far from the center of town" yet made what had been relatively low value agricultural land into much more valuable real estate. Bandini de Stearns donated the first parcel of the property to Southern Pacific in 1873.

Construction of the rail line commenced and by 1876 had connected Los Angeles to the north and the transcontinental railroad. The Southern Pacific

quickly built a small freight house and depot that opened as Los Angeles Junction or the "River Station" in 1875.

Over the next decade Southern Pacific would purchase the north parcel, referred to on some maps as the Bull Ring, and continue to expand its facilities. In 1879 the two-story Pacific Hotel, with its featured "parlor sitting room" and 25-minute meal service for through passengers was opened next to the depot.





Illustrations of original 1875 Depot (left) and 1879 Pacific Hotel (right).

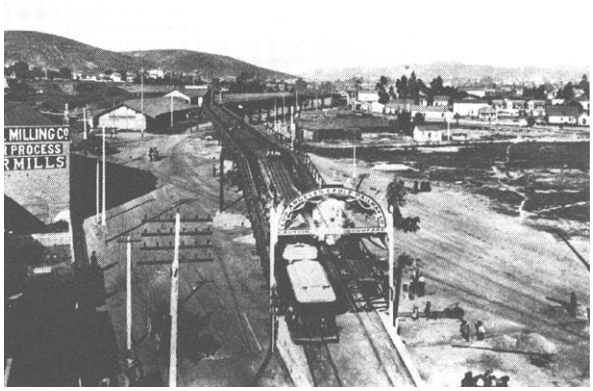
Passenger traffic was such that a new depot and hotel with restaurant replaced the original depot in 1883 to take advantage of the completion of the southern transcontinental route to New Orleans. The SP then moved the original depot building to the south end of the property and incorporated it into a new expanded freight house. By the mid-1880s a 26-stall roundhouse with turntable, coaling and wood house, full set of maintenance shops, and most importantly for the citrus industry, a large icing facility, had been built on the expanded property. For the next decade the River Station served as the main headquarters for SP operations, passenger, and freight service. As early as 1880 the SP had become the town's largest employer with 300 plus employees – over 100 living in the new residential and commercial neighborhood surrounding the station property.

The arrival of the Southern Pacific railroad caused a short boom in the 1870s. Los Angeles' population more than doubled during the decade, expanding from 5,728 to 11,170 by 1880. Still, the City's growth continued to reflect a diverse multi-ethnic population. Such was the cosmopolitan nature of the citizenry in the 1870s that visitor B. F. Taylor noted in 1878 that Los Angeles was a place in which one could hear Spanish, German, Italian, French, Chinese, and English spoken regularly.

Although Los Angeles served as a frontier melting pot of ethnic groups, it was far from a continuously harmonious existence. Vigilante justice mixed with the racist and nativist ideology of the times often resulted in tragic results for Indians, Mexicans, and Chinese residents. Infamous events such as lynchings,

unprosecuted murders, and the tragic Chinese Massacre of 1871, were unfortunate realities for the frontier community. Those who lived in the rough and tumble neighborhoods of saloons and boarding houses around the depot continued to survive, struggle, and in many cases succeed through these often difficult times.

The success of the Southern Pacific railroad also helped sell Southern California and Los Angeles to the rest of the country. When the Santa Fe Railroad completed their transcontinental line to Southern California in 1885, it triggered a price war, and the Great Land Boom of the 1880s began. A year later the SP made an agreement to allow the Santa Fe Railroad to use the River Station for passenger service and for a short while it was noted on timetables as the "Union Depot." Within two years the population of Los Angeles grew to over 50,000 and suburban neighborhoods soon spread out to the east across the river and to the south and west of the old plaza and downtown. In 1889 the Los Angeles Electric Railway Company built trolley lines down both Buena Vista (North Broadway) and San Fernando (North Spring) in an effort to connect these "streetcar suburbs" to downtown.

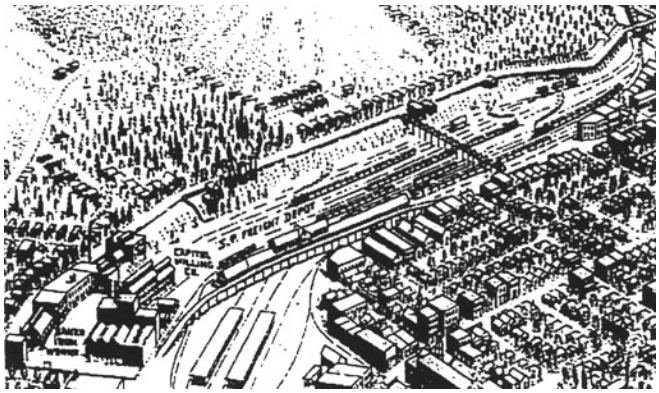


The trolley line on San Fernando (Spring) Street required a large viaduct that lifted the line above the multiple SP tracks that crossed the street adjacent to the Capitol Mill.

With such an expansion in traffic, the new depot at River Station proved inadequate to handle all the volume. In May 1887, only a year after completing new additions to the 1883 depot, the SP announced plans to build a grand new station two miles south on Alameda near 4th Street. In 1889 the ornate Arcade Depot was opened and served as the main SP passenger terminal until 1915. The River Station depot/hotel continued operations until it was demolished in 1902 to make room for the expanded freight service.

With the Arcade Station handling the majority of passenger service, River Station was expanded to handle the massive volume of freight, mostly from Southern California's burgeoning citrus industry. In 1897 the "River Station" freight yards were extended another 1,500 feet down Alameda Street where they built several massive shipping houses. It was about this time that the turntable, roundhouse, and maintenance shops were dismantled and shop activities moved to the new and larger Los Angeles General Shops across the river in Lincoln Heights.

For the next twenty-five years River Station took on the role of nerve center for Southern Pacific's multi-million dollar freighting operations in Los Angeles. State engineer's noted at the time that "*The present freight business is the backbone of Los Angeles commerce, and upon it depends…the growth and prosperity of the city.*" Thus, Los Angeles' sudden and massive thrust into an economic and industrial power literally passed through the River Station. As such, by the 1910s River Station employed four to five hundred employees on around-the-clock shifts; and who moved nearly 85,000 freight cars a month through the yard.



This circa 1900 illustration shows the yard and surrounding area. Note that SP also built a raised walkway across the center of the rail yard to allow workers safe access to and from North Broadway.

The intensive railroad activity also had its effect on the nature and development of the area surrounding River Station. The former agricultural areas found between and around River Station quickly became surrounded with railroad and other industrial activity. In 1885 Herman Levi and Jacob Loews purchased the Capitol Mill and expanded it into a five-story structure with its own railroad siding. Standard Oil built one of its first refinery facilities on Aurora (now Baker) Street adjacent to the river and the rail yard. The Baker Iron Works on North Broadway, along with numerous foundries, manufacturers, and other shops soon found proximity to the rail yards invaluable, filling the area east of the station with a mixture of industrial plants and warehouses that mixed with the small bungalows and boarding houses of the railroad workers.

By the turn of the twentieth century the rapid growth of the facilities and activities at River Station were but a small microcosm of what was happening in Los Angeles. In 1900 Los Angeles had doubled its population over the previous decade and was now a city of over 100,000 residents. During the next several decades the exponential demographic and economic growth of the region would be unprecedented. Starting with the Great Boom of the 1880s thousands of new residents, most from the Midwest and Eastern United States, transformed the demographics to that of an Anglo American majority who came west to fulfill the new Southern California version of the American Dream lifestyle.

The suddenly older, industrial areas, such as at River Station and its surrounding ethnic and working class neighborhoods (Sonoratown, Solano Canyon, El Pueblo, Old Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, and the riverfront), saw a different

version of Los Angeles' industrial and economic growth. The ethnic Mexican, Italian, German, Irish, and Chinese communities who often provided the workforce for the railroads and the rapidly growing industries along the riverfront continued to exist within the urban industrial landscape of the area. In 1908 the City zoned these neighborhoods east of North Broadway within Industrial District #1, although they still were home to thousands of poor and working class residents.

Rise of Metropolitan Los Angeles and Decline of River Station

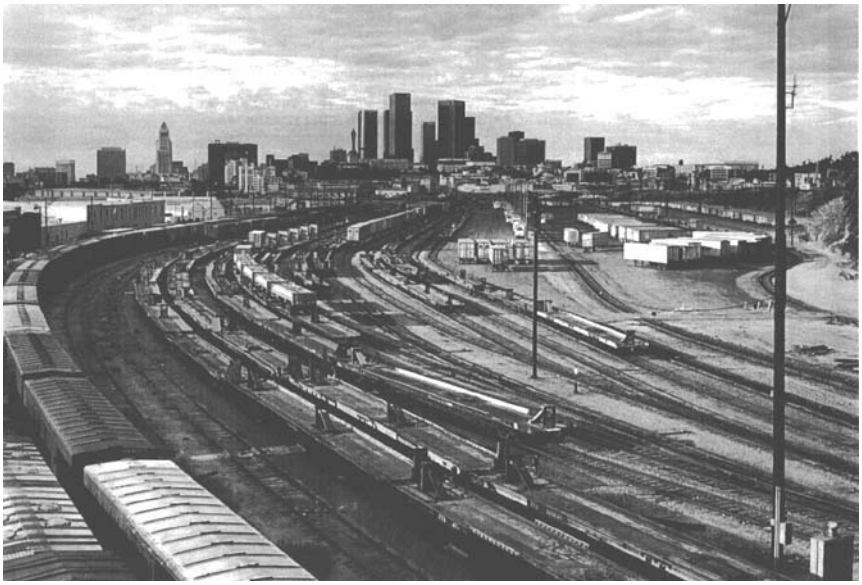
The economic and industrial growth that had been literally passed through and around River Station in the first quarter of the century had helped set the foundation for Los Angeles' coming of age as a metropolis. The economic clout of the oil, film, citrus, rail and shipping industries suddenly dominated West Coast business. The Great Boom of the 1920s thus cemented Los Angeles as not only the new economic and industrial power but as the prominent financial center. In addition, the new motion picture industry and subsequent entertainment machine helped create and promote Los Angeles throughout the world as the land of the American, and subsequently California, Dream lifestyle.

With the population growing exponentially each decade, and the reliance on the automobile, vast suburban sprawl soon occupied tracts of land throughout the City and County following the newly paved boulevards, highways, and eventually freeways to provide Angelenos with access to their suburban dream homes. Although the Great Depression of the 1930s slowed Los Angeles' growth rate, the boom of World War II and the Post-War proved even more prosperous than the inter-war years adding the aerospace industry to the region's economic prowess. Post-War Los Angeles' growth rate neared 50% and from the end of World War II through 1970 more than 30 new cities would be incorporated and 4.5 million new residents immigrated into the metropolitan region.

As Los Angeles spread out and decentralized so did the Southern Pacific Railroad. The expansion of freight traffic was such that in 1925 SP transferred supervision of its freight operations from River Station to its newer, much larger facilities at Taylor Yard, two miles north on the east side of the river. From this point onward, River Station was an adjunct facility to Taylor Yards. In 1931 SP also completed a new double-track line along the east bank of the river that reduced the amount of freight routed through downtown. Although reduced in status, River Station continued to be an important facility. In 1935 it became the key station for SP's "Overnight" *Coast Merchandise Express* freight trains to San Francisco and Portland. During and after World War II the River Station site continued to serve as an important early "inter-modal" facility where rail and truck freight interacted.

SP's Pacific Motor Transport trucks lined up in front of River Station freight house, circa 1930.

In 1953 SP initiated some of the first trailer-on-flat car (TOFC) container service at River Station. By the 1960s River Station still served the few remaining industrial clients although year by year businesses and factories also moved out to newer and larger industrial complexes away from the city center.



River Station yards, circa 1960s.

By the 1970s the railroad and industrial landscape that had dominated the River Station and surrounding neighborhoods was deteriorating. Old industrial properties were abandoned and closed up and the once frantic pace of activity slowed. The opening of newer large yards and facilities throughout the five county metropolitan area signaled the demise of the "downtown" Taylor Yard and River Station as rail facilities.

Although Southern Pacific renamed River Station the "Spring Street Intermodal Center" in 1984, the formal closure of Taylor Yard in September 1985 foretold the River Station's fate. On October 1, 1992 Southern Pacific ended formal rail activities and closed out the property that had brought them to Southern California, and had once been the hub of early industrial Los Angeles.

Neighborhood Struggles

The Army Corps of Engineers' channeling of the Los Angeles River from the late 1930s through the 1950s was only one of the struggles and changes that the residents of the River Station and surrounding neighborhoods would face over the decades of the mid-century. Such events as the forced relocation of the Chinatown community to old Sonoratown along North Broadway starting in 1933 to make way for the building of Union Station, the severing of Solano Canyon and Elysian Park for the building of the Pasadena Freeway in 1940, and the relocation of the Chavez Ravine neighborhood in the 1950s for proposed public housing projects and later Dodger Stadium, all had direct impacts on the physical landscape, continuity, and psyche of the neighborhoods surrounding the River Station freight yards. These local stories of individual and community struggle in many ways reflected a different reality for the resultant ethnic, political, cultural, and industrial dynamics of Los Angeles' meteoric 20th Century rise to urban megalopolis.

While the River Station became less and less of a factor in the operations of the Southern Pacific, today, the people and communities of the local surrounding neighborhoods recall in their stories and memories of these years, how they often felt a similar feeling of disenfranchisement in regards to their issues and concerns for the once active and vibrant industrial and working class neighborhoods. Yet, the social and personal histories of the area along with the less than pleasant tales of railroad hobos and transients living in dugout caves beneath the Broadway Street bridge, the rounding up of poor vagrants to county work camps and the repatriation of Mexican workers from the freight docks of River Station in the 1930s, along with the lost promises of playgrounds and parks from the City and the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1950s, all provide narratives of Los Angeles' history that have often been overshadowed or hidden from the greater story.

Stories such as the success of New Chinatown to re-establish itself just above the Park property along North Broadway help provide larger context for this often hidden history of the Angelenos. Although losers in the bitter legal battles in the 1930s over the Union Station site, Chinese community leaders took advantage of opportunities to recreate their new neighborhood. Following the moniker to *Cooperate So As To Achieve*, and taking advantage of new laws to recognize Chinese-American veterans of World War I and Pro-Chinese sentiment during World War II, New Chinatown became a solid and successful business and residential community. Its population doubled in the 1950s after the Communist takeover of China triggered a new wave of immigration. Additional immigrants

from Southeast Asia would also arrive and settle in the decades after the Vietnam War.

Thus the communities around River Station continued to follow the patterns of earlier immigrant groups in adding to the 20th Century ethnic melting pot of Los Angeles. In 1990 the population of Chinatown and the surrounding communities of Solano Canyon and the William Mead Housing Project (established in 1943) continued to hold onto its heavily ethnic majorities. The 1990 census numbers reflect these numbers: 42% Asian; 17% AfrAm; 30% Hispanic; 11% White.

Birth of the "Cornfield Park"

When in the 1990s the Southern Pacific Railroad, and its new owners, the Union Pacific Railroad, looked to divest itself of the River Station property, the community and other interested parties, took advantage of the opportunity and the changes in local government empowerment to address their needs and concerns. By the late 1990s the civic landscape had changed from the days when government, civic, and business leaders removed whole communities with little or no voice for those directly affected.

The environmental movement of the 1950s and 1960s had a great effect on the role of citizens and communities in land use planning and development. In California passage of laws such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in 1970 now required public input to be considered during development projects. The movement also brought the issues of environmental health, clean water, and public open space and park lands into the mainstream. By the 1990s the public input process had matured in order to provide "environmental justice" support for underrepresented and disenfranchised individuals and communities. The opening of a voice for civic dialogue to these people and communities also helped ignite the political empowerment of local neighborhood councils and community groups in what is becoming known to planners and urban scholars as the "Quiet Revolution."

In Los Angeles, which had experienced unprecedented urban development and sprawl, one of the environmental issues that caught the attention of many Angelenos during this period was the Los Angeles River. Leading the fight for the river was the grassroots organization, Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR). Formed in 1986, this non-profit group of concerned citizens worked to rally support for the reclamation and restoration of the Los Angeles River and its surrounding neighborhoods "through inclusive planning, education, and wise stewardship." Starting in 1991 FoLAR, joined by scholars, design professionals, citizens, and politicians, focused efforts toward the closed

rail yards at Taylor Yard and River Station in furthering river restoration plans and subsequent neighborhood revitalization.

Specifically, the old River Station property garnered attention from local community groups, urban scholars, private developers, and public agencies in addition to the Los Angeles River advocates. In the 1980s the Los Angeles City Planning department had recognized in their 1984 "Downtown Plan" and the un-adopted 1989 "Central City North Plan" documents, the opportunity for much needed mixed-use (residential/commercial) housing and services for the old rail yard properties. In 1993 the City's "Downtown Strategic Plan" recommended as many as 12,000 dwelling units for the 32-acre site. Others, such as the Los Angeles Unified School District, considered the site for a much needed new high school or operations facility. After Southern Pacific sold its assets to Union Pacific in 1996, private developers also eyed the property and discussions were made for a possible sports arena development.

In 1998 in a joint planning effort with the USC School of Architecture, FoLAR organized four planning sessions in the surrounding neighborhoods. These sessions spawned the "River Through Downtown" Conference that gathered elected officials, community members and activists, design professionals, and environmental groups. From this, FoLAR created a design for the property that would have included mixed-use housing, commercial and retail space, park, recreation and open space, a school, and a "canal" to represent and interpret the historic *zanja madre*. FoLAR's ability to bring these diverse groups together resulted in the partnering of community and business groups in and around Chinatown and the site in an effort to reconnect the surrounding communities and the property to the river.

This community-based plan for the old rail yard gained added emphasis in 1999 when a new development proposal for the old River Station from the large real estate developer, Majestic Realty, rallied the community and environmental groups to seek action to implement their plans. Majestic Realty's proposal called for a large warehouse/manufacturing complex for the site. Supported by the Mayor's office and the Office of Economic Development, the project called for a public/private partnership that would coalesce numerous local, state, and federal funding sources (including Brownfield remediation funds). The project promised large numbers of new jobs and economic revitalization for the site and surrounding neighborhoods. Although Majestic's project received strong support from the City of Los Angeles, the local communities were incensed when the environmental review process appeared to be circumvented with little or no public input.

In 2000 FoLAR and local neighborhood groups organized under the moniker of the Chinatown Yards Alliance for the Cornfield (an old railroad worker's nickname for the lower yard used to help associate the historic uses of the property as open, common public land) in an effort to stop the Majestic project. The Chinatown Alliance challenged the determinations of the City and Majestic that the property no longer had any historical significance since closing of the River Station as a rail yard. Soon other concerns as to the economic viability of the warehouse project also cast shadows over its success. In 2001 the Chinatown Alliance, with legal help from the Environmental Justice in Los Angeles Project, successfully challenged the project's environmental review process and effectively "derailed" the project. Although still a recent event to this planning document, the efforts of the Chinatown Alliance and its individual members and organizations, may prove over time to be one of the most important environmental justice and "Quiet Revolution" community empowerment stories in the City's annals.

Later in 2001, California State Parks sponsored a feasibility study to consider the significance of the property and its possibilities for becoming a State Park. In the meantime, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a non-profit organization, was involved in acquiring the property using an option agreement between TPL and Majestic Realty and their Limited Liability Corporation, known as River Station LLC. When the State Park feasibility study identified the property's potential for contributing to a Los Angeles River parkway and its potential historical significance to the greater story of the City and its people, California State Proposition 12 Park Bond Funds were used to purchase the property for State Parks. Concurrently, in response to the efforts, needs, and demands of the Chinatown Alliance and neighborhood residents, local and state politicians established a mandated Cornfield Advisory Committee to ensure public input to a vision for the new State Park. The Advisory Committee completed their report in Spring 2003. In addition, State Parks quickly obtained capitol outlay funds for interim public use (IPU) improvements at the site. These plans also received Advisory Committee and public review and facilities should be available for public use in Summer 2005.

Cultural Resources

The Park property still retains some of the physical material cultural remains of its historic past. Although no standing historic structures are left on the site, the property's historical significance has been recognized for over thirty years. The site is already a recognized cultural resource through its listing as Los Angeles Cultural Landmark #82 for its historic use as the River Station/Southern Pacific Railroad site. The Southern Pacific's River Station and freight yard was the first SP facility in Los Angeles and site of the first transcontinental railroad station and depot in the region from 1876 through 1888. It served as the center of railroad freight operations for the Southern Pacific, and thus all of Los Angeles in the first quarter of the 20th Century and continued to serve as a freight yard until its closing in 1992. At its full build-out in the late 1880s, the railroad facility included

a two-story depot and hotel, a large freight house, round house, turntable, ice house, and maintenance shops.

Although none of the above ground structures are still existing, recent archaeological investigations during the construction of the Gold Line commuter railroad and the environmental remediation of the property have identified and documented archaeological remains of these structures and uses. These first formal archaeological studies, occurring between 1999 and 2001 for the preconstruction evaluation of the Gold Line project, documented River Station structural remains on the future park property as well as existing remains of the *zanja madre* on adjacent property. In 2002, the Trust for Public Land hired an archaeological firm to monitor hazardous material remediation work, with State Parks oversight, which located additional River Station structural remains and artifact deposits. In 2004, State Parks began archaeological survey and testing in anticipation of construction of the Interim Public Use improvements scheduled to open in Summer 2005. These studies are providing more detailed identification and analysis of the existing archaeological resources located at the Park. Subsequently, the entire 32-acre property has been recorded as an archaeological site due to the finding of structural foundation remains, cobblestone paving surfaces, artifact deposits, and other features.

Cultural/Historical Resources near the Park

California State Parks conducted a search of archaeological information center databases and the California and National Registers of Historic Places to identify recorded and listed historical and cultural resources at, and near, the vicinity of the Park (Appendix C). The search noted that 23 cultural resource studies had occurred within the vicinity of the site, three of which had crossed some portion of the property. The results of that search were that no recorded prehistoric archaeological sites were found within a half mile radius of the proposed park. Two historic archaeological sites were found within a half mile radius of the Park—not including the River Station site itself.

2.3 Recreation Resources

Existing Park Recreation Resources

Public access to recreational opportunities at the Park has been limited to the Temporary Information Site (TIS). The TIS provided ranger interaction, interpretative panels, a mounded lawn area, and a place to picnic and enjoy the downtown skyline. The TIS was open one day a week from 2002 through 2003; however, due to low visitation the site was closed to the public in 2003. Section 2.7, Existing Facilities, contains a more complete description of the TIS.

Regional Recreational Uses

There are several recreational centers operated by the City of Los Angeles within a one-mile radius of the Park site: Downey Recreation Center, Alpine Recreation Center, and Elysian Park Therapeutic Center (providing recreation activities for people with disabilities). Both Downey and Alpine Recreation Centers are neighborhood-based parks which are easily accessible to local residents. They offer recreation and services directly linked to community needs, such as after-school programs and pre-school. However, the facilities are often severely crowded and do not keep up with the demand of children who live near these facilities. An informal recreational opportunity also exists at the William Mead Housing development (limited to residents only), less than three blocks from the Park site. There is generally a greater demand from the surrounding communities than can be met for these recreational resources.

Elysian Park, located just north of the State Parks property, is the second largest city park in Los Angeles. Elysian Park offers hiking trails, picnic areas with barbeque pits, a man-made lake, children's play areas, playfields, and the Chavez Ravine Arboretum. Access to Elysian Park is difficult for many of the surrounding neighborhood residents because of the steep terrain and a lack of convenient or available transportation to this park.

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, located less than ½ mile away from the Park site, offers many educational programs, museums, food and entertainment. Other recreational and interpretive venues in the immediate region are discussed in Section 2.6, Educational and Interpretive Resources.

Recreational Needs, Trends, and Opportunities

The Park is intended to serve nearby residents in Los Angeles, residents throughout the state, as well as out-of-state visitors. Due to the surrounding population density and diversity in the Los Angeles Basin, the difficult access to some of the existing recreation facilities in the area, and the lack of open space and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, there is a need for additional recreation opportunities in or near this urban center.

According to a statewide survey discussed in the document *Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California 2002*, the highest unmet demand and greatest public support exists for specific outdoor recreational activities (California State Parks, 2003). Some of these high priority recreational opportunities could be provided at the Park. These activities include: walking for fitness and fun; wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery; bicycling on paved surfaces; picnicking in developed sites; visiting outdoor nature museums; visiting historic or cultural sites; attending outdoor cultural events; and using open space areas.

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for insertion of Figure 2-1, Regional Map.

2.4 Natural Resources

Natural resources include aspects of the physical environment which are based largely upon the natural features, including air, climate, hydrology, soil, geology, plants and wildlife. Please see Chapter 5, Environmental Analysis, for more details on many of these topics.

As the areas surrounding the site, and indeed the past uses of the site, are primarily urban and industrial, native biological resources are scant. Nevertheless, there are numerous potential benefits that could be gained through improvements to the site.

Vegetation

The Park site lies in the Southwest Mountain and Valley landscape province and is surrounded by intensely developed and densely populated areas. Existing naturally occurring vegetation is sparse and limited to weedy growth dominated by plants that are able to exist in an urban environment. Recently a small area of the Park was landscaped with California sycamores, a lawn area, and a picnic area. Overall, the existing vegetation on-site can be classified as ruderal. Ruderal is generally defined as plants growing in waste places but that are not necessarily non-native species. Most species found on-site are windborne, but some are carried by animals and humans, and the close proximity to the vegetated portions of the Los Angeles River naturally increases native seed recruitment into the area. See Appendix D for a list of species observed on-site.

Potential for Revegetation with Native Species

Revegetation of the site with oak woodlands and coastal sage scrub, which possibly once made up much of the area, is a potential opportunity for the site given its proximity to the Los Angeles River and the linkages the site could provide to other regional habitat areas. Revegetation efforts focusing on the removal of non-native species and the replanting of native upland habitats

would enhance the native fauna as well as the aesthetic value for the surrounding communities, and would provide a brief glimpse into local history. Revegetation with native species known to occur in the area offers a unique educational opportunity for this part of Los Angeles. Native plants bring a wide variety of flowers, insects, and birds for everyone to enjoy while at the same time helping visitors understand the natural environment and learn about the site's natural history.

Animal Life

The composition and abundance of animal populations is directly related to the amount of suitable habitat present. The channelization of the Los Angeles River has resulted in an overall loss of biodiversity along the river by removing most of the suitable habitat. However, the nearby Glendale Narrows still supports riparian vegetation and suitable habitat for tree frogs, birds, and aquatic invertebrates.

Much like the vegetation of the site, the wildlife observed during site visits were generally those species adapted to surviving in an urban and disturbed environment. The invasion of introduced plant species reduces the quality of suitable habitats available to animals by altering protective cover, often increasing the vulnerability of such organisms to native and introduced predators. Invertebrates play a crucial role in the functioning of any ecosystem as they are pollinators, they are food for insectivorous birds and reptiles, and they help keep soils rich and aerated. The invertebrate community in the greater Los Angeles Basin is a rich assemblage of insects, spiders, worms, and mollusks. See Appendix D for a list of species observed on site and Chapter 5, Environmental Analysis, for discussion of non-native animal life observed on-site.

Topography

Viewed from above, the site appears as an oblong parcel of abandoned industrial land on the west bank of the Los Angeles River in downtown Los Angeles. Only the northern-most portion of the site is near the Los Angeles River, which is located approximately 150 feet to the northwest.

According to the United States Geological Survey, the site is at an elevation of 300 to 325 feet above mean sea level (msl). The site is located within the alluvial plain of the Los Angeles River, which used to meander across the area before being channelized, starting in the late 1930s. The site is bordered on the northwest by the Elysian Park Hills, rising to elevations over 700 feet above msl. The project site, however, is on mostly level topography.

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for insertion of Figure 2-3, Watershed Map.

Air Quality

The site is located in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). Air quality in the Basin is a key issue for human health. The Basin and/or Los Angeles County has been designated as being in non-attainment for State and Federal standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter smaller than 10 microns. Air quality in the vicinity of the Park is affected by emissions from motor vehicle traffic on adjacent roadways. Two major freeways, Interstate 5 and Highway 110, as well as railway tracks, are located within 1/2 mile of the project. An extensive discussion of air quality can be found in Chapter 5, Environmental Analysis.

Geology

The site is located within the Peninsular Range Geomorphic Province of California, an area of predominately northwest-trending mountain ranges and intervening basins. It is located within the former floodplain of the Los Angeles River and bordered to the north by the Elysian Park Hills. The surficial site geology consists of Quaternary alluvium, a mixture of sand, silt, clay, and gravels deposited by the Los Angeles River prior to being channelized (Lamar, 1970). The Elysian Park Hills are composed of Upper Miocene (approximately 5-11 million years old) marine siltstone and sandstone of the Puente Formation (Lamar, 1970). The Puente Formation dips underneath the site, having been uplifted from depth by movement on the Elysian Park Fault.

The project site is located in a seismically active area of California and is subject to strong earthquakes and associated seismically induced hazards, such as strong ground shaking, liquefaction, and settlement. These geologic hazards are discussed in detail in Chapter 5.

Soils

Located west of the Los Angeles River, the site lies within the alluvial plain. Soils consist of silts and silty sand underlain with intermixed sand, gravel, and cobble layers. Various site specific investigations indicate that approximately the upper 40 inches consists of artificial fill of varying consistency (Greenwood and Associates, 2003). The native alluvium was exposed at approximately 40 inches below surface and comprised of light brown to medium brown/orange colored sand with intermediate gravel and cobble layers. Weathered sandstone bedrock (Puente Formation) is found at depths ranging from 10 feet to 22 feet, or deeper based on location.

Watershed

The Park site is within the Los Angeles River watershed (see Figure 2-3). The watershed covers an area of approximately 834 square miles (approximately 534,000 acres) from the Santa Susana Mountains to the west, the San Gabriel

Mountains to the north and east, and the Santa Monica Mountains and the Los Angeles coastal plain to the south (The River Project, 2004). The L.A. River watershed has diverse land uses, ranging from forest or open space in the upper reaches to highly developed commercial, industrial, and residential uses in the lower reaches (Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 2004). The L.A. River once flowed freely over the coastal plain after exiting from the Whittier Narrows but was channelized between 1914 and 1970 to control runoff and reduce flood impacts. The project site is not located within the 100-year floodplain of the Los Angeles River.

Groundwater

The groundwater at the project site occurs at approximately 30 to 35 feet below grade within the Recent alluvium and the Puente Formation bedrock. The direction of groundwater flow is to the south towards the Los Angeles River. Groundwater beneath the site is contaminated due to past land practices. The contamination is discussed in Section 2.8, Planning and Environmental Influences.

2.5 Aesthetic Resources

Aesthetic resources include scenic characteristics within viewsheds and viewscapes that add to the visual resources of an area. The existing visual character of an area is determined by the attributes of site-specific features (such as color, form, and texture) and by the patterns of those features as a result of natural processes and human uses. This visual character is also influenced by adjacent views out of the site and atmospheric effects.

The Park site is located in an urban and industrial area of the city, just northeast of the downtown civic center. It is situated on a relatively flat river terrace near the Los Angeles River. To the north are bluffs, transitioning to the hills of Elysian Park. To the east is the Los Angeles River (channelized in this portion and not visible from the Park site), views to the Verdugo Hills, and further in the distance, the San Gabriel Mountains. The site could be characterized as partially enclosed by natural and human-made vertical forms - the bluffs, hills, mountains, and high-rise structures of downtown.

Viewsheds

As viewed from the north, especially from the northern two-thirds of the property, the Park site is a large open space that is in stark contrast to the dramatic skyline of downtown Los Angeles. Sometimes referred to as the “front porch” of the city, there are no other sites that capture this welcoming view of downtown Los Angeles.

Views of Elysian Park present a welcoming view of green hills and trees. The more distant views of the Verdugo Hills and the occasionally snow-covered San Gabriel Mountains provide vistas of natural landscapes.

In the immediate vicinity of the Park are structures with distinct architectural styles, including a variety of buildings in the Chinatown area, the Chinatown Transit Station, the Capitol Milling Company building, and the Broadway Bridge.

External Views

The Park is visible from a number of vantage points. Just on top of the bluffs to the north, North Broadway and the Broadway Bridge are close vantage points looking down into the Park. Higher still, views from Elysian Park reveal the entire park site as well as a spectacular view to the downtown city center.

The MTA Gold Line, which runs adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, provides close-up views into the Park by light rail transit riders, while the Chinatown Transit Station provides an elevated view of the Park from its southwestern end, looking northeast. North Spring Street offers views into the Park along the entire eastern edge of the site. The City of Los Angeles is currently developing plans to enhance North Spring Street as a grand "entry" into the downtown area.

Ephemeral conditions, such as atmospheric effects – fog, smog, haze, wind – and seasonal changes to vegetation, such as the hillside grasses changing from green to golden, all have an influence on the aesthetic character of the site.

Negative Features and Characteristics

Large commercial/industrial facilities are located in close proximity to the site (primarily across North Spring Street) and include buildings with an industrial character and other associated equipment. Utility poles and lines are numerous and highly visible. Although these features may detract from the visual character and views of the downtown skyline and other more distant natural landscapes, they contribute to the area's historic character as an industrial and

transportation corridor. Private development of adjacent properties along North Broadway may change the character of the Park site by screening scenic viewsheds.

2.6 Educational and Interpretive Resources

Interpretive and education resources are any programs that heighten and increase public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural, cultural, and recreational values.

Providing interpretive and educational experiences that are both meaningful and inspiring is one of the core values of California State Parks. These experiences have the potential to touch the minds, hearts, and spirits of all who visit the Park, whether one spends only a few hours on a single day or decides to make one's visit an ongoing tradition. By carefully examining the site's existing conditions, we can begin to imagine the possibilities of what the Park may become.

Local Support for Interpretation

The Park has had the support of the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee since the group's formation in 2001. The Committee has provided ongoing park planning support, culminating in its succinct and inspiring recommendations report, *A Unified Vision for Cornfield State Park*. The Committee's "essential themes" – connectivity, cultural/historical, recreation, and transportation – have helped to shape the interpretive themes developed for the site's Temporary Information Site and Interim Public Use projects, and have been an invaluable touchstone during the General Plan process and development of this document.

Collections

The entire 32-acre park is considered an archaeological site due to the presence of sub-surface remnants from over 100 years of use as a railroad facility. The collections currently associated with the site are exclusively archaeological in nature. These objects were collected during the site's remediation in 2002 and are documented in the *Archaeological Monitor Report: Historic Cornfield Railroad Yard*, prepared by Greenwood and Associates, and during excavations in 2004-05. This collection of archaeological material primarily consists of fragments – with a few whole pieces – of bottles, dishware, clay bricks, clay tiles, and animal bones. The collection contains evidence of the early use of the property. Two stoneware ink bottles, for instance, were recovered near the "printing room" depicted on the 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map as a part of the depot and hotel. The collection is presently stored with California State Parks at the Southern Service Center in San Diego.

Current Interpretation

Beginning with the construction of a Temporary Information Site (TIS) in 2003, the Park's first interpretive project included a multi-lingual outdoor exhibit as a way to remind visitors of the area's ethnic diversity and to communicate more effectively with the surrounding community.

The exhibit consists of three interpretive panels with graphics and text. "Glimpses of the Past" invites readers to look at the way Los Angeles has grown by exploring the changes that have occurred at the Park site over time. "Healing the Land" asks readers to think about the costs associated with the site's history of industrial development. "A New Vision for the Land" invites park visitors to join California State Parks as we begin planning for the future of the new State Park.

Interpretive text on these panels was written in English, and then translated into Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. These languages were selected because of the site's proximity to Chinatown and to neighboring communities where Spanish is commonly spoken. Additionally, these two ethnic groups have a long association with the history of Los Angeles, which is reinforced with several historic images displayed on the interpretive panels.

An Interim Public Use (IPU) project, scheduled to be completed during 2005, will include improvements to eight of the Park's 32 acres. Interpretation for the IPU will be based on current research conducted by State Parks resource specialists and on themes derived from *A Unified Vision for Cornfield State Park*.

Interpretive Constraints

With the exception of a few tracks and ties still located on the property, the cultural resources associated with the site's historic use as a railroad facility remain underground. Although a number of objects have been unearthed that date to the period when the site was used as a railroad facility, archaeological evidence has yet to be found that is associated with the area's earliest inhabitants, the Tongva.

The natural resources that currently exist on the site have changed dramatically over the years. Native species that would have flourished with the help of the nearby Los Angeles River are now competing with weedy non-native species. The diverse animal life, including wildlife such as bear and deer, has long since disappeared from the site.

Although these constraints present challenges for the Park, they also present opportunities that can be addressed through careful interpretive program and facility development.

Land Uses Surrounding the Park That May Affect Its Interpretation

Interpretation at the Park may be affected in a number of ways based on the wide variety of land uses in the area. Land uses affecting – or that could potentially affect – the Park's resources are described elsewhere in this document. Land uses surrounding the Park that may affect its interpretation by influencing visitation and related program development include:

- The close proximity to public transportation, such as the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Gold Line light rail system, providing convenient access to the site;
- Nearby cultural landmarks, such as El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument and Chinatown, which draw millions of visitors annually to the area;
- The North Spring Street improvement project, which will provide improved connections to neighborhoods and to the Los Angeles River by adding bike lanes and trees along the eastern perimeter of the site;
- Proposed nearby developments, such as the Plaza de Cultura y Arte and the Blossom Plaza Mixed-Use Residential/Business Project;
- Proximity to the new State Park at Taylor Yard;
- Nearby schools and libraries, such as Ann Street School and Chinatown branch library;
- Diverse neighborhoods, many comprised of recent immigrants speaking a variety of languages other than English;
- The predominantly industrial zoning of the area, which may include a labor force that has much in common with the site's interpretive themes related to the story of Los Angeles.

Profiles of Interpretive Facilities in the Surrounding Communities

Los Angeles is filled with a variety of facilities that address the area's natural and cultural heritage. The following profiles offer a small sampling of some of the sites and programs that are available in the surrounding communities:

- **El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument** preserves the oldest section of Los Angeles. Interpretation is based on the range of architectural styles that surround the old plaza, each representing the stories of the people from different ethnic groups who settled the area. Annual visitation is approximately 300,000 to the museums and 2 million to the plaza. Annual events and festivities occur almost every month and include a concert series, a Los Angeles City Celebration, and a Mexican Independence Celebration. Also located at this site is the **Chinese American Museum,** the

first museum in Southern California dedicated to the experience and history of Chinese Americans in the Los Angeles area.

- **Exposition Park**
  Located in Exposition Park, the **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County** is the third largest natural history museum in the United States. More than 15 million specimens and artifacts from over 900 million years of the Earth's history are found in the museum's collections. Annual attendance is approximately one million visitors. Exhibit areas include science, history, and human studies. Programs include school guided tours, self-guided school visits, after-school and intersession programs, family programs, mobile education programs, and summer camps for children and families, including overnight camping in the museum's halls.

- The **California African American Museum,** also in Exposition Park, researches, collects, preserves, and interprets the art, history, and culture of African Americans with an emphasis on California and the Western United States. Programs include school/group tours, an artist-in-residency program, teacher programs, and family programs.

- **Griffith Park**
  In Griffith Park, the **Museum of the American West** (formerly known as the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, and now under the umbrella organization of the Autry National Center) is devoted to preserving and interpreting the rich history and traditions of the American West. With one of the most comprehensive collections of western history and art, its seven permanent galleries and special exhibitions offer material gathered from the many cultures and events that have shaped the legacy of this vast region. Programs include: "Early Opportunities Program Tours" for Grades K-1; "Special Opportunity for Title I Schools" which offers bus scholarships; teacher programs with classroom outreach kits, salary point credit opportunities, and educator's open house; family programs; bilingual programs; and, special programs such as live music, films, workshops, demonstrations, lectures, and classes for adults and children.

- **Japanese American National Museum** is located in the heart of downtown's historic Little Tokyo district. The museum promotes understanding and appreciation of America's rich ethnic and cultural diversity by preserving, interpreting, and sharing the experiences of Japanese Americans. Exhibits are presented in English, Japanese, and Spanish.

- **Los Angeles River Center and Gardens** in Cypress Park features courtyard gardens with fountains that are surrounded by Spanish-style buildings. The Center provides meeting spaces for community forums, is a location for celebrations and events, and is a hub for non-profit organizations that promote environmental protection and education. A visitor center

provides self-guided tours about the history and wildlife of the Los Angeles River. The River Garden Park celebrates the Los Angeles River with an artistic interpretation of the river as its central feature.

- **Los Angeles River Parkway** is a series of trails, parks, and natural lands located near the Los Angeles River. Interpretive panels associated with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and sculptural installations with design references to the wildlife of the river can be found throughout the parkway.

- **Southwest Museum of the American Indian** has supported research, publications, exhibitions, and educational activities for nearly 100 years to advance the public's understanding and appreciation of the indigenous cultures of the Americas. The museum is now under the umbrella organization of the Autry National Center. Its collections represent Native American cultures from Alaska to South America, including Pre-Columbian pottery and textiles, Hispanic folk and decorative arts, and materials associated with early California. Programs include school tours, pre-visit curriculum materials, outreach programs, teacher training programs, family programs, college student/adult programs, and the "Dig It!" archaeology program for students.

- **Tongva Memorial** is a tribute to the early people of the Los Angeles Basin. Located on the Leavy Campus of Loyola Marymount University, the memorial offers a panoramic view of the Santa Monica Bay and Mountains. The centerpiece of the memorial is a large concrete medallion designed especially for the site by Mathew Dorame, a Los Angeles area artist and Tongva/Gabrielino Indian. A small ethnobotanic garden accompanies the memorial.

Importance of the Park in Meeting Interpretive and Educational Needs

Interpretation and education are essential to the achievement of the California State Parks *Mission*. Interpretive and educational opportunities enhance the visitor's experience and help them to appreciate the intrinsic values of our parks.

Since the Park site was only open to the public for a limited time, assessment of the importance of the Park in meeting interpretive and educational needs is focused on statewide and district-wide data.

State Parks currently has over 50,000 visitor surveys compiled in a database. Overall, visitor participation in educational and interpretive programs has shown a steady increase. However, seven years of data has also shown a decrease in satisfaction, even though respondents have rated the quality of interpretive programs fairly high. (See Appendix G). This dissatisfaction has been attributed to the fact that there was no increase in staffing or programs to correspond with the significant increase in statewide visitor attendance resulting from the reduction of State Parks entrance fees beginning in 1999.

According to *Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California*, visiting museums and historic sites is rated among the top five recreational activities with high unmet demand in the state. Steadily increasing hours of participation in existing interpretive programs with steadily declining satisfaction with opportunities for learning indicates that visitors to California State Parks want more programs than are currently being offered.

State Parks also conducts a statewide standardized survey of teachers who bring school groups to State Parks. Survey results from the past five years show consistently high marks for the Department's efforts to provide programs that meet school curriculum needs. Participation in K-12 programs, however, is not increasing at the high rates of regular programs. This could be due, in part, to the limited number of school programs that can be scheduled during the peak periods. Those that are offered are continuously filled to capacity.

From 2001-2002, State Parks provided over 19,000 school programs to 665,048 students (California State Parks, Interpretation and Education Division). During that same year, State Parks located in the Los Angeles area provided 585 school programs to 19,178 students. These numbers are modest considering that there are more than 746,000 K-12 students enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second largest district. While State Parks in the Los Angeles area have consistently offered school programs, considering the numbers of school children in the area, there is an enormous unmet need and huge potential to expand our services. (See Appendix H for a five year summary of attendance to State Parks and programs in the Angeles District).

With over 9 million people living in Los Angeles County alone, California State Parks has the potential to reach nearly a third of the state's entire population by providing interpretive and educational opportunities in the Los Angeles area. As a new addition to the State Park System, the Park is in a prime location near the heart of downtown Los Angeles to meet interpretive and educational needs for local and regional schools and residents, as well as for other Californians who visit the area.

2.7 Existing Facilities

Interim Public Use Facilities

The Legislature approved funding in 2002 for the design and installation of Interim Public Use (IPU) Facilities at the project site to allow for public access prior to the completion of a general plan for the Park. IPU facilities were divided into the following two phases:

Phase I - Temporary Information Site (2002)
This development consists of one-half acre portion of the Park parcel as a public information site and informal public open space area. Earthwork and landscaping orient the site toward the impressive view of the downtown Los Angeles skyline. The project provides a small lawn area, several picnic tables, and parking via an access drive off of North Spring Street. The development also provides interpretive panels describing the site's past, and solicits public participation in planning for its future. The Temporary Information Site was open one day per week from 2002 through 2003.

Phase II - Interim Public Use Facilities (2005)
Phase II development includes:

- Interpretive and education features to include exhibits and panels in an outdoor facility, viewing area with patios, overlooks and/or decks;
- Landscaped public use area with turf amphitheater, picnic area, walkways, and miscellaneous site improvements;
- Site barriers that included fencing;
- Temporary restroom facilities;
- Parking, including bus capacity for school groups;
- Site work, erosion control, and temporary site improvements.

Cornfield Interim Public Use Plan

Easements

Generally, there does not appear to be any significant easement constraints on development of the site, although there are a number of groundwater monitoring wells that Union Pacific accesses and monitors under the terms of the acquisition agreement for the property. The easements that do exist on the property are located along its periphery. For a detailed discussion of existing easements, see Chapter 5, Section 5.13.

Traffic and Circulation

The access, circulation, and transportation network around the Park is extensive due to the site's proximity to major freeways, an arterial road system, bus service, rail service, and an urban pedestrian network. The primary elements of the surrounding circulation network include:

Freeways

Access to four freeways is located within two miles of the Park site. These are Interstate 5 (the Golden State Freeway), Interstate 10, U.S. Highway 101, and the Arroyo Seco Parkway (State Route 110, Pasadena Freeway), a California Historic Parkway and the first freeway in the west.

State Route 110 begins in Pasadena and follows the Arroyo Seco southwestward past the Taylor Yard complex to the Interstate 10 (Santa Monica Freeway). At U.S. Highway 101 (the Hollywood Freeway) it becomes the Interstate 110 (Harbor Freeway and Transit), which terminates at the Port of Los Angeles. The State Route 110 on- and off-ramps nearest the site are located at Bishops Road and Hill Street (both are connected to Broadway).

Interstate 5 runs the entire north-south length of the western continental United States from the Mexican border to the Canadian border. The Interstate 5 on- and off-ramps nearest the site are located at North Main Street.

Arterial Streets

North Broadway and North Spring Street provide the primary access to the Park site from downtown Los Angeles, Chinatown, Solano Canyon, and Lincoln Heights. Currently, all vehicular access to the site originates from North Spring Street or Baker Street.

Parking

Adjacent street parking is available along North Spring Street and its connecting neighborhood streets as well as Baker Street. Future improvements planned for North Spring Street will continue to provide street parking adjacent to the Park. Future development of the nearby Little Joe's parcel at North Broadway at College Street may include a new city parking structure.

Bus Service

Five Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) bus routes serve the site area of West/Central Los Angeles. These routes travel on the edge of the site on North Broadway. Additional access east to El Monte is available on bus number 76. Access south to Blue Line light rail service and to Long Beach is available on bus number 58. Access to the Park by bus from other areas of Los Angeles requires transfers from other MTA bus routes.

Rail

The MTA Gold Line, running from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to Sierra Madre Villa in Pasadena, provides regional light rail service to the Park. The Gold Line traverses the length of the property along the northwest boundary. Currently, there is a Chinatown Metro station located at 901 North Spring Street at College Street that provides close pedestrian access to the Park. MTA bus lines 58 and 76 connect to this station. Union Station, with Amtrak passenger service, is located less than a mile from the site.

Trails

Currently, no hiking, biking, or equestrian trails connect to the Park site. However, in August 2000, a 1.4 mile segment of the L.A. River Bikeway opened from Los Feliz Boulevard to Fletcher Drive (less than 100 feet from the Taylor Yard Parcel G-1) located along the western bank about one mile north of the Park site, upstream of the Arroyo Seco confluence. This bike path will eventually run from the Sepulveda Basin (and past the east end of the Park) to Long Beach via the L.A. River. In December 1999 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously moved to take the lead on connecting the L.A. River and Arroyo Seco Bikeway with downtown's Union Station. The bikeway will traverse the Park site, either within the Gold Line right-of-way or perhaps through the 32-acre park property.

Urban Pedestrian Network

Downtown Los Angeles, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, Olvera Street, Chinatown, the William Mead housing area, and Lincoln Heights are all within walking distance of the Park. Pedestrian access along the length of the Park's southeastern boundary will be enhanced by the City's proposed North Spring Street improvements and promenade. This improvement project is planned in a 35-foot City of Los Angeles easement on North Spring Street. The enhancement project is part of the Alameda District Plan, and when completed, will enhance pedestrian, bus, and bicycle corridors adjacent to the Park boundaries. Access across the L.A. River from Lincoln Heights is provided by the North Broadway and North Spring Street bridges. There is no existing pedestrian

access to the Los Angeles River or along the length of the northwestern boundary because of the Metrolink and Gold Line light rail rights-of-way.

Utilities and Public Services

All existing municipal utility services that are available for future park development are located along North Spring Street. This includes services for sanitary sewer, storm drain sewer, potable water, electrical power, telephone, and solid waste disposal. Initial water and electrical power service to the Park site has been established by the Interim Public Use project. No utilities are known to cross the site. See Chapter 5 for more details on utilities.

Police Protection Services
The Los Angeles Police Department provides police protection services for the site. The closest police substation is located at 823 N. Hill Street, ¼ mile from the Park.

Fire Protection Services
The primary fire protection provider for the Park is the City of Los Angeles Fire Department Station No. 4 located at 800 North Main Street, less than 1/2 mile from the Park.

Existing Community Services
The site is within Los Angeles Unified School District's Belmont Planning Area. There are three elementary schools close to the Park: Castelar in Chinatown, Ann Street at William Mead, and Solano Canyon. There is no middle school in the immediate area, and many Chinatown middle school students are bused to the San Fernando Valley.

Library services are provided by the City of Los Angeles Public Library system and include a Central Library, more than 60 branch libraries, and several bookmobiles. The Los Angeles Public Library is also a major resource for individuals, libraries, and other organizations throughout the United States.

2.8 Planning and Environmental Influences

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

Regional Planning Influences

Consideration of regional context is important in any discussion about future land use and facilities at the site. When planning this park, it is important to understand the intrinsic values and the social, topographical, economic, natural, and cultural relationship the Park has to the surrounding region.

Surrounding Land Uses and Community Characteristics

The immediate area is primarily dedicated to regional industrial uses (46%), public services/open space (22%), streets (19%), and commercial uses (9%). Industrial uses surround the site, most densely on the southeastern border, although there are also a few residential neighborhoods intermixed with the industry. The development of industries along rail corridors is common because the rail lines facilitated the transportation of goods. Currently, the Metrolink Commuter line runs adjacent to the Los Angeles River, just east of the Park.

The southern boundary of the Park is along North Spring Street. The character of this area is currently defined by industrial uses. Situated two blocks to the south is the William Mead Housing complex, the area's first low income housing project and home to approximately 2,500 primarily Latino residents. The Ann Street elementary school (K-6) is also nearby.

The northern edge of the Park is bordered by North Broadway, Elysian Park and the Solano Canyon neighborhood. A late 1920s residential development, the modest homes in this community are surrounded by Elysian Park and the Historic Arroyo Seco Parkway. The Park site is also adjacent to the Chinatown community. Chinatown consists of a mixture of commercial and residential uses with a relatively high level of pedestrian usage.

The northeast end of the Park is defined by utility and rail easements, the Los Angeles River, and the North Broadway Bridge. The Los Angeles River is approximately 350 feet wide and is designated as Open Space. To the east, across the river, is the Lincoln Heights neighborhood.

The area surrounding the Park reflects the rich heritage of Los Angeles: remnants of the city's first irrigation system, the *zanja madre*; historic structures such as the nearby 1883 Capitol Milling building; and Chinatown and ethnically diverse neighborhoods.

There is a revitalization occurring in the civic center, Chinatown area, and in the restoration efforts focusing on the L.A. River. Although the population of downtown Los Angeles has declined over the last 30 years, there has been a great increase in all types of development during the past several years due to this revitalization trend. Millions of square feet of privately owned high rise office space have been constructed in the western section of downtown and the center of business and financial activity in Los Angeles has shifted from older areas around Spring Street to the west side. Although this has become the area

of major office, hotel, and retail construction, the east side of downtown has also experienced a resurgence of activity and continues to serve as an important retail center.

Recent development in the downtown area includes the County Health building, City Hall East, the Criminal Courts building, the Hall of Records, the 133-acre Bunker Hill Redevelopment Project, the Los Angeles Convention Center, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Additional residential, office, and retail developments are proposed in the civic center, which will contribute to an emerging mixed-use urban neighborhood.

Many redevelopment projects are also proposed near the Park. Future proposals include: adaptive reuse (housing and studio development) of the historic Capitol Milling building complex, which is located adjacent to the Park at the southwest end; a mixed use development for the Little Joe's building on College Street; an intermodal facility that will provide parking at the Blossom Plaza site; the Homeboy Bakery, a part of Homeboy Industries, to be located across from the Chinatown Transit Plaza; the California Endowment Foundation's headquarters relocation to Alameda Street; the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' Spring Street Center for Environmental Education and Training on North Spring Street, directly across from the Park; and the City's plans for redevelopment and enhancement of North Spring Street. All of these developments and activities are integral components of the expanding downtown community infrastructure.

Potential Park Visitor Profiles and Numbers

It is anticipated that park visitors will be comprised of two primary groups. The first will be Angelenos, or residents of Los Angeles County. This group is projected to include residents from the neighborhoods surrounding the Park as well as students and instructors from the area's schools and colleges. It may also include residents, employees, and visitors from the downtown area who use the rail line and bike trails to seek the open space and activities offered by the Park. The second group is comprised of visitors from out of the area, which includes residents of Southern California, other Californians, and travelers from other states and countries.

One nearby historic site, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, may be considered a comparable type of recreation area whose visitation might reflect what is likely to occur at the new State Park. An estimated one million people visit this historical monument annually, with approximately 300,000 participating in the site's interpretive house museum tour programs.

Population Trends

The changing demographic patterns of Southern California cities, as well as regions from outside this area, will affect visitor needs, the types of activities, and demand for recreational open space and educational opportunities offered at the Park. Within easy traveling distance are the communities of Solano Canyon,

Chinatown, Elysian Heights, Lincoln Heights, and Downtown Los Angeles. The current shift in zoning from less industry to increased housing, office space and retail is changing the character of this area and will increase the desire for open space and recreation opportunities.

Recent Land Acquisitions

In December 2001 and 2003, State Parks purchased over 58 acres of land along the Los Angeles River known as Taylor Yard parcels G-1 and D. These properties will become a new State Recreation Area, proposed as Los Angeles River State Park, which will become an important element in the developing river greenway from the San Fernando foothills to the Pacific Ocean. A future bike path linking the Taylor Yard parcels to the Park is proposed.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials are existing environmental influences that have important planning considerations for the future development of the Park.

The history of the Park site is described in detail in Section 2.2, Cultural Resources. The recent predominately industrial use of the site, which is detailed in Chapter 5, Environmental Analysis, contributed to the contamination of soil and groundwater. That contamination and the ensuing remediation are summarized below. Detailed information can be found in Section 5.6, Significant Environmental Effects and Mitigation.

Site Investigations

Various environmental site investigations have been performed at the site since 1989, including collection and analysis of soil, groundwater, and soil gas samples and installation of groundwater monitoring wells. Based on these investigations, several areas of concern were identified within the 32-acre parcel. Widespread contamination over the entire site is possible due to spills and releases from railyard operations, including potential impacts from pesticide/herbicide applications. Industrial activities on the 8-acre parcel to the north have resulted in contamination that is contributing to groundwater contamination under the project site.

Soils: The results of soil sampling indicated possible metal contamination (arsenic) and total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) contamination. Deeper soils on the 8-acre parcel to the north have elevated levels of TPH and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that may have migrated to the project site.

Groundwater: Groundwater is contaminated in the vicinity of the 8-acre parcel to the north. The compounds detected in groundwater are TPH as diesel, gasoline and oil, VOCs from gasoline, such as benzene, toluene, xylene,

ethylbenzene, and MTBE[1], and chlorinated VOCs (DCA, PCE, and TCE)[2]. These compounds are also detected in wells on the 32-acre parcel, which are still part of an active quarterly groundwater monitoring system. The presence of contamination in groundwater may affect future use of the project site, if VOCs volatilizing from the groundwater reach the shallow soil.

Soil Gas: Areas of elevated soil gas readings occur on the project site and on the 8-acre parcel to the north where ongoing soil vapor extraction is occurring.

Between 1988 and 2000, several areas were excavated to remove contaminated soils, underground storage tanks, and other structures. Based on additional site sampling conducted in 2001, it was determined that soil at the site still contained chemical constituents that posed a potential risk to human health. Localized areas of soil exceeded the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) screening levels for arsenic, lead, and petroleum hydrocarbons. A Remedial Action Workplan was developed with oversight from DTSC to address removal of the areas of impacted soil.

From December 2002 through February 2003, soil was excavated from 20 locations within the project site. Confirmation samples were collected from the floors and walls of the excavations and tested for the contaminants of concern. Additional soil was excavated, if necessary, until the soil tested below the clean-up levels for the contaminants of concern.

In 2003, the DTSC approved the soil remediation work. DTSC stated that: "*Except for the groundwater, DTSC has determined that the Site has been remediated to allow for unrestricted land use and that No Further Action for soil is required. Therefore, the Site is now suitable for park development.*"

[1] MTBE: Methyl tertiary butyl ether: a gasoline additive. Long term exposure effects on humans is not known at this time.

[2] Chlorinated organic compounds: DCA: Dichloroethane, a common degreaser, and PCE and TCE : perchloroethylene (PERC or tetrachloroethene) and trichloroethene are common dry cleaning solvents and degreasers. DCA and PCE and may cause cancer in humans.

Looking southwest to the Park site, from North Broadway, with downtown Los Angeles in the distance.

3. ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Advisory Committee Recommendations Report

3.2 Cultural History and Historic Significance

3.3 Education and Interpretation

3.4 Visitor Needs

3.5 Connectivity

3.6 Recreation Activities and Open Space Protection

3.7 Transportation, Parking, and Accessibility

3.8 Operational Facilities and Public Safety

3.9 Multiple Plans, Studies, Expectations, and Perceptions

3.10 Fiscal Challenges

3. ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

The following is a summary of the major issues identified during the general plan process. These and other issues were evaluated for their possibilities and potential effects in shaping the future of this park. Goals and guidelines appear in Chapter 4, The Plan section, which provide guidance for park management, development, and future planning efforts in response to these issues.

The key planning issues that were considered during this general plan process were:

1. Advisory Committee Recommendations Report
2. Cultural History and Historic Significance
3. Education and Interpretive Programs and Facilities
4. Visitor Needs (diversity of income, age, language, and ethnicity)
5. Connectivity (physical, social and visual connections)
6. Recreation Activities and Open Space Protection
7. Transportation, Parking, and Accessibility
8. Operational Facilities and Public Safety
9. Multiple Plans, Studies, Expectations, and Perceptions
10. Fiscal Challenges

3.1 Advisory Committee Recommendations Report

The Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee was directed by Senate Bill 1177 to prioritize a list of recommendations for both interim and permanent land uses and facilities at the Park site. In April 2003, the Advisory Committee presented a Recommendations Report to the State Parks Director outlining a long term vision and essential themes for park development. The four essential themes outlined enhancements for a natural and cultural environment that also enriched the lives of the surrounding communities and statewide visitors. The four essential themes are:

- Connectivity
- Cultural/Historical
- Recreation
- Transportation

The challenge for State Parks was to develop a general plan for the Park that supported the *Mission* of California State Parks, the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee Recommendations Report, and the general public's (statewide and

local constituents) idea for a long term vision of the Park. The long-term vision began to take shape when the property revealed historical and cultural significance. State Parks recommended the Park be classified as a State Historic Park. The general public and Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee supported this recommendation. By March 2004, the four essential themes from the Recommendations Report and the General Plan preferred park concept began to evolve into a long term vision for park development. This vision and the park concept is presented in Chapter 4.

3.2 Cultural History and Historic Significance

Continual Flow of History vs. One Point in Time

Focusing on certain cultural artifacts or building reconstructions of structures formerly on the Park site may emphasize the history presented to visitors to one particular time period. State Parks strives to use the existing cultural resources and historical stories and associations at the Park in a way that best illustrates and provides context to the greater story of Los Angeles' cultural history, both past and present, as well as looking at the L.A. story and experience as it moves into the future.

The history of Los Angeles is as broad and complex as any subject matter yet undertaken by California State Parks at any of its historical park units. The story of Los Angeles' meteoric rise from frontier outpost to urban megalopolis is one of worldwide significance. The history of Los Angeles, its people, industries, development/design, and economic influence on California and the world is immense. This cultural history is also sometimes controversial and intertwined with myths and legends that have often obscured the complete story. Many educational institutions, programs, and scholars are currently studying this fascinating history.

Planning for this park presents opportunities to coordinate with many others to provide an inclusive account of the area. Park planning should consider the existing cultural resources at the site and evaluate their importance within the greater Los Angeles historical context. The Park could bring together the many different stories about Los Angeles that are scattered throughout many locations in the region to be told one place as one comprehensive saga. The flow of history is explored in the interpretive themes established for the Park.

Potential Reconstruction of Historic Buildings and Structures

Reconstructing earlier buildings and structures may or may not be appropriate, but should be considered in establishing long-term resource protection, park facility development, and interpretive goals.

During the planning efforts for this park, the idea of reconstruction of historic buildings or structures previously located on the site was discussed. There have been differing views about the focus of interpretation of cultural history and

building reconstruction at the Park site. Several individuals and groups suggested the best development "style" for the property would be to reconstruct one of the larger, more architecturally significant buildings, such as the River Station Depot/Hotel building. Others rejected this concept both from its potential to minimize open space at the Park and because it might potentially limit the Park's focus to that of the early rail yard period. In addition to considering these local concerns, California State Parks should assess the feasibility of undertaking historic reconstructions.

3.3 Education and Interpretive Programs and Facilities

Multiple perspectives and engaging opportunities are needed at the Park in order to sustain community and visitor support for interpretation and education programs.

Historic places are transforming into venues for civic engagement and public dialogue, expanding their interpretation to include multiple perspectives, and exploring the present-day implications of their histories. Telling "the whole story" can provide park visitors with a deeper understanding of the past. The Park's rich and diverse cultural past includes a number of perspectives such as ethnic, labor, socio-economic, gender, and age. The way stories are collected and told needs to be balanced, reflecting a variety of perspectives, such as those by academics and culture bearers.

There is a growing trend by the public to identify interpretive activities as recreation. Among the top recreational activities that Californians participate in (including recreational walking, visiting a museum or historic site, picnicking, nature and wildlife study, attending outdoor cultural events, and bicycling), several have the potential to be developed into interpretive programs and related facilities for the Park.

The Los Angeles area has many museums, cultural areas, historic sites, and other places of learning that provide programs related to the city's heritage. A better understanding of how visitor needs are being met at these various sites is essential. In planning this park, it is also important to evaluate the potential of providing a venue that interprets the complete story of Los Angeles history and its statewide significance.

Goals and guidelines are established in Chapter 4 that will guide interpretation, visitor activities, programs, and future facilities development.

3.4 Visitor Needs (diversity of income, age, language, and ethnicity)

The dense urban environment surrounding the Park is characterized by a very diverse population reflecting the rich cultural heritage that defines Los Angeles and much of California. California State Parks strives to be responsive to the needs of this diverse population.

These potential visitors from the surrounding communities include: a high population of Asians and Hispanics, many who live in poverty and who are newcomers to the State; a high number of residents who are not English language proficient; people of various ages, from children to seniors; and a rising influx of residents in the redeveloped areas of the downtown city center who may be higher-income professionals. It is anticipated that once the Park is open, many people from these neighborhoods, as well as a great diversity of out-of-town visitors, will use the Park as a place to relax and recreate. Identifying methods for removing barriers to language, education, and economic class differences is essential if the Park is to provide meaningful experiences that meet the unique needs of the community as well as echo the potential conceptual/historical/interpretive themes of the Park. Ensuring that visitors feel comfortable and at ease is a critical component in serving these diverse audiences.

The Park has an opportunity to explore innovative ways to communicate with their visitors in order to reach diverse audiences that would not otherwise receive the park message and to reduce the barriers of economic class differences in educational settings. These ideas may be incorporated into interpretive program development. Multi-lingual interpretation that will serve audiences that are diverse in ethnicity, cultural background, and language could be provided. Multi-lingual interpretation is also important in making activities, exhibits, and programs accessible to diverse audiences as well as enriching the character of activities that can occur at the Park. Interpretation (including programs and activities) and facilities should also accommodate the needs of all age groups.

3.5 Connectivity (physical, social and visual connections)

Open Space and Public Space Connectivity

Due to the industrial nature of the parcel and the surrounding area, there is little or no connection with the emerging regional green open space network (including Elysian Park, Los Angeles River greenway, and the Arroyo Seco

corridor) as well as with other regional recreation, cultural, interpretation, and public space networks.

Establishing the Park as an integral and important part of the regional green open space network is a critical issue in creating this new and unique urban park. The 32-acre Park site is physically separated from existing parks and the Los Angeles River. Creation of the Park can, however, establish meaningful connections to existing regional open space. Along with that, park connectivity with the regional green open space network could help address the disparity of local park and State Park distribution in the Los Angeles region. The proximity of the park site to the Los Angeles River presents an opportunity to develop a symbolic link with the river environment. The Park also has the potential for establishing a Downtown link to the emerging Los Angeles River greenway which will extend from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The Park can, in fact, become a vital integrated element of the Los Angeles River greenway.

There is a unique opportunity at the Park to create a connecting focal point for many elements: green open space and outdoor urban space; recreation and learning environments; stories of the past and the future of Los Angeles; and vibrant ethnic neighborhoods within an influential international city.

To establish a connection and beneficial relationship with the community, park staff living in the community would be better equipped to establish relationships with local organizations, public agencies, neighborhoods, schools, and to understand and respond to park-wide planning issues. A well-trained and culturally sensitive staff capable of providing and encouraging multiple perspectives will be needed.

Connectivity to the surrounding communities and landscapes can also be increased by enhancing scenic opportunities at the Park. There are spectacular views from the Park site to the Los Angeles downtown skyline. Views to open, vegetated landscapes, such as Elysian Park, the Verdugo Hills, and the San Gabriel Mountains, are also visible from the Park and provide a respite from the predominantly urban landscape surrounding the site. The distinctive Broadway Bridge can be seen in views to the northeast and provides opportunities to visually link the park site to the Los Angeles River corridor. Many opportunities exist to strengthen the connections to the surrounding communities and landscapes by preserving and enhancing these views and interpreting their significance to the park visitor.

Guidelines for connectivity and aesthetic resources are provided in the Plan section of this document.

3.6 Recreation Activities and Open Space Protection

Open Space Protection
The Park site is viewed as premium open space. The plan must determine the appropriate combination of natural and recreational open space and park facility development to serve visitor and operational needs.

During the planning process, it became very apparent that the stakeholder groups involved in planning this park highly value the open space quality of the park property. A major focus of the park planning effort is to maximize this precious open space, while at the same time provide the necessary facilities for park operations, maintenance, education, and visitor services. The historical significance of the site, and its opportunity to help communicate the larger story of Los Angeles' cultural history, resulted in suggestions from both stakeholders and park planners to consider an interpretive facility for the Park. Although none of the buildings from the historic period of the site still exist, reconstruction of buildings is a consideration. These facilities could be incorporated within the park plan and designed to be functional and unobtrusive. Several historic buildings are also located adjacent to or near the property. Interpretive facilities could be developed at nearby off-site locations, sharing similar facilities in partnership with other local agencies or State Parks. It would benefit both the proponents of maximizing open space and those looking for larger interpretive or operational facilities for the Park to consider the benefits and constraints of these off-site buildings or parcels. This may also provide new opportunities for partnerships with local property owners and the City of Los Angeles. The benefits of the 32-acre park parcel for open space would also provide on-site and off-site interpretive and historic preservation advantages to visitors. An appropriate and creative approach is needed to fulfill historic and interpretive objectives and diverse public open space needs at the Park.

Formal (organized) vs. Informal Recreation
The urbanized areas surrounding the Park generate high demand for sports fields and facilities to accommodate formal sports programs such as soccer, softball, and baseball. Throughout the planning process, supporters of organized field sports have communicated that there is a regional shortage of adequate sports fields and facilities in the area. These surrounding communities are also predominately built out, leaving little open space or vacant land on which new sports fields can be developed. Some stakeholders (neighborhoods and field sports organizations) see the development of the Park as a possible solution to relieving the existing shortage of fields for organized sports activities.

The *Mission* of the State Park System is to protect and enhance the State's natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological resources while providing for public

recreation that is compatible with and enhances the public's appreciation of those resources. Generally, recreation improvements that are not dependent on or do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the Park's resource values are not permitted. Sports fields are not considered resource-based recreation because they do not support recreational activities that are dependent on the cultural resources (one of the Park's most significant resources) of the site.

While State Park lands are not typically used to provide these types of recreation facilities, the combination the Park's urban setting and the extraordinary regional needs suggest that consideration should be given to the request for providing open space areas for a variety of informal recreation activities. Fields for formal organized sports program activities are not considered appropriate for this State Historic Park. Management issues relating to the development of recreation areas and support facilities are addressed in this plan.

Recreation Demand / Types of Recreation

Increased recreational demand may put pressure on State Parks to consider new or expanded facilities or recreational uses that would not be compatible with the historic and interpretive facilities and programs intended for the Park.

In order to manage the quality of the recreational experience while balancing the cultural, natural and recreational opportunities, there should be consideration of the changing demographics in user populations and evolving recreational trends. As demand for recreation programs and facilities increase at the Park, as indicated by predictions in population growth, maintenance of the grounds and facilities may not keep up with the visitor demands. Partnership opportunities with local communities and interpretive messages about park stewardship, as well as continual awareness of current recreation trends should also be considered.

Local vs. Statewide Interests

There has been considerable interest and involvement by the community in planning the Park. During the planning process, there has been a very strong preference by many stakeholders toward addressing local needs. For many residents, when the Park is developed, it will be a short walk, bike ride, or drive from their homes. The Park's location in an area that is known to be underserved by recreation facilities and recreation open space further contributes to a community perception that this is a local park.

Although the existence of this park project can largely be attributed to the efforts of a committed group of stakeholders who would not accept further industrial development in the area and on this particular site, the property was ultimately purchased by the State because it was deemed to have resource values that warranted its acquisition as a park project of the State Park System. As such, State Parks is required to protect and improve the site to meet the needs of the statewide population, not only those residents who live nearby. The vision for the Park, and any subsequent improvements to implement that vision,

needs to accommodate a more geographically diverse, and potentially larger, number of visitors than the surrounding local community.

The perceived conflict between local versus statewide focus is an issue that is addressed in this plan. Providing for the local recreation needs of the community while also serving statewide interests is a key issue considered during this planning process.

3.7 Transportation, Access, and Parking

Transportation has been associated with the Park site in many forms – from the railroads of the past (River Station), to the recent construction of the adjacent Gold Line Metro, the arterial streets connecting to adjacent communities, the nearby freeways, and the future bicycle route along the L.A River, within very close proximity to the Park. A number of physical and operational characteristics combine to make access and circulation core issues for the Park. Current key considerations include safe access from adjacent communities, connections to regional transportation systems, an emphasis on multi-modal transportation, and parking availability.

Park planning and design, including interpretive programming, has many opportunities to recognize and incorporate this important site history, support the use of multi-modal transportation, and provide convenient connections to regional transportation systems.

Access: Pedestrian access to the Park is a critical component in this plan, especially for access from the surrounding neighborhoods. Promoting safe visitor access to and from the Park is critical to the future visitor use and the Park's success.

Currently, primary access to the Park site is along the southern edge of the property, on North Spring Street, a very busy transportation route. Visitors from the adjacent neighborhoods, or those who might park in the area, must cross this busy street to access the Park, encountering heavy traffic and potentially dangerous safety situations. Visitors arriving to the Park from the Gold Line Metro station, those parking along North Spring Street, or pedestrians walking across the North Spring Street bridge must walk along this busy street.

Opportunities for partnerships and coordination with the City of Los Angeles to provide pedestrian amenities and safety features (i.e. crosswalks, signalized intersections, and other traffic calming measures) along this heavily used transportation route is a priority in order to provide safe connections for all visitors as well as to surrounding communities.

The entire northern edge of the Park, adjacent to Chinatown and the Solano Canyon neighborhoods, is bordered by the Gold Line MTA rail tracks, forming a

barrier and restricting direct visitor access to the Park site along North Broadway. Planning should consider innovative solutions and partnerships with the MTA and City of Los Angeles to provide more direct and convenient park access from these adjacent neighborhoods.

Connections to regional transportation systems/multi-modal emphasis: There are a variety of transportation modes that can be used to access the Park, including train, bus, bicycle, and auto. Public transportation, bicycle and walking may be the most used transportation to the Park from the surrounding communities. Within the Park, circulation will be focused on pedestrians and bicycle users. The L.A. River greenway trail, when completed in this reach of the river, will provide a pedestrian and bicycle recreation and transportation connector to the river, through the Park, with links to the downtown area. A key issue will be the location and completion of trail connections for optimum visitor accessibility.

Emphasis on multi-modal transportation to the Park, focusing on transportation linkages to connecting transportation systems, including public transportation, as well as maximizing recreational open space, will be key planning considerations. Through linkages with existing and future transportation systems the Park can connect the emerging regional L.A. River greenway with a revitalized urban open space network in the historic heart of Los Angeles and in the city center. Partnering with adjacent property owners to provide these connections, including the City of Los Angeles and the MTA, will be imperative.

Parking: The limited amount of park area and the intent of park planners and other stakeholders to maximize recreation open space indicates that the land area for parking is at a premium. Land set aside for on-site parking will be competing with potential recreation uses.

Planning will consider appropriate parking options for park visitors, while providing an appropriate level of on-site parking for accessibility purposes and other specialized needs. Realizing the need for vehicle parking and the emphasis on maximizing recreation space, planning efforts will consider creative and alternative opportunities for vehicle parking for park visitors.

3.8 Operational Facilities and Public Safety

Multi-purpose facilities

Since the acquisition of the Park property, development and use of the Temporary Information Site, and during General Plan preparation, park rangers and maintenance staff travel approximately 45 minutes to patrol and maintain the area. When the Park is fully developed and open to the public there will be a need for on-site personnel to provide for visitor services and public safety, carry out park operations and maintenance functions, and to manage and protect sensitive resources.

Park facilities that can provide a combination of uses, including support services for park operations and maintenance, visitor contact, staff housing, and park surveillance, are needed for this State Park in an urban environment. The presence of on-site staff will be essential for establishing a safe environment that is a key factor to the long-term viability and success of the Park. Providing multi-purpose facilities on site, or elsewhere, will also maximize the open space on the Park site.

Public Safety and Crime

Located in a heavily urbanized area, this park could experience the effects of urban safety and crime issues such as vandalism, gangs, and drugs. Park planning will consider visitor, staff, and neighborhood safety as a priority.

The concept of defensible space is often used by planners in urban areas where safety and crime issues may be a concern. Defensible space commonly refers to architectural and environmental design used to reduce crime by increasing observation and ownership. When public space is used in ways that make people feel safe and secure, social interactions – a primary source of crime deterrence - are more likely to occur. When people feel safe they are more likely to interact with one another and intervene when crime occurs. In that way, community is the first line of defense for crime control. Techniques such as lighting, fencing, and landscaping can define spaces in ways that promote community safety by decreasing criminal activity. The concept of defensible space is most effective when used in conjunction with other programs, such as park activities and neighborhood watches, in order to reduce crime.

The General Plan considered a variety of elements that may contribute to increased safety, including community involvement in park planning, programs, and volunteer work, as well as adequate presence of park staff. Design elements to enhance safety, providing adequate emergency vehicle access, and other defensible space strategies are also issues that must be addressed.

3.9 Multiple Plans, Studies, Expectations, and Perceptions

The Park site and the downtown Los Angeles area have been studied for a number of years, yet the site still does not have a tangible plan for the future.

Over the past several years, numerous planning studies focusing on this site and the downtown Los Angeles area have been prepared, with emphasis on various enhancements, from restoring the natural resources associated with the L.A. River environment, to major urban development projects. There are a wide variety of stakeholders, voicing a number of divergent perspectives, expectations, needs, and desires for the area. With the acquisition of the Park

site, State Parks is in the position to gather and use much of this valuable information and to develop partnerships with the academic institutions, associations, stakeholder groups, and communities that have been comprehensively studying this area.

3.10 Fiscal Challenges

In this economic time of scarce resources and fiscal challenges, California State Parks must seek out opportunities for creative partnerships to provide adequate funding for park development and maintenance.

As with many public agencies and private organizations, funding for project development, operations, maintenance, staffing, and project enhancements is decreasing each year, yet the responsibilities and public expectations often increase. California State Parks must respond to these challenges by seeking partnerships and creative funding possibilities in order to pursue the vision of a world-class park and to meet our obligations. Park planning may also include ideas for innovative concession opportunities.

4. THE PLAN

4.1 Declaration of Purpose

4.2 Vision Statement

4.3 Park Principles

4.4 Preferred Park Concept

4.5 Goals and Guidelines

4.6 Managing Visitor Capacity

4.7 Future Studies

4. THE PLAN

The Plan section establishes the long-range vision and purpose for the Park and lays out the Park Principles, Preferred Park Concept and Goals and Guidelines for future development.

4.1 Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of a unit of the California State Parks system is determined by the prime resource values and opportunities for achieving the Department of Parks and Recreation's goals. These goals are expressed in the Department's *Mission* statement. The Declaration of Purpose is the guiding statement (unique to this park) that provides direction for park management and the preparation of this General Plan.

Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of Los Angeles State Historic Park is to provide the public with a place to learn about and to celebrate the ethnically diverse history and cultural heritage of Los Angeles, with an emphasis on its evolution to an economic and industrial metropolis of the 21st Century with extraordinary influence throughout the world. The Park will contribute to the emerging Los Angeles River Greenway, stretching from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The Park will bring a wide range of visitors together to examine and experience the complete story of Los Angeles. It will be a sanctuary from the dense, urban environment that surrounds it. The Park will connect abstract historical and social patterns to the personal experiences of Angelenos and visitors from throughout the state, the nation, and the world.

A Declaration of Purpose is required by the California Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2(b).

4.2 Vision Statement

The Vision Statement describes experience of visitors and what the Park should look like in the future. The development of Los Angeles State Historic Park is a "once-in-a-century opportunity" to create a verdant place in the heart of the city where visitors from all social, economic and cultural backgrounds can discover and celebrate the rich cultural connection to Los Angeles history. The park will act as a critical building block in an urban renaissance of the historic heart of the city, a recognition of the richness of our past, and the enormous possibilities of our future.

Vision

Visitors to Los Angeles State Historic Park will enjoy a rejuvenating respite from the urban landscape in an open space environment. Visitors will experience the environment through interpretive media and landscape features that recall the historical events of the region. Educational programs and activities will appeal to the interests of many visitors, from the local to the global community, will be varied in media and scope, and will emphasize the City of Los Angeles' cultural, historic, and commercial heritage.

4.3 Park Principles

The Park Principles establish a framework for developing the Preferred Park Concept and amplify the brief Vision Statement.

- **Develop a World Class Park**
  Establish the Park as an historical and cultural center in the heart of Los Angeles attracting visitors from all over the world.

- **Create an Open and Inviting Park Environment**
  Ensure that the Park serves as a gathering place where people from all social, economic, and cultural backgrounds can meet and interact.

- **Promote a "Touchstone" Landscape for Reflecting on Los Angeles' Natural and Cultural Heritage**
  Make this historical site a place of inspiration, reflection, and appreciation of history and nature through the interpretation of the Los Angeles River, focusing on its role in shaping the story of Los Angeles.

- **Develop the Park as a Prime Interpretive or Educational Experience**
  Create a range of opportunities for visitors to learn about the city's cultural heritage through a variety of innovative interpretive and educational facilities and programs.

- **Emphasize the Importance of the Historic Site to Los Angeles, California, and the World**
  Create educational features that describe the relationships between the Park's history, the history of the surrounding communities, and the City of Los Angeles.

4.4 Preferred Park Concept

The Preferred Park Concept is entitled "Los Angeles Flow of History." This concept will be implemented through land uses and interpretive programs based on the unifying, primary, and secondary themes (see Section 4.5 Goals and Guidelines, Education and Interpretation).

Los Angeles Flow of History Concept

The State Park site will be transformed from a former rail yard and brownfield to a verdant park and gathering place to examine, experience, and celebrate more than 10,000 years of the history and culture of Los Angeles. The Park will be a portal to the cultural beginnings of Los Angeles and its transformation into one of

the world's great urban centers. The Park will provide opportunities to learn about the entire range of Los Angeles history, from its natural riverine origins to its contemporary urban context. This includes the story of the struggle to avert additional industrial warehouse development in central Los Angeles and to acquire and establish a unique urban park on the site. This concept focuses on the experiences of those who inhabited the area and are a part of its diverse heritage. The Flow of History concept also creates a setting for activities that enhance the surrounding neighborhoods.

California State Parks will create a park with opportunities to learn about and celebrate the "Story of Los Angeles". The entire park will be an interpretive and cultural facility as well as an inviting open space. Because the Park is located in an urban environment, safety and security are a priority for visitors, staff, and surrounding neighbors. The Park will be an essential part of the urban revitalization of the historic heart of Los Angeles, a vital component of the emerging Los Angeles River Greenway, and a gathering place for many communities.

Preferred Park Concept Elements

The Park will consist of several kinds of land uses. The specific locations and configurations of these land uses will be determined through a competitive design process that will take place in the future. The land uses to be included in the Park are: Cultural Activities, Recreation Open Space, Garden Open Space, and Natural Open Space.

Cultural Activities Area

The Cultural Activities Area will be the place where park visitors learn about the cultural heritage of Los Angeles and California. This area of the Park might include:

- outdoor and indoor gathering spaces;
- visitor information;
- general park orientation; and
- interpretive activities.

The concentration of cultural activities and facilities in this area will provide a gateway for park access. The area can be a park destination and an embarkation point to other areas of the Park via a parkwide thematic Heritage Trail. The design of this area should be consistent and compatible with the Plan's intent to maximize open space within the Park.

Various cultural activities could take place in this area:

- interpretation through lectures, classes, and hands-on activities;
- cultural events and celebrations.

This can be a very active area that offers a high degree of interaction among individual park visitors, families, and groups as well as park staff and volunteers.

The Cultural Activities Area will be the most developed portion of the Park and might include a building in which interpretive/educational classes, lectures, interpretive activities, and special events could occur. This structure could also provide park orientation and visitor information services.

Creative features incorporating interpretive themes in the materials and design of the gathering spaces and associated facilities (such as paving, benches, water features, fencing, signage, landscape, etc.) will reinforce the park concept and help unify the Park. Furthermore, park facilities should provide opportunities for both daytime and evening events.

Recreation Open Space

The Recreation Open Space area will be a place for visitors to enjoy a variety of outdoor informal recreational activities. This area may also be used for special events by itself or in combination with the cultural activities area.

A wide variety of informal recreation activities could take place in this area. These activities can include: informal playfield activities, family and group picnicking, kite-flying, jogging, casual walks, casual bicycling, and just watching the people pass by.

Appropriate facilities in this area should support group, family and individual activities, and include:

- family and group picnic areas;
- trails;
- interpretive features;
- restrooms; and
- shade and wind shelter using tree canopies or shade structures.

The location of trees or shade structures should avoid interfering with desired views from other areas of the Park and should be located at the perimeter of the open space areas to maximize activity space. Limited parking and/or passenger and equipment drop-off areas should be in a nearby convenient location. Flexibility in the design of recreational spaces and facilities will respond to the diversity of the visitors and changing recreational trends.

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for insertion of Figure 4-1, Park Concept Plan.

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for insertion of Figure 4-2, Regional Connectivity Map.

Garden Open Space

The Garden Open Space area will offer a variety of garden experiences. State Parks will involve and coordinate with interested stakeholder groups to plan and develop gardens and garden activities that represent statewide interests.

Various garden activities could be supported in this area:

- observation;
- nature study;
- photography,
- gardening classes;
- demonstrations of traditional uses of plants;
- plants commonly used in other areas or in Los Angeles' past; and
- native, drought tolerant plants.

This area of the Park will also be a place of solitude and quiet contemplation. Interpretive programs will reflect the garden themes and will appeal to visitors of all ages and cultures.

Facilities would be those necessary and appropriate to support garden activities and encourage visitor participation. Facilities may include trails, benches, storage areas, utilities, and interpretive elements such as outdoor exhibits.

Natural Open Space

The Natural Open Space area will demonstrate the natural habitats that may have once existed in and near the Park site. There will be an emphasis on reestablishing native plant communities which will begin to create a connection to the Los Angeles River. Plants will include those species known to have historically occurred on-site and will include trees, shrubs, sub-shrubs, vines, grasses, and annual wildflowers, as appropriate. In some areas, decorative native plant species will be selected.

In this area, visitors may study nature, observe birds, and learn about the role of natural resources in the cultural heritage of the Los Angeles region. Trails will provide opportunities for discovery and recreation, with interpretive signs describing the native species once found in the Los Angeles region and the efforts to restore and preserve these resource and habitat areas in urban Los Angeles. Interpretive activities and features will:

- educate park visitors about native plants;
- explain how native plants can attract birds and insects;
- show how small natural areas are still significant in urban settings such as the Park; and
- discuss the general ecological and environmental history of the Los Angeles region.

Facilities in this area will enhance the visitor's enjoyment and knowledge of the region's natural heritage. Trails throughout this area will provide spaces for walking and bicycling. Benches, tables, and spur trails to small activity areas will provide opportunities for talks, discussion, or relaxation.

4.5 Goals and Guidelines

The goals and guidelines address existing issues and provide ongoing guidance for the projects that will be undertaken to realize the long-term Vision for the Park.

The following guidelines address managing and interpreting the Park's resources, providing recreational facilities and opportunities, and operating and maintaining the Park. The *Goals* establish the purpose and the *Guidelines* provide the direction that State Parks will consider to achieve these specific goals.

Cultural Resources

The entire 32-acre Park property is currently identified as a recorded archaeological site and is a listed historic site property by the City of Los Angeles. Preliminary research and investigation indicate that the existing cultural resources may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to California State Park's *Mission* to protect and preserve significant cultural resources, state laws to protect state-owned historical resources, such as Public Resources Code 5024, and the purpose for the unit as outlined in its proposed classification and requirements as a State Historic Park, it is essential to implement current Department procedures and professional goals and guidelines for appropriate treatment and protection of these resources.

Although previous and current historical research and archaeological studies have identified existing resources, the full 32-acre property has not been systematically surveyed and tested for archaeological resources. Archaeologists have uncovered significant historical archaeological features and deposits associated with its 120-plus year use as a major rail yard. Prehistoric and proto-historic activities attributed to the Tongva/Gabrielenos are known to have existed nearby but no archaeological materials have yet been found on the site. This does not rule out that such prehistoric or other historic activities, such as the historic *zanja* water system and early agricultural uses, may yet yield archaeological remains here. The potential for discovery of additional subsurface archaeological resources is likely.

State Parks recognizes these archaeological sensitivities and has already implemented protective measures during interim use improvements of the site. Continued study of these existing and potential resources, as well as the need to

constantly update and expand the knowledge of historic activities at the Park property in support of interpretive and educational programs will be a constant for this new historical park unit. Knowledge of other significant resources, historic activities, and events, both adjacent to and near the current park property, will also warrant long-term study to assist with stewardship of cultural resources and potential for future acquisition and partnerships. This should allow State Parks to take an active leadership role in the stewardship of Los Angeles' significant cultural resources in this area.

Goal: Identify, document, evaluate, and interpret cultural resources at the Park.

Guidelines:

Cultural 1: Conduct archaeological surveys, site recordation, testing, and evaluation for cultural resources within the Park. Nominate those resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historical Resources.

Cultural 2: Conduct research on the Park site's history and its association with historic activities, events, groups, individuals, and sites that reflect important trends and peoples that make up Los Angeles' cultural story. Facilitate ongoing research and interpretation of the Park's cultural resources within the broader context of Los Angeles' cultural history.

Cultural 3: Conduct oral histories to help capture the stories and experiences of those who worked or lived at or near the site as well as those who fought to save the property from commercial development.

Cultural 4: Establish academic and scholarly partnerships and enable volunteers to assist in conducting historical research, archaeological fieldwork, site monitoring, and interpretive programs.

Cultural 5: Develop and maintain an archive of historical and ethnographic documents, reports, and research materials pertinent to the resources and interpretive programs at the Park.

Cultural 6: Identify areas, resources, or events in or around the Park with potential significance to Los Angeles through use of historical accounts, oral history interviews, and other means. Document, record, and interpret these areas, resources, or events.

Goal: Protect, stabilize, and preserve significant cultural resources within the Park.

Guidelines:

Cultural 7: California State Parks should follow all standard operating procedures and directives for cultural resource management practices as well as incorporate the latest in professional practices in all operations at the Park.

Cultural 8: Prepare a parkwide Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) to specifically identify, assess, and protect significant cultural resources at the Park. The CRMP should establish specific goals, guidelines, and procedures for the following tasks, in addition to California State Parks' standard operating procedures and directives for cultural resource management:

- Develop and implement park-specific cultural resource management policies using the latest scholarship and most well-researched data available.
- Create protocols for periodic assessments of known archaeological and historic resources. This regular inventory and monitoring should consist of updating recordation documentation, site condition assessments, and treatment recommendations.
- Develop specific measures for assessing the effects of visitor use and park improvements on the long-term preservation status of known resources.
- Promote cooperative research ventures and partnerships with local educational and non-for-profit institutions and other governmental agencies to complement site-management needs within the Park.
- Establish procedures for careful planning of new facilities and park use areas to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects to historical resources within the Park.

Cultural 9: Provide information on the location and treatment requirements of the Park's significant cultural resources to park operations and maintenance staff. Augment this information with cultural resource management training. This should provide staff with tools for monitoring cultural resource conditions and preventing and protecting cultural resources from potential site vandalism.

Cultural 10: Develop criteria for determining which archaeological sites and features are appropriate for on-site public interpretation through excavation and exposure. Assure that such interpretive programs balance site interpretation with protection and preservation as directed in Departmental and professional guidelines for the treatment of cultural resources.

Cultural 11: Assure that all potentially eligible and listed historic properties receive appropriate treatments as outlined by applicable California State Park resource directives and policies and compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

Recreation Resources

The Park should be designed to actively engage visitors through diverse recreational opportunities to restore and "re-create" themselves physically and spiritually from the stresses of urban living and daily life.

Goal: Provide recreational areas in the Park for visitors to improve their health and wellness in harmony with the physical surroundings that are compatible with the natural and historic nature of the Park.

Guidelines:

Recreation 1: Provide a flexible system of open space opportunities that serve a broad cross-section of the City's residents and statewide visitors.

Recreation 2: Integrate potential recreational uses with other operational facilities to ensure that the planning, design and construction preserve and emphasize key elements of the natural and cultural environment.

Recreation 3: Integrate recreational programs with the Park's interpretive programs.

Recreation 4: Provide appropriate recreation opportunities in coordination with others in the regional recreation network (Taylor Yard property, Elysian Park, L.A. River Greenway, city parks, schools, etc.).

Recreation 5: Develop open space areas that provide opportunities for informal sports as well as areas for quiet relaxation and reflection. Fields for formal organized sports program activities are not considered appropriate for this State Historic Park.

Natural Resources

Watershed and Water Quality

The Park is located within the watershed of the Los Angeles River, which has been heavily modified from its natural state by flood control measures and urban

development. Potential impacts related to the hydrology, geology, and soils within the Park must be considered when site planning or constructing facilities, or when any ground-disturbing activities are planned. Excessive soil erosion and runoff could impact the nearby Los Angeles River, already designated as an impaired water body by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Goal: Promote healthy watershed processes and manage the site to restore and protect natural watershed functions as much as possible within the limits of the urban setting.

Guidelines:

Natural 1: As appropriate or feasible, consider restoration of watershed function, such as restoring natural drainage patterns. Work with local and other government agencies to promote natural restoration of the L.A. River, which includes studies, water quality issues, and recommendations for improvements at the Park.

Natural 2: Identify potential naturally occurring effects to water quality in the Park, such as landslides or debris flows in adjacent upland areas. Determine if these natural processes have been aggravated or accelerated by human activities on-site, and, if so, develop enhancement measures.

Natural 3: Identify and manage any human-made erosion occurring from areas of the Park due to roads, trails, debris piles, or from on-site drainage systems. Reduce concentrated surface water runoff and sediment transport, keep disruption of soils to a minimum, reduce impervious surfaces where feasible, and use proper techniques for water removal from planned roads, parking lots, trails, and buildings. Implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that includes Department-approved Best Management Practices to prevent soil erosion during and after construction.

Natural 4: Evaluate all proposed park projects to ensure they do not degrade surface and groundwater quality and comply with the current edition of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan for the water quality standards and the surface water quality objectives for the Los Angeles River. Increase the understanding of water quality problems in the watershed including the impacts of erosion, urban development, and recreational use. Participate, where feasible, with universities, colleges, agencies, and other researchers to increase the scientific knowledge that could benefit park watershed management and water quality.

Vegetation Management and Landscape Treatments

Due to the unusual circumstances of creating an urban park of statewide significance from a brownfield and former rail yard, vegetation establishment

and landscape treatments at the Park will be unique. The Plan Concept intends that there be a general parkwide vegetation management framework and landscaping strategy that allows for focused vegetation treatment within individual Plan elements.

There are specific site development and vegetation treatment possibilities considered for each of the Park elements such as: grass areas for the Recreation Open Space; possible historical, cultural, or ethnic gardens for the Garden Open Space; native vegetation and habitat establishment for the Natural Open Space; and landscaping in intense activity plaza areas in the Cultural Activities Area. Some landscape treatment possibilities are identified as specific guidelines within each of the Plan elements.

The overarching goal of vegetation management and landscape treatments is to create inspiring places with lasting values that are tied to the site's significant resources and interpretive themes and message. The following goals and guidelines help achieve this goal.

Goal: Vegetation management should establish the Park as an important natural open space in the Los Angeles urban area.

> **Guideline:**
> **Natural 5:** Parkwide vegetation management should establish a native vegetation framework that enables it to become part of the regional Los Angeles River natural open space network and supports the Park's connectivity goals. The framework should use naturalistic native plant associations that will emulate the historic landscape of the Los Angeles Basin and provide a visual identity to the Park. This framework should allow specific landscape treatments for specific areas of the Park that would be compatible with the overall vegetation concept.

Goal: Vegetation management and landscaping should emphasize the creation of sustainable landscapes, including landscapes that will survive with the natural rainfall and can adapt to the microclimate, drainage, and soil conditions of the site.

Guidelines:

Natural 6: Consider plant species with low water and shallow rooting requirements. Landscape planting in improved areas (e.g. picnic areas, plazas, around pathways and structures, etc.), not including specialized garden areas, should use drought tolerant plants or California native species with a focus on plants endemic to the Los Angeles Basin. This would familiarize the public to plant species with low water requirements, the area's biotic heritage, and vegetation that can enhance habitat values for native wildlife species. The use of shallow rooting plants may also be necessary due to localized groundwater contamination from the former rail yard and industrial uses of the site, as well as protection for archaeological resources. Using plants native to the area may encourage further studies and monitoring related to post-brownfield effects on native and horticultural species.

Natural 7: Plants requiring minimum maintenance (pruning and watering) should be emphasized. Consider the use of appropriate stormwater Best Management Practices for maximizing rainwater infiltration.

Natural 8: Because this site has been highly disturbed, plant selection should be based on plants that can tolerate current soil conditions. Consider the use of soil testing and analysis results to determine the appropriate plant selections.

Natural 9: Vegetation management and maintenance should include composting to help reduce landfill usage and increase the sustainability concepts for the Park.

Goal: Provide specialized landscape treatments for project elements that are consistent with the Park Concept.

Guidelines:

Natural 10: Allow for specialized landscape treatments in Park Element areas (i.e. Garden Open Space, Cultural Activities, Recreation Open

Space) that serve interpretive, cultural, or recreation purposes. Such landscaping should use non-invasive vegetation and be compatible with the overall parkwide vegetation management.

Natural 11: Consider a buffer planting area along the Gold Line light rail tracks that provides noise and visual screening as well as providing landscaping suitable for visitor activity.

Natural 12: At specialized areas of the Park, including transition areas such as access points (or gateways) and trail crossings, consider the additional use of other Southern California species, cultivars and hybrids of natives to achieve a greater visual effect.

Non-Native Plant Control

Generally, a non-native plant is a species that is not known to have naturally occurred previously in an area. Invasive non-native plants pose a threat to native species and usually proliferate in the absence of natural ecological processes, often out-competing native plants for valuable resources. Existing vegetation on the Park site is currently dominated by non-native plant species.

Goal: Efforts will address the control of non-native invasive species throughout the Park. Control efforts will focus on those species that detract from the desired Park setting and those species that are highly invasive.

Guidelines:

Natural 13: Develop an invasive non-native plant species management plan and be vigilant about identifying, monitoring, and controlling non-native plant infestations that pose a threat to the establishment and success of native vegetation.

Natural 14: A variety of control methods should be used to best control problem species so that they do not become established at the expense of other desirable vegetation planted on site.

Natural 15: Develop interpretation for park visitors explaining how non-native species can alter all types of vegetation communities. In addition, interpretation should address how non-native plants become established in the absence of a native ecosystem in an urban environment.

Native Wildlife Reestablishment

Goal: Promote the reestablishment of native wildlife and insects at the Park.

Guidelines:

Natural 16: If it is necessary to regulate non-native animal populations in order to reestablish native wildlife and insects at the Park, use methods consistent with the Department Operations Manual (2004), Natural Resource Management section. Invasive non-native animal control is most

effectively accomplished by developing a program to monitor and control non-native pests.

Aesthetic Resources

The Park site provides visitors with an urban open space experience highlighted by a spectacular view of the downtown Los Angeles skyline. Implementation of the following goals and guidelines will help to protect the viewshed and provide consistent design elements and positive aesthetic qualities to the Park.

Goal: Protect and enhance scenic viewsheds and features and preserve the visitor's experience of the surrounding landscape by minimizing adverse impacts to aesthetic resources.

Guidelines:

Aesthetics 1: Landscaping, structures, and other facilities should be sited to be sensitive to scenic views from and through the Park. Facilities should be sited to minimize the impact on views from key viewpoints and to protect and/or emphasize positive scenic views (e.g. views toward the downtown skyline, Broadway Bridge, Elysian Park).

Aesthetics 2: State Parks should work with adjoining jurisdictions regarding land use and development within the Park viewshed that might affect the site and its aesthetic resources. For example, State Parks should coordinate with the City of Los Angeles with the planning and development of the proposed North Spring Street improvements.

Goal: Integrate the Park's vision into the design of park facilities and programs.

Guidelines:

Aesthetics 3: Create design guidelines that establish an architectural vocabulary that can be used for facilities throughout the Park. The intent is to establish a cohesive design theme through the use of similar styles and/or materials. The design of pedestrian bridges, fencing, lighting, trails, signage, and other park infrastructure should be consistent with

the overall design guidelines and with the Park's vision and educational, recreational, and environmental objectives.

Aesthetics 4: Establish access points into the Park and develop design standards for these "gateway" areas that will create a sense of arrival and establish an initial identity and sense of place for the Park. Design standards and guidelines for access points should distinguish primary and secondary gateways.

Aesthetics 5: Create a variety of visitor experiences by providing visitors with positive natural fragrances and sounds, such as the scent of landscape plantings and the sounds of birds and water. Consider buffering traffic and transit line noise with appropriate materials and techniques (for example, the sound of cascading water masking unwanted traffic noise).

Education and Interpretation

Through education and interpretation, the Park has the ability to provide direction, information, experience and stewardship opportunities for visitors. Effective education and interpretation helps visitors to gain knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the Park's cultural and natural heritage. At its best, it can foster an ethic of sustainability that will ensure park resources are cared for and protected for future generations.

The overall educational and interpretive direction of the Park must be identified before goals and guidelines can be developed. This direction is based on the significance of Los Angeles State Historic Park as a special place for tracing Los Angeles' cultural history from its origins to today.

Based on thematic ideas generated in the Cornfield Advisory Committee's Recommendations Report and proposals made by California State Parks personnel, the following interpretive mission statement and interpretive themes have been developed:

Interpretive Mission Statement
The interpretive mission is to develop the 32-acre Los Angeles State Historic Park to communicate the statewide significance of the cultural history of Los Angeles, from its origins to today, for park visitors.

Unifying Theme:
Los Angeles State Historic Park's resources reveal natural, cultural, economic and historical threads reflective of greater Los Angeles over time.

Primary Theme: Cultural/Historical
Los Angeles' story over the past 10,000 plus years embodies the struggles and triumphs of its diverse residents and communities.

Individual stories and personal experiences of the area's native peoples, immigrant communities, and other Angelenos have the power to resonate in a collective voice that speaks to both residents of and visitors to Los Angeles.

Primary Theme: Transportation
The movement of people and products has enabled Los Angeles to become the megalopolis it is today.

The park site has been a route of transportation and commerce throughout its history. Located within bustling transportation and river corridors the Park provides a place to reflect on the commercial and industrial activities that have shaped the city.

Secondary Theme: Water has played an integral role in the growth of Los Angeles from the Spanish period to the present.

Secondary Theme: By their actions, people have affected Los Angeles basin's environment, impacting the health of natural systems and communities.

The Park is a laboratory that enables the study of the choices humans have made and their consequent impacts on the environment.

Secondary Theme: Los Angeles State Historic Park provides a unique place for reflection, relaxation, recreation, rejuvenation, and inspiration.

From vast areas of open space to smaller pockets of intimate space, recreation in the Park can represent an expression of – and connection to – cultural identity and heritage.

Goals and Guidelines

Goal: Develop interpretive facilities and programs that encourage the public to share Los Angeles' cultures, experiences, perspectives, and histories.

> **Guidelines:**
> **Interpretation 1:** Use the most current subject matter research and interpretive techniques to provide opportunities for increasing the visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant cultural resources of the region.
>
> **Interpretation 2:** Provide meaningful interpretation that incorporates multiple perspectives, including those of the park visitor.
>
> **Interpretation 3:** Create accessible interpretive facilities and programs, which include a well-trained staff, which can effectively provide educational and interpretive services that meet visitors' diverse needs.

Employ guidelines, such as *All Visitors Welcome: Accessibility in State Park Interpretive Programs and Facilities* and *California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines.*

Interpretation 4: Reach as many visitors as possible by offering multi-sensory and multi-lingual interpretive opportunities in a variety of locations and settings throughout the Park.

Interpretation 5: Coordinate interpretive programming with other California State Parks in the Los Angeles region, enhancing significant stories associated with the area's cultural heritage, such as Pío Pico State Historic Park, Los Encinos State Historic Park, and the Taylor Yard Site (Los Angeles River State Park).

Interpretation 6: Consider the development of an interpretive feature in the Park that provides permanent and temporary exhibits interpreting the cultural history of Los Angeles. A facility could also provide park orientation and visitor information services. The design should be integrated with the surrounding open space and outdoor interpretive exhibits and activity areas.

Interpretation 7: Determine if a statewide and regional need exists for an interpretive facility that could provide expanded opportunities for interpretive media and education programs, and evaluate the feasibility and benefits of providing such a facility. A structure could be located within, or in close proximity to the Park.

Interpretation 8: Create spaces throughout the Park that foster personal reflection, civic engagement, and a variety of modes of public storytelling – from plays and poetry readings to musical performances and movies as well as educational and interpretive programming, cooking, festivals and parades, demonstrations (music, dance, living history, theatre, etc.), cultural events, workshops, farmer's markets, contests, nature-viewing, and gardening. Maximize the use of the city skyline as a backdrop while creating these spaces to enhance the visitor's connection with the broader Los Angeles story.

Interpretation 9: Explore the possibilities for interpreting the sub-surface history of the site's transportation-era past, through excavation and exposure, as well as publications, public programs, and identification markers.

Interpretation 10: Consider interpreting the site's agricultural past by providing multi-sensory experiences related to the growing of food. This could include programs and facilities that support historic methods of cultivating and harvesting crops, as well as a contemporary farmer's market.

Goal: Assist the Department in meeting its goal of increased diversity by reducing barriers, strengthening partnerships, and providing interpretive facilities and programs that encourage public participation.

Guidelines:
Interpretation 11: Identify strategies and implementation methods for removing barriers to language, education, and economic classes during the interpretive planning phases of the Park.

Interpretation 12: Promote diverse volunteer participation in park programs and in the development of the park's support organizations. Refer to the Department's *Volunteers in Parks Program Guidelines* and *Cooperating Associations Program Manual*.

Interpretation 13: Develop and strengthen partnerships and relationships with local park departments, museums, and cultural institutions and other public institutions to encourage collaboration to develop interpretive facilities and programs that meet the needs of the area's residents and those of other Californians, and that complement or enhance existing facilities and programs in the Los Angeles area.

Interpretation 14: Develop outreach efforts with community groups to support and develop interpretive programs. Current and potential partners include: local historical societies; Chambers of Commerce; local, regional, and non-profit organizations with similar or complementary goals; schools, colleges and universities; concessionaries and government agencies.

Goal: Maximize the use of interpretive facilities to enhance visitor experiences with the park's resources, the surrounding environment, and the region's year-round temperate climate.

Guidelines:
Interpretation 15: Use a holistic interpretive planning approach for the site that connects the interpretive themes and messages of the Park with the

creative use of open space. Develop outdoor interpretive facilities that can serve as multi-use areas to reduce development of the Park's open space. Determine the specific needs for the park's interpretive services that require indoor space. General needs may include space for: exhibits, exhibit fabrication and storage; museum collections, offices, meetings, workshops, conferences, lectures, and training; library and research areas; interpretive program supplies and equipment and an alternative location for outdoor interpretive programs during inclement weather.

Interpretation 16: Encourage the use of portable facilities such as interpretive discovery carts and interpretive concession carts to increase flexibility and mobility of a variety of interpretive services.

Goal: Explore traditional, new, and innovative technologies and techniques for developing the park's interpretive and educational programs and facilities.

Guidelines:
Interpretation 17: Provide learning experiences that engage one or more of the senses to enhance the intellectual understanding of park messages.

Interpretation 18: Use the area's natural and cultural features as design references for developing the interpretive facilities, integrating a variety of public art media to enhance the visitor experience. Consider incorporating elements, such as simple, shade-producing roofing structures, grass, and trails, to delineate the former location of the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

Interpretation 19: Use education and interpretation to enhance all park activities, special events, and public facilities, including both permanent and temporary exhibits to facilitate park interpretation.

Goal: Create meaningful educational and interpretive opportunities to promote lifelong learning.

Guidelines:
Interpretation 20: Develop programs and partnerships with local schools, youth groups, colleges, and universities that are in alignment with state educational standards and the park's significant resources.

Interpretation 21: Offer park programs that meet the diverse needs of students, parents, instructors, and schools. This includes programs such as, in-school programs, after-school programs, remote learning programs, student internships, professional mentoring, and student service projects.

Goal: Create a comprehensive strategy for supporting ongoing interpretation and educational programs for the Park.

Guidelines:
Interpretation 22: Use the Department's *Workbook for Planning Interpretive Projects* in preparing comprehensive interpretive plans for the Park.

Interpretation 23: Develop a *Scope of Collections* Statement to identify which objects the Park is to collect and how they will be managed. Follow the Department's *Guidelines for Writing a Scope of Collections Statement*.

Interpretation 24: Establish a program to preserve and interpret the personal stories and experiences of the people associated with the park's multi-faceted history. Use methods such as oral history, written narratives, and photographs, maintaining a current contact list.

Interpretation 25: Develop a park-wide sign plan for regulatory, informational, and interpretive signage to coordinate the appearance of the signs, minimize impacts to the resources, and meet multiple language needs. Signs and other media should be maintained, repaired, replaced, or updated with relative ease.

Goal: Strive to achieve park management goals through interpretation, including public safety, land use, critical resources, human impacts, resource management strategies, and other issues.

Guidelines:
Interpretation 26: Train staff and volunteers both in content and methods, to promote high quality interpretive services.

Interpretation 27: Review visitor and management demands for interpretive programming. Determine the most effective way to meet that demand with available resources and staff.

Interpretation 28: Use non-intrusive interpretive techniques to minimize impacts around sensitive and fragile resources to maximize the Park's aesthetic resources. For example, use low-profile signs and public art to help protect resources from damage due to visitor use.

Park Development

Park facilities provide the means for allowing the public to enjoy and benefit from the resources and recreational opportunities provided at the Park. Both State Park and concession-offered visitor services should provide environmentally-appropriate and enjoyable recreation opportunities for the widest possible range of visitors with respect to age, ethnicity, religion, race, income, education, and physical ability.

This General Plan assumes that the significant regional population could result in high visitation potential at the Park. A major purpose of this plan is to provide direction for appropriately meeting some of this demand while protecting the Park's resources and quality of visitor experience from deterioration. Changing demographics and use patterns will require ongoing periodic evaluations of Park operations and resource management programs.

Park Facilities

Park facility design and development is wide-ranging, encompassing accommodations for visitor services, interpretive programs, administration, support, maintenance, and operations. In addition to the goals and guidelines presented below, guidelines for park facilities can be found in Section 4.5 under the following headings: Recreation, Education and Interpretation; Park Operations (Staffing and Support Facilities, Maintenance, Safety); and Future Acquisitions.

Goal:

Strive toward distinctive and high quality facilities that represent the integrity of California State Parks. Design and maintenance of park facilities should embody forward-thinking design theories and produce meaningful places and spaces worthy of preservation by future generations and accessible to all.

Guidelines:

Facilities 1: Provide visitor-use facilities that offer the opportunity for diverse visitor experiences. Facilities will be placed to maximize visitor and staff use while minimizing negative effects on viewshed, cultural or natural resources, or user conflicts.

Facilities 2: Consider a multi-purpose facility(s) to accommodate park interpretive/educational services, outreach and volunteer programs and administrative functions, as determined from the analysis of interpretive program and operational needs (see Interpretation 6, 7 and 15).

Facilities 3: Park design should evolve from a collaborative and visual process, led by a design professional, and involve the users, District staff, resource professionals, interpretive planners, and other stakeholders.

Facilities 4: Develop visitor use facilities to accommodate changing visitor uses and accessibility needs, population demographics, and increases in visitation.

Facilities 5: Design operational support facilities that aid in staff efficiency and effectiveness.

Sustainable Design, Construction, and Maintenance

Sustainable design, sustainable development, design with nature, environmentally sensitive design, holistic resource management - regardless of what it's called, "sustainability," the capability of natural and cultural systems being continued over time, is key.

Sustainable design articulates this idea through development that exemplifies the principles of conservation and encourages the application of these principles in our daily lives. Sustainable projects and programs contribute to the State Parks *Mission* to preserve important resources, create a healthier environment, and help create less-intensive, more self-sustaining programs to maintain and enhance park facilities.

A sustainable facility or program creates low levels of negative impacts to natural or cultural resources, can be maintained with materials that are nontoxic to people or the environment, and contains materials that are recyclable. Design and development of Park facilities should embody and facilitate the State Parks *Mission* while producing meaningful and sustainable places that are worthy of preservation by future generations.

Goal: Use sustainable concepts in the design, siting, construction, and maintenance of Park facilities (including buildings, parking lots, day use areas, and trails) and in natural and cultural resource programs.

Guidelines:

Sustainability 1: Promote and incorporate the use of sustainable "green" design for Park buildings and facilities. Design decisions should be sensitive to the contextual nature of the site and designs should be done in such a way as to minimize ongoing utilities and maintenance costs. New technology and materials, innovative strategies for visitor use areas, and more efficient equipment will be embraced.

Sustainability 2: Where possible, use natural, renewable, indigenous, and recyclable materials, and simple-to-maintain and energy-efficient design.

Sustainability 3: Use long-term cost/benefit analysis to help justify the use of more costly sustainable construction materials and/or design.

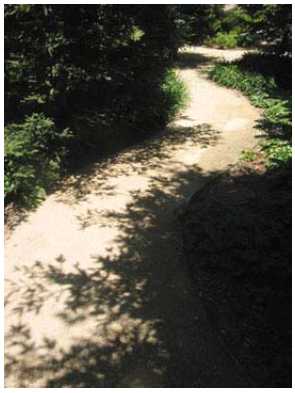
Sustainability 4: Establish a connection to important ecological values and environmental education through the use of sustainable design. Consider the latest technology and application of energy and water conservation, permeable paving, and recycled materials, among other methods, to strive for ecological balance in an urban landscape.

Sustainability 5: Through interpretive programs, explain to the public both the tangible and intangible aspects of sustainable practices in the Park including natural and cultural resources, site design, building design, energy management, water supply, waste prevention, and facility maintenance and operations.

Sustainability 6: Set a good example of sustainable practices in all facets of Park operations including services, retail operations, maintenance, utilities, and waste handling.

Access and Circulation

The development of this park will attract local, regional, state, national, and international visitation. Access and circulation to and within the Park is an important planning consideration. Opportunities exist to develop efficient access and transportation linkages to and within the Park, to physically and visually connect the site to regional parks, open spaces and surrounding neighborhoods, and to develop a sense of arrival and park unity.



Multi-modal transportation to the Park will be encouraged and pedestrian and cycling circulation within the Park will be emphasized. Opportunities to link pedestrian and cycling trails within the Park with neighborhood and regional transportation systems, including regional trails, will be explored. Coordination with other agencies, organizations, and transportation planning efforts in the region is a priority.

Goal: Establish a pattern of circulation and access for all visitors, to include integrated and efficient multi-modal transportation, that allows for clear choices for visitor arrival, departure, and travel throughout the Park, while creating a sense of place.

Guidelines:

Access 1: Create a sense of entry and arrival at the Park. Provide easily accessible orientation and information that will permit visitors to choose from a range of available park experiences.

Access 2: Minimize on-site parking and vehicular circulation within the Park to allow for maximum open space and visitor-serving activity areas. Seek and encourage public parking in adjacent and surrounding areas, including North Spring Street.

Access 3: Explore opportunities to link pedestrian and cycling trails within the Park with neighborhood and regional transportation systems, including regional trails.

Access 4: Explore opportunities to provide convenient and safe pedestrian and cycling access throughout the Park, with connections from communities along North Broadway. Coordinate with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to consider pedestrian bridge possibilities over the Gold Line right of way.

Access 5: Coordinate with the City of Los Angeles in the development of the North Spring Street improvements to plan Park access points along North Spring Street with regard to signalized intersections and other safety features.

Access 6: Consider incorporating an interpretive trail throughout the Park that acts as a spine or thread to unify site development and interpretive themes. This trail could be a symbolic timeline that allows for the chronological/sequential presentation of important elements of the history and culture of Los Angeles.

Universal Access

A significant portion of the population of California has some form of disability. This includes a wide range of mobility, hearing, vision and information processing impairments. In addition, nearly one third of the state's population is between 35 and 55 years of age. Due to the current aging trends of California's population, it can be assumed that people with disabilities will increase dramatically during the life of the General Plan.

California State Parks recognizes that universal accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act compliance at the Park be integrated into future planning and embodied in the Park's programs, providing visitors, regardless of their

abilities, with high-quality recreational opportunities while preserving the integrity of the Park's resources.

This proposed State Historic Park has many opportunities for education, recreation, and the protection and enhancement of cultural and natural resources. As the Park plan is developed, universal access for park visitors will be considered for all program areas. This would include facilities and accessible routes to all facilities areas, including trails. Accessible interpretive techniques will be used in the development of interpretive displays and programs, both guided and self-guided. Accessibility would not be limited to public use areas, but also employee areas and park staff housing areas as they are developed.

Goal: Provide universal access to Park programs and facilities such as buildings, restrooms, trails, parking, and other common use facilities, including recreational areas.

Guidelines:

Univ Access 1: Development of all facilities for public use will comply with Title 24, CCR, Part 3, and California Building Code building construction standards. Develop public access and facilities consistent with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Univ Access 2: Development of outdoor recreational facilities for public use will comply with the *Federal Guidelines of the Architectural and Transportation Board, Accessibility Guidelines for Recreation Facilities and for Outdoor Developed Areas*.

Univ Access 3: If accessibility cannot be accomplished for all Park facilities, alternative design and/or technologies should be used when feasible to provide substantially equivalent or greater experience and usability of the facility as part of the same specific project.

Geologic and Seismic Safety
Avoidance of potential geological and natural hazards will be considered when planning park facilities. Site-specific investigations will be conducted in any areas where development is planned. The investigations may consist of existing literature review, reconnaissance geologic mapping, and geotechnical investigations. These investigations are important to protect structures, ensure public safety, and to reduce impacts to resources.

Goal: Provide for public safety and prevent structural failures due to seismic activity and related geologic hazards.

Guidelines:
Geo Safety 1: Conduct site-specific geotechnical investigations as appropriate during site planning to protect structures and the public, for siting and proper design of permanent structures and multiple-use trails, and to reduce impacts to sensitive resources. Geotechnical investigations to address potential earthquake-induced damage may include:

- Review and update geologic hazard data such as hazard from flood and potential for earthquake-induced ground failure;
- Evaluate potential settlements resulting from loads imposed by new buildings and structures and the placement of new fills including landscape berms, mounds, multiple-use trails, and ramps;
- Prepare specific geotechnical recommendations for seismic hazard mitigation, including effects of placement of new fills. Provide geotechnical parameters for foundation design, including estimates for differential settlements of underlying fills and soft clays, and seismic lateral loads; and
- Prepare recommendations for construction-related issues, including de-watering and temporary excavation support as required for construction of the proposed improvements.

Geo Safety 2: As part of the planning and design process for area-specific projects, and prior to commencement of any ground disturbance, grading or construction related to new facilities, enhancements, or demolition, develop the appropriate project-level documentation providing the environmental evaluation and mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce, or minimize potentially significant geologic impacts.

Geo Safety 3: Build new structures in accordance with the appropriate seismic guidelines for the area as set forth in the Uniform Building Code.

Geo Safety 4: Use interpretive media to educate visitors about natural hazards and how to avoid danger. For example, warning signs could discuss the potential for and the actions to take in the event of an earthquake.

Hazardous Materials Safety

The potential for exposure to hazardous materials will be considered when planning structures, roads, parking areas, multiple-use trails, or other facilities or improvements requiring ground disturbance within the Park. Exposures could occur both from potentially hazardous materials used during construction, from residual chemicals in soil and groundwater resulting from previous site use, and from park maintenance and operations.

Goal: Provide for public and park employee safety and prevent exposure to hazardous materials from construction activities, from residual contaminated soil or groundwater, and park maintenance and operations.

Guidelines:

Hazmat Safety 1: Site-specific investigations may be necessary in any areas where new development is planned and where previous soil remediation was not conducted. The investigations may consist of literature review of existing soil, soil gas, and groundwater sampling, and possible additional soil, soil gas, and groundwater sampling. These investigations are important to protect the public and Park employees, and to reduce impacts to natural resources.

Hazmat Safety 2: Comply with manufacturers' specifications and State standards for use, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials (pesticides, motor oils, etc.). Provide for proper storage of such materials.

Park Operations

This component of the plan characterizes broad-level goals and guidelines for operations of the Park and its relationship to the visitor experience and management of resources. The infrastructure is the underlying "foundation" (including basic installations and facilities), on which the health, safety, and comfort of Park visitors depend. The infrastructure can enhance the visitor's enjoyment of the Park by providing a basic level of information, service, and comfort.

Staffing and Support Facilities

Once the Park is fully developed, there will be a need for on-site personnel and facilities to enhance the visitor experience, meet regulatory requirements, protect sensitive resources, provide for safety, and maximize the capability of staff to maintain the Park and serve the needs of the public. The Park should provide adequate staff (permanent, part-time, and volunteer) to support visitor use. The resulting increase in visitor interaction will help visitors more completely

enjoy their park experience. On-site staff will also enhance educational programs and projects, increase community involvement and outreach capability, keep facilities clean and well-maintained, and minimize safety concerns. Adequate facilities, such as administrative office space, recreational amenities, trails, and roads, are critical for the Park to be effective.

Goal: Provide for appropriate park infrastructure and support facilities. Provide support facilities for park operations, maintenance and administration that promote effective and efficient management of the Park. Provide facilities that maximize the opportunity for open space and educational enjoyment while minimizing potential conflicts.

Guidelines:

Support 1: Provide for the following park operations and maintenance services: administrative offices; staff housing; maintenance shop and vehicle, equipment, and materials storage; interpretive program support and artifact conservation; visitor services and volunteer support facilities. These facilities may be on-site or nearby.

Support 2: Locate park operations and maintenance activities and facilities in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on park resources and quality park visitor experiences.

Support 3: Investigate opportunities to share similar facilities with other local agencies, organizations, or State Parks to maximize the space available at this park for public use.

Goal: Obtain adequate staff and equipment to serve the public and meet the State Park's *Mission* at the Park. Develop facilities and programs that facilitate an excellent visitor experience relevant to diverse cultures and needs.

Guidelines:

Support 4: Provide for a sufficient and proper staffing balance as well as the requisite equipment for the Park's land management, infrastructure maintenance, resource preservation, and visitor services programs.

Support 5: Develop innovative strategies to supplement staffing needs including volunteer programs, community outreach and involvement, and partnerships.

Support 6: Seek out and hire multi-lingual staff. Establish multi-lingual signage wherever appropriate; use international symbols for signs wherever possible.

Support 7: Incorporate the input of diverse cultures when developing programs and facilities.

Maintenance

Maintenance of park facilities has the potential to affect the visitor experience. Benefits of properly and regularly maintained facilities include, but are not limited to, an improved aesthetic character of the Park and increased use of recreational facilities.

The anticipated volume of year-round visitor use and the maintenance and visitor services needs at the Park will create the need to store and maintain vehicles, equipment, tools, supplies, trash disposal bins, and other items. At the same time, the relatively small size of the Park and lack of any "out of the way" space for a maintenance facility creates the need to minimize space allocated to maintenance activities to the extent practical. State Parks should seek opportunities to share facilities with other local agencies, organizations, or other State Park units, but this must be done in a manner that would not result in inefficient park operations.

Goal: Maintain park facilities to meet visitor needs.

Guidelines:

Maintenance 1: Maintain facilities in a manner that minimizes impacts on Park resources while sustaining the quality of the facilities.

Maintenance 2: Provide facilities that are clean and in good repair.

Maintenance 3: Maintain roads, parking, and trails to the degree appropriate for the intended use, and in such a manner that they are clearly delineated to the user while not detracting from the visual aesthetics of the area in which they are located.

Maintenance 4: Promote energy conservation, waste reduction, recycling, and other resource conservation practices in maintenance activities.

Maintenance 5: Place an emphasis on appropriately sized and designed maintenance facilities, location of support facilities needed for park maintenance and operation, and maintenance yards and facilities that are screened from view. Maintenance and storage areas and trash disposal facilities should not be openly visible from public use areas.

Maintenance 6: Manage maintenance as an integral part of the Park, with the goal of not intruding into park uses.

Maintenance 7: Size service yards and garages for heavy equipment adequately and appropriately located to maximize convenience to high demand areas.

Maintenance 8: Design park service roads so that maintenance vehicles and equipment can easily access all visitor serving uses, recreation, and

active use areas. Include appropriate accommodations for service vehicle parking, landscaping maintenance, and other related infrastructure maintenance in planning of all park facilities.

Maintenance 9: Conduct facility maintenance in a manner appropriate to meet standards for public health and safety, maintain public and departmental expectations for cleanliness and appearances, meet security requirements, and extend the life span of facilities, tools, and equipment.

Maintenance 10: Seek opportunities to share facilities with other local agencies, organizations, or State Parks.

Safety

Special care and consideration will be given to creating a safe park environment to enhance the feeling of well-being, and to protect the public, the structures, and the facilities. The Park is situated in a heavily urbanized area. Staff presence on-site is critical to the safety of visitors and establishment of an enjoyable park environment.

Goal: Ensure that the Park and all facilities and structures provide a safe environment.

Guidelines:

Safety 1: Provide facilities to optimize the on-site presence of staffing and volunteers.

Safety 2: Incorporate public, law enforcement, maintenance staff and park professionals in the design of facilities and landscape to achieve the safest environment possible. Consider the use of such things as visual surveillance, lighting, security systems, patrol and vehicle accessibility, fencing, gates, location and visibility of park facilities, and landscape design to enhance safety. Encourage the California Highway Patrol to provide a safety consideration review for facilities.

Safety 3: Coordinate public safety requirements between State Park rangers and all jurisdictions serving the Park. Consider entering into reciprocal agreements with adjacent jurisdictions, where appropriate.

Safety 4: Discourage unauthorized use of the Park through education, site design, regulations, and enforcement.

Safety 5: Seek equipment and methods that aid staff emergency and safety response abilities within the Park.

Safety 6: Participate in cooperative efforts resulting in clear understanding by all law enforcement personnel of their responsibilities and jurisdiction with respect to protection of the Park's prime resources.

Safety 7: Coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and emergency response providers in promoting the safety of park visitors. Incorporate community involvement, education and outreach programs to enhance safety.

Safety 8: Manage park service roads and associated gates to allow easy and rapid access to the Park by public safety personnel. Accommodate access for emergency vehicles where appropriate throughout the Park, including emergency access during peak recreation periods and events.

Safety 9: Consider using vegetation and/or fencing to control public park access both at the perimeter and in other key areas where necessary.

Safety 10: Provide fire roads and hydrants where necessary to facilitate fire protection.

Safety 11: Include considerations for creating a safe park environment when planning specific locations and configurations of park plan elements. Park development arrangements that promote optimum park safety considerations include (but are not limited to) general visual surveillance, location and visibility of development areas, lighting, patrol and emergency vehicle accessibility, fencing and boundary treatments, access control, and landscape design.

Safety 12: Coordinate with local law enforcement and other agencies managing urban parks to encourage communication about innovative security techniques and design.

Safety 13: Promote positive outreach to adjacent neighborhoods and communities to increase local visitation and foster a sense of ownership in the Park.

Concessions

Goal: Consider appropriate concessions to expand and enhance visitor services. Possible concessions may include retail sales, refreshments, and cultural arts and crafts.

Guideline:

Concessions 1: Develop a Concessions Plan that recommends potential concession opportunities in the Park. These concession opportunities should enhance the recreational and/or educational experience at the Park and be compatible with the Park's vision, purpose, classification and guidance for aesthetics and resource values.

Special Events and Filming
State Parks are popular locations for special events, commercial motion picture filming, and still photography. These activities can have an effect on park resources, visitor experiences, and park operations.

Goal: Regulate special events and filming to ensure compatibility with natural and cultural goals and values and visitor use.

Guidelines:
Events 1: Develop Special Events Policies and follow the Department's "*Guidelines for Filming in California State Parks*" to permit such activities to occur while not detracting from the general public's enjoyment of the Park, or negatively impacting the Park's resources.

Events 2: Update applicable Special Events and Filming guidelines regularly and continue to evaluate environmental and Park visitor impacts.

Partnerships, Community Involvement, and Interagency Coordination

Developing partnerships that enhance Park programming, maximize visitor services, leverage funding development, and provide quality recreational and educational opportunities strengthen management and operational resources.

Goal: Work cooperatively in partnerships to provide a coordinated and coherent network of educational, open space and recreational opportunities.

Guidelines:
Partnerships 1: Designate a park representative to maintain ties and consistent interaction with local city, county and state elected representatives, and community based organizations that focus on the Los Angeles River Greenway.

Partnerships 2: Help establish a coordinated network of parks, open spaces, and linkages with the surrounding neighborhoods, as feasible. Coordinate park planning with other planning efforts in the area such as the L.A. River Master Plan, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, L.A. River Bikeway and Greenway planning efforts, and the Arroyo Seco bikeway plans, among others.

Partnerships 3: Participate in economic, cultural, educational and natural resource development to enhance visitor experiences.

Partnerships 4: Coordinate public safety and educational opportunities with state, city and county representatives.

Partnerships 5: Participate in multiple use future development opportunities, leveraging funding, and protecting open space. This may include partnerships with adjacent property owners for joint projects.

Goal: Strengthen bonds and work collaboratively, effectively and efficiently towards creating a world-class park that statewide and local visitors will enjoy.

Guidelines:
Partnerships 6: Coordinate with federal, state, city and county officials and community based organizations to expand recreational and educational opportunities to keep pace with the needs of California's growing, diverse population and changing lifestyles.

Partnerships 7: Partner with educational institutions using the latest technology to create virtual learning opportunities for long distance visitors.

Taylor Yard Site
The Taylor Yard property, also a unit of the State Park System, is located along the east bank of the Los Angeles River approximately two miles north of the proposed Los Angeles State Historic Park site. The two parks are closely related and could be potentially connected by future recreational trail/bikeway systems. Together, these two State Park units contribute to the emerging web of open space in Los Angeles.

Goal: Work cooperatively to enhance visitor experiences and to provide a coordinated and coherent network of regional open space and recreational opportunities.

Guidelines:
Partnerships 8: Coordinate the Park's visitor services and programs with those at Taylor Yard to enhance recreational and educational opportunities.

Partnerships 9: Work with the multiple jurisdictions and community based organizations to develop a new multiple-use trail connection that runs from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean through the Taylor Yard parcels and the Park.

Future Acquisitions

Land acquisitions can add recreational opportunities and cultural and natural resources to the Park for the visitor's enjoyment as well as for preservation and management of these valuable resources.

Goal: Increase recreational and resource management opportunities, preserve aesthetic values, and increase operational efficiencies within the Park through a land acquisitions program.

Guidelines:
Acquisition 1: State Parks should consider acquiring any land available from willing sellers that would enhance preservation, interpretation, and management of important recreation, natural, and cultural resources; preserve and enhance the aesthetic values; or increase operational efficiencies in the Park.

Acquisition 2: Coordinate with regional public and private recreation and resource management providers to encourage acquisition of parcels that promote connectivity between the various properties. This approach to land acquisition will strengthen the management and development goals of each agency and provide the public with enhanced recreational programs and open space in the region.

4.6 Managing Visitor Capacity

The purpose of this Visitor Capacity Management (VCM) section is to present the Department's methodology that is used to evaluate existing and future desired conditions, and to analyze the capacity issues related to general plan concepts and recommendations for the future development and use of the Park project site.

It is intended by the Department that the general plan and this discussion of visitor capacity will satisfy the initial requirements of the Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, which states: "*Before any park or recreational area development plan is made, the department shall cause to be made a land carrying capacity survey of the proposed park or recreational area, including in such survey such factors as soil, moisture, and natural cover.*"

Existing Opportunities and Constraints

The Park site is undeveloped land – a clean slate, aside from the Interim Public Use facilities developed at the time of this general plan. It represents enormous development potential for open space recreation and cultural activities. The park's programs and cultural themes described by this general plan offer a wide range of possible development and use intensities, which makes it difficult and undesirable to pre-determine what the appropriate visitor capacity should be.

Physical constraints exist, such as the presence of archaeological sites and features, as well as existing roads, easements, drainages, rail tracks, groundwater

monitoring wells, elevation changes, etc., that ultimately become determining factors in park design and area visitor capacities.

Social constraints also exist, due to the population diversity of California and within Los Angeles communities. However, these differences can be viewed as opportunities for cultural awareness and exchange, and undoubtedly will influence the development of thematic treatments in design of traditional park landscapes.

The Department's methodology focuses on the initial capacity of developed facilities, desired resources and social conditions. Subsequent surveys, analysis, and monitoring programs are necessary in order to make final determinations and adjustments in visitor capacity through future management actions. The methodology and steps to be used in this process are outlined below:

VCM Methodology

The following represents an adaptive management cycle, or methodology, that involves research, planning, monitoring, and management actions to achieve sustainable resources and social conditions. This methodology was initiated during this general planning effort and applied with the level of detail commensurate with the conceptual nature of this plan. This includes the identification of existing opportunities and constraints, and description of desired resources and social conditions. Visitor capacities are addressed for park areas when sufficient data is presented.

Visitor Capacity Management is defined by State Parks as:

> *A methodology used to determine and maintain the desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park. It includes establishing initial visitor capacities, then monitoring key indicators in order to identify appropriate management actions in response to unacceptable conditions.*

Adaptive Management Process

The following tasks are usually carried out during the resource inventories, unit classification, and general planning processes. Subsequent management plans and site investigations provide the more detailed information necessary for project-level analysis and impact assessments in order to initiate required mitigation and monitoring programs. These tasks are presented here for an understanding of the iterative process that State Parks considers from the programmatic planning stages of the general plan, through the project implementation and monitoring phases.

1. **Identify Existing Opportunities and Constraints:** Through ongoing research, surveys, and site investigations we are able to document existing resources and social conditions. This data helps identify opportunities and constraints, and establishes the baseline condition for natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

2. **Determine Vision and Desired Conditions:** The analysis of current uses and condition assessments begin to shape the types of activities and experiences that are desired. This increases our ability to determine the resource conditions we desire and the protective measures, including thresholds (standards) of acceptable resource conditions that are necessary to maintain those resource conditions.

3. **Identify Issues and Evaluate Alternatives:** The analysis of resource and social impacts related to current use helps identify the issues, problems, and thresholds that shape the vision or desired conditions of the park. Additional surveys, studies or site analysis may be necessary to understand the full effects of existing uses, potential alternatives, or feasibility of desired improvements. It is at this stage that the objectives of visitor use and capacity for specific units are determined, which may include quantitative limits on certain park uses (e.g., the number of campsites or parking spaces in the park).

4. **Develop Measurable Indicators and Thresholds:** Key indicators are identified that can diagnose whether the desired conditions for a park are being met. These indicators must be measurable and have a direct relationship to at least one desired condition (e.g. the number of exposed tree roots per mile of trail). Thresholds are then identified for each indicator (for example: 100 tree roots per trail mile). Through monitoring processes, management is alerted when conditions exceed a determined threshold or deviate outside the acceptable range.

5. **Establish Initial Visitor Capacities:** Initial visitor capacities are formulated based on the analysis of existing conditions, alternative considerations, desired future conditions, and prescribed goals and objectives. Implementation occurs when sufficient knowledge is gained and plans are finalized. As environmental impact assessments and monitoring programs are initiated, plans are implemented and new patterns of use are generated.

6. **Monitor Use and Identify Changing Conditions:** Through monitoring and further study we can assess the degree of impact or changing conditions that occur over a specified period of time. Thresholds and indicators are used in the monitoring process to determine when an unacceptable condition exists. Unacceptable conditions trigger management action(s) appropriate to correct the unacceptable condition.

7. **Adjust Environmental or Social Conditions:** As monitoring efforts reveal that conditions may be approaching or exceeding thresholds, management must consider alternatives and take appropriate action. The analysis of impacts and their causes should direct management toward a course of action that attempts to push resource/experience conditions back to a desired state. This may include further studies, new project design, and stronger enforcement of the rules and regulations, which may also require adjustments to the initial visitor capacities.

Research, Investigations, and Monitoring

Data from research, pre-project site investigations, visitor impact assessments, post-project evaluations, and baseline resource monitoring can all be captured and used to make sure the desired condition of the park is maintained. A program of continued research and site investigations provides and documents updated data on resource conditions and new problems as they may occur. Periodic surveys provide a measure of visitor satisfaction and identify recreation trends and public opinions on the types of activities and experiences people are seeking. These on-going efforts build the unit data file for subsequent planning and analysis, and monitoring programs ensure that development actions achieve the desired outcomes.

4.7 Future Studies

There are a number of planning efforts that require detailed consideration too specific for the overall planning efforts of this General Plan. Funding and staffing limitations restrict which studies California State Parks is able to address subsequent to this General Plan and require that State Parks set priorities. Many goals and guidelines provide direction for management plans and/or future studies for the Park as well as regional planning, connectivity, and coordination of State Park projects in the Los Angeles region and located within the Los Angeles River Greenway. Information resulting from these studies will benefit specific State Parks projects (i.e. Taylor Yard) as well as future planning efforts for the interconnected parks and trails of the L.A. River Greenway. Planning, feasibility studies, and public coordination for these plans is ongoing.

All future efforts on specific management plans will involve the appropriate level of environmental review and compliance and may include public participation beyond what is required as part of the CEQA process. Implementation of such specific plans may incorporate mitigation measures including, but not limited to, natural and cultural resource protection, monitoring to avoid impacts, and access limitations in sensitive resource areas.

The following is a list of some of the proposed future planning efforts. Please refer to the appropriate goals and guidelines section of this General Plan for a more complete description of the intent of these future planning efforts.

- Cultural Resources Management Plan
- Interpretive Center Feasibility Study
- Water Quality studies
- Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan
- Interpretive Master Plan
- Parkwide Sign Plan
- Scope of Collections Statement
- Concessions Plan

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Summary

5.3 Project Description

5.4 Environmental Setting

5.5 Environmental Issues to be Resolved

5.6 Significant Environmental Effects and Mitigation

5.7 Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects

5.8 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

5.9 Growth-Inducing Impacts

5.10 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

5.11 Cumulative Impacts

5.12 Effects Not Found to be Significant

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

Tiered CEQA Analysis

This General Plan/EIR serves as a first-tier Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as defined in Section 15166 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Individual and/or site-specific projects and appropriate CEQA compliance will follow the General Plan/EIR. The analysis of broad potential environmental impacts discussed in the Environmental Analysis section of this document will provide the basis for future second-level environmental review, which will provide more detailed information and analysis for site-specific developments and projects. Planning and feasibility studies for park management, recreation, and resource protection are ongoing and have occurred prior to the General Plan approval.

This General Plan/EIR provides discussion of the probable impacts of future development and established goals, policies, and objectives to implementing such development in a manner which will avoid or minimize such environmental impacts. This approach is consistent with a tiered approach to EIRs.

Where a proposed project covers a wide spectrum of action, from the adoption of a Plan, which is by definition tentative and subject to further refinement, to activities with a site-specific impact, CEQA requires that "environmental impact reports shall be tiered whenever feasible[.]" (Public Resources Code Section 21093(b).) Tiering is defined as "the coverage of general matters and environmental effects in an environmental impact report prepared for a policy, plan, program, or ordinance followed by narrower or site-specific environmental impact reports…" (PRC Section 21068.5; CEQA Guidelines Section 15385). While a tiered EIR may not defer all consideration of impacts to a point in the future, it can legitimately indicate that more detailed studies and project-specific impacts may be considered in future environmental documents. Generally, the courts have recognized that environmental studies at the general plan level will be general. It has been found to be acceptable to consider more detailed analysis later in the process, which will be measured against specific performance criteria, formulated at the time of Plan approval.

The level of detail addressed in the Environmental Analysis section is comparable to the level of detail provided in the land use proposals of the Plan. What is critical, and what is set forth in the Plan, is the formulation and eventual adoption of a set of policies designed to minimize and mitigate impacts that might occur from the implementation of projects under the General Plan.

For example, the Plan designates general park areas and associated park elements. Goals and guidelines are proposed for adoption for each of these areas that provide conceptual parameters for future management actions. The Plan specifically envisions that a series of focused management plans (Cultural Resources, Interpretive, Concessions) will be prepared subsequent to adoption of the General Plan. These management plans will propose the activities to be carried out, and will require CEQA compliance and public review as part of their approval.

Structure and Contents of the General Plan/EIR

This project is prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines (Title 14. California Code of Regulations), Article 9. Contents of EIR Section 15120(c) states that Draft EIRs shall contain the information required by Sections 15122 through 15131. Appendix J, Location of Required EIR Content, shows where the required items are found in this General Plan/EIR.

Uses of this General Plan/EIR

The General Plan/EIR has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Park Acquisition and Development Division, Northern Service Center, Southern Service Center, and Los Angeles District Office. The California State Park and Recreation Commission has approval authority for all State Park General Plan/EIRs. The Commission determines whether or not to:

1. Accept the certified General Plan/EIR as a "Final EIR" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15166.
2. Adopt the General Plan/EIR as a general plan under PRC Section 5002.2.

The General Plan is the guiding policy document for subsequent operation and management of the Park. The Plan proposes goals and guidelines that may require further data collection, evaluation, and additional specific management planning and resource impact identification prior to new construction. Impacts discussed in this section are related to the proposed plan elements and goals and guidelines.

Some of the provisions of these focused management plans, as well as development, maintenance, facility use, and recreational activities allowed by the General Plan have the potential to impact the environment. Prior to taking any further action, State Parks must evaluate whether that action constitutes a "project" under CEQA, whether it is categorically exempt (for example routine maintenance), whether it may have a significant impact on the environment and, if so, whether a negative declaration or an EIR needs to be prepared.

The Declaration of Purpose, along with the Vision, provide a context and direction for management and planning of the Park. These statements will guide future decisions related to park management.

Environmental Review Process and Recirculation

The General Plan/EIR addresses the entire area and operation of the Park; hence, it is broad and comprehensive in scope. A series of meetings and a formal public process were used to develop the Plan and the content of the environmental analysis.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated to agencies, local city and county planning offices, interested public organizations and interested individuals. State Parks also conducted extensive public involvement during the planning process. (See the General Plan Introduction and the following section for further information on public involvement.)

5.2 Summary

Areas of Known Controversy

A number of public meetings were held to solicit public comments on issues and concerns related to planning the Park site. The following table, Public Meetings, presents the type of public meeting and the date each meeting was held during the planning process.

Table 5-1
Public Meetings

Cornfield Advisory Committee	Public Meetings	Mini Scoping Meetings	Flow of History Workshop
2/18/03 2/24/03 3/27/03 7/31/03 8/18/03 9/30/03 2/24/04 3/15/04	Scoping Meeting: 4/3/03 and 4/5/03 Alternative Plans Presented: 10/28/03 Preferred Alternative Presented: 7/13/04	Location: Castelar Elementary School 6/12/03 Location: Solano Canyon Elementary School 6/17/03 Location: Cathedral High School 7/3/04	4/17/04

The public voiced opinions and desires regarding the following issues:

1. Mixture of natural open space, historical structures reconstruction, and developed informal recreational areas:
   A. Provision of multiple-use fields;
   B. Questions regarding the compatibility of reconstructed historical structures with other park features such as the provision of open space and informal recreation areas; and
   C. Proportion of natural/open space areas.

2. Facilities:
   A. Cultural facilities
   B. Public restrooms
   C. Park operations
   D. Parking areas/coordination with public transportation opportunities and/or other nearby parking structures.

The results of these public meetings informed the development of the planning concepts, goals, and guidelines.

By far, providing sports and recreation facilities - such as basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts; a playground, and a jogging path - was the issue that was most discussed in written comments submitted. More than 400 letters were received in support of including such facilities, although almost all of these letters were "form" letters that differed only slightly. Many of these letters were submitted via community groups, while others were sent directly to State Parks.

The urbanized areas adjoining the Park generate high demand for sports fields and facilities to accommodate formal sports programs, such as soccer, rugby, football, softball, and baseball. Supporters of organized field sports have made clear throughout the planning process that there is a regional shortage of adequate sports fields and facilities in the Los Angeles central city area. From this user group perspective, all of the adjoining communities are deficient in the number of sports fields they have to accommodate the current recreation demand within their boundaries, as is the region as a whole. Unfortunately, these communities are also predominantly built out, leaving little open space or vacant land on which they can add new fields. Some of these communities and field sports organizations see the development of the Park as a possible solution to relieving the existing shortage.

The *Mission* of State Parks is to protect and enhance the state's natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological resources while providing for public recreation that is compatible with and enhances the public's appreciation of those resources. Generally, recreation improvements that are not dependent on or do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the Park's resource values are not permitted within State Parks. Clearly, sports fields do not support recreational activities that are dependent on the Park's setting, although they may indirectly

result in more people enjoying the setting. State Park lands are not typically used to provide these types of recreation facilities.

As a first tier of planning for the Park, this General Plan does not address all of the project specific comments in detail. Although the Plan sets the overall goals for park management and provisions for public use, it does not define project level development specifics or the methods for attaining resource protection goals. These will be part of future planning steps, such as the layout and design of facilities or specific resource management plans and processes.

The objectives of the Environmental Analysis are to identify, where possible, the significant environmental impacts of implementing the General Plan and to define generalized mitigation criteria and policy-level alternatives. Once the General Plan is approved and adopted, State Parks could prepare management and area development plans as required and as staff and funding allow. These would address such issues as vegetation and site development plans. The area development plans will provide specific information on resources and design considerations, including layout, facilities' configuration, capacities, etc., within designated areas of the Park.

Implementation of area development plans will generally be carried out as the first phase of major and minor capital outlay projects. At each planning level (whether a management plan, an area development plan, or major or minor capital outlay project), the plan or project will be subject to further, more detailed environmental review to determine if it is consistent with the General Plan and to identify any significant environmental impacts and mitigation measures that would be specific to the project. Mitigation generally requires resource specialists to evaluate the scope of work, identify the cause of the impacts, and specify measures to avoid or reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level. More detailed environmental review will be possible at those levels of planning, where facility size, location, and capacity can be explicitly delineated, rather than at the General Plan level.

Summary of Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures

Aesthetic Resources

Potential installation of facilities allowed by the Plan may constitute a potentially significant aesthetic change, with the degree of change dependent on project-specific details to be determined at the time projects are proposed.

Implementation of appropriate siting, design, and selection of materials and review at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans, as proposed in the mitigation measures, will reduce the potential program-level aesthetic quality impacts to less than significant at the program level.

Agriculture Resources

The Park site is not zoned as farmland and no impact would occur.

Air Quality
Potential construction that could be conducted under the General Plan could generate substantial amounts of fugitive dust. The use of diesel and other equipment would release emissions. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure Air-1 would reduce potential adverse impacts at the program level to less than significant.

Biological Resources
Due to the relatively degraded biological conditions currently existing at the site, no significant impact will occur from implementation of the General Plan.

Cultural Resources
While there are no above-ground cultural resources present at the Park site, subsurface cultural resources could be affected by potential facilities construction and operation allowed by the Plan. The evaluation of the specificity allowed at the General Plan level indicates that future actions can be mitigated to a less than significant level with the implementation of mitigation measures Cult-1 and Cult-2. These mitigations call for pre-project archaeological research and testing, potential recovery and/or monitoring, and cultural review.

Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in the addition of new facilities that would be subjected to strong ground shaking in the event of a nearby earthquake, which could expose people or structures to adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death as a result of seismic ground shaking or earthquake induced settlement. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Geo-1 would reduce potential impacts to less than significant at the program level.

Potential site development would require grading in some areas of the Park. During grading activities, bare soil would be subject to erosion from rain and wind. Potential soil erosion from construction sites would be addressed through implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan or compliance with measures identified in the California Stormwater Quality Association Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Geo-2 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level.

Future development within the Park as proposed in the General Plan could lead to soil stability impacts. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Geo-3, which includes geotechnical investigations and review, would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level.

Mitigation Measure Geo-4, monitoring of subsurface operations, will reduce the potential for impacts to paleontological resources to less than significant at the program level.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Potential construction activities for development of facilities allowed under the General Plan could require the use of certain potentially materials such as fuels, oils, paints, and solvents. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Haz-1 would reduce the potential for impacts to less than significant at the program level.

Potential construction activities may expose the public and construction workers to hazardous substances. Mitigation Measure Haz-2 requires conducting such work with guidance from the DTSC or the Los Angeles RWQCB and proper testing and disposal of soils disturbed by construction activities. Implementation will reduce the potential for impacts to less than significant at the program level.

Potential construction phase fire hazard impacts will be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Haz-3 will reduce the potential for impacts to less than significant.

Hydrology and Water Quality
Construction, operation, and maintenance activities associated with facilities proposed under the General Plan could lead to potential drainage and runoff impacts. Implementation of Mitigation Measures Hydro-1 and Hydro-2 would reduce these impacts to a less than significant level. Mitigation Measure Hydro-1, which requires establishment of a Pesticide Management Plan, will regulate the storage and application of pesticides to protect water quality.

Land Use and Planning
The General Plan management goals and guidelines would be consistent with local land use and planning policies. There would not be a significant impact at the program level.

Mineral Resources
Implementation of the General Plan would not result in permanent loss of availability of mineral resources. There are no known mineral deposits of economic importance directly underlying the project site. Mineral resource extraction is not permitted under the Resource Management Directives of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Noise
Construction of facilities allowed under this General Plan could lead to potential noise impacts. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Noise-1 will reduce these impacts to less than significant at the program level. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Noise-2 will reduce the potential operational impacts of the General Plan implementation to less than significant at the program level.

Public Services
Implementation of the General Plan would not lead to significant impacts to police services, schools, parks, or other public services, with the potential

exception of fire protection services. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Pub-1 would reduce these impacts to less than significant.

Recreation
Recreational opportunities are highly limited in the areas adjacent to the Park site. Facilities and programs under this General Plan would improve outdoor recreation opportunities.

Traffic and Transportation
The location of the project site at the confluence of several major highways and heavily traveled surface streets means that operation of facilities allowed under the General Plan could have traffic and parking impacts. However, the goals and guidelines of the Plan, and implementation of Mitigation Measure Trans-1 would reduce potential impacts to less than significant at the program level.

Utilities and Service Systems
All existing municipal utility services that are available for future park development are located along North Spring Street. No mitigation measures are required.

5.3 Project Description

To meet requirements set forth in Section 5002.2 of the PRC and Section 4332 of Title 14 of the California Administration Code, California State Parks has prepared this General Plan for the proposed Los Angeles State Historic Park. The plan delineates a number of conceptual plan elements and establishes a set of goals and guidelines which will guide park management and specific project implementation. These goals and guidelines address recreational, operational, interpretive, and resource management opportunities and constraints consistent with the classification of State Historic Park, as set forth in Section 5019.59 of the Public Resources Code and consistent with Department policies. The General Plan does not actually design or locate facilities, but instead establishes regions or activity areas that describe levels of acceptable facility development, and also provides goals and guidelines for the appropriate types, locations, and designs of facilities that may be proposed in the future. The State Parks *Mission* and Park Vision give insight into the Park purpose and future planning efforts. The General Plan also establishes the primary interpretive themes for programs and activities.

The Plan section of the General Plan includes proposed plan elements, park development and operations, and designates appropriate land uses. This section constitutes the project description. As described above, State Parks will use this EIR in its decision-making process regarding Plan approval and in the approval and development of subsequent project-specific proposals. If the General Plan were fully implemented as written, the following proposals would be carried out:

- **Preferred Park Concept.** This concept ("Los Angeles Flow of History") is intended to provide land-use strategies, arrangements, and treatments to create a park with a strong purpose and identity. See Section 4.4, Preferred Park Concept.

- **Goals and Guidelines.** Goals and guidelines to be applied to facility development, park maintenance and operations, resource protection, and interpretive services throughout the Park. This includes providing a range of experiences and educating the public about the dynamic and inter-related purposes of the Park - cultural/historical, recreational, interpretive, and natural. See Section 4.5, Goals and Guidelines.

- **Potential Facilities.** The following are identified as facilities that could be developed with implementation of the General Plan: administrative offices; maintenance shop and vehicle, equipment, and materials storage; visitor center; facilities for interpretive program support, artifact conservation, visitor services, and volunteer support; indoor and outdoor gathering and educational spaces which may include plazas and interpretive exhibits; possible concessions; multiple-use trails; limited parking; informational signage; and recreational and open space elements such as outdoor lighting, picnic tables, shade structures, gardens, and natural habitat areas.

5.4 Environmental Setting

Chapter 2, Existing Conditions, summarizes the existing Park site and adjacent land uses and environmental conditions. More detailed descriptions of existing conditions are found in this chapter in Sections 5.5 and 5.12.

5.5 Environmental Issues to be Resolved

There are no environmental issues to be resolved. This EIR analyzes, at a program level, the potential environmental impacts of a broad range of policies and management actions included in the General Plan. The EIR includes mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts to less than significant at the program level. However, the Department would require examination of many specific facilities and Management Plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

5.6 Significant Environmental Effects and Mitigation

The General Plan was developed to guide future park management decisions in the way most appropriate to fulfill the Park Vision and California State Parks *Mission*. Through application of the General Plan Goals and Guidelines, the Plan will be largely self-mitigated.

Aesthetic Resources

Existing Conditions

The Park is located in an urban and industrial area of the city, just northeast of the downtown civic center. It is situated on a relatively level river terrace near the Los Angeles River. To the north are bluffs, transitioning to the hills of Elysian Park. To the east is the Los Angeles River (channelized in this portion and not visible from the Park site), views to the Verdugo Hills, and further in the distance, the San Gabriel Mountains. The site could be characterized as partially enclosed by natural and human-made vertical forms - the bluffs, hills, mountains, and high-rise structures of downtown.

The Park site consists primarily of ruderal vegetation including common urban weedy annuals and grasses. A small portion of the site has been landscaped with lawn and trees, as part of a temporary public use facility. Immediately surrounding the Park, land uses include various industrial structures, the Los Angeles River, Elysian Park, the MTA Gold Line tracks and Chinatown Station, the Chinatown commercial district, and residential areas.

More details on existing aesthetic conditions can be found in Chapter 2, Section 2.5.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the General Plan would result in significant impacts to aesthetics if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista;
- Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway;
- Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings;
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

The facilities identified in the Plan as features of the Park that could be developed may create adverse visual impacts within the Park. Additionally, adverse impacts to aesthetic resources may occur from a management or development activity that will substantially degrade the existing aesthetic character or quality of a site and/or its surroundings, or is incompatible with the character of the Park. This includes, but is not limited to, activities that are visually offensive, or have noises or odors that are offensive to both visitors and park neighbors. Goals and guidelines included in the General Plan, as well as mitigation measures in this EIR, would reduce potential impacts to less than significant at the program level.

All plans and projects will be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation. Mitigation will be implemented in later planning and development stages. The impacts to aesthetic resources can be reduced to a less than significant level by implementing the General Plan guidelines and project specific mitigation measures.

Design and review of proposed projects and activities shall consider potential effects to site specific aesthetic resources including regional characteristics and themes, viewsheds, and topographical, geological, cultural, and natural features. Design and construction measures that avoid, reduce, or minimize these effects shall be incorporated into every project.

Impact Aes-1. New Facilities

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in the creation of new facilities at the Park site. (See Section 5.3, Project Description, and Chapter 4, The Plan, for a discussion of the potential facilities that may occur). The development of potential facilities allowed by the General Plan may be considered a beneficial impact in terms of enhancing the current aesthetic environment of the site.

If lighting associated with facilities created substantial glare, there could be an adverse impact. Areas that are most sensitive to scenic quality degradation are those that would contain a scenic vista or those visible from beyond park boundaries, such as the city skyline visible from the southern portion of the site.

This Park is situated in a dense urban environment. It does, however, provide a spectacular view of the downtown Los Angeles skyline, as well as views to the nearby Elysian Park and the Verdugo Hills, open space elements that can be rare in an urban landscape. Any changes that substantially degrade the visual experience for park visitors and others viewing the Park from adjacent property have the potential to cause significant impacts.

The development of new facilities could create adverse visual impacts if proper design for color, scale, location, style, materials, and architectural mass are not carefully considered. The use of inappropriate colors, design, and materials for

new facilities or renovated structures may be visually offensive and incongruent with the surrounding environment and may obstruct significant views out of the Park.

Development of outdoor interpretive structures and parking areas with highly reflective parked vehicles and inappropriate lighting could create adverse visual impacts for park visitors and people viewing the Park from adjacent properties, including Elysian Park. High-profile directional, informational, and interpretive signs along trails and roads could also contribute to visual clutter. Inappropriate lighting throughout the Park may create visual impacts. Obstructing an existing viewshed (such as the Los Angeles downtown skyline) may be considered an adverse impact.

The impacts to visual resources are considered potential because the actual size, location, and design of the facilities or structures has not been yet been determined.

Mitigation Measure Aes-1. Visual impacts can be avoided or reduced by appropriate siting, design, and selection of materials. Specific project designs will define aesthetically appropriate design features, identify visual resources, and identify optimum methods for protecting existing resources. Potential aesthetic quality impacts associated with the development of new facilities shall be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to:

- Implement design practices that reduce the overall aesthetic effect of new facilities, including, but not limited to:
    - Include vegetation to screen negative views, or soften the visual effect of parking areas, visitor facilities, roads, trails, or transit corridors, where appropriate;
    - Incorporate architectural site/design elements that support and are consistent with the plan vision;
    - Where night lighting is necessary, direct the lighting downward and locate new exterior lighting such that it is not highly obtrusive;
    - Evaluate the location of structures and activity areas to enhance positive views within and outside of the park site;
    - Design and site new roads and trails to minimize grading and the visibility of cut banks and fill slopes; utilities should be placed underground where feasible;
    - Schedule construction and maintenance activities to decrease any negative impacts to visitors and adjacent property owners.

Implementation of plan guidelines (Aesthetics 1-5) and the mitigation described above would reduce the potential program level aesthetic quality impacts to less than significant. However, State Parks would require examination of specific facilities and management plans included in the General Plan at the time they

are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level where necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Impact Aes-2. Increased Public Use
Public visitation of the Park would increase with the facility development as proposed in the General Plan. Increased public use would not necessarily result in adverse impacts to aesthetic resources. However, trespassing and improper use of public access areas could lead to litter, disturbed vegetation, and damage to park facilities and resources, detracting from the aesthetic quality of the Park. Litter, disturbed vegetation, and damage to facilities and resources may be considered a significant effect if the degradation of aesthetic quality were substantial. Implementation of public safety and law enforcement guidelines, as well as guidelines advocating public education regarding appropriate visitor use activities, and mitigation measure Aes-2 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level.

Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific management plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure Aes-2. Potential aesthetic quality impacts associated with increased public use should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan. Mitigation measures shall be implemented, as appropriate, including but not limited to:

- Advocate responsible use of the Park and enforcement of the rules and regulations established for use of the Park through public education and awareness of resource sensitivity and by publishing rules and regulations for park visitors.
- Implement an inspection and maintenance program for facilities used by the public and inspection of perimeter fencing and access gates, as appropriate, in order to minimize trespass, illegal dumping, and ensure well-maintained facilities.
- Establish coordinated enforcement of public use of the Park with adjacent jurisdictions.
- Include appropriate staffing to monitor public use of the Park and enforcement of park rules and regulations.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

<u>Impact Aes-3.</u> Potential Improvements to Aesthetic Quality
The General Plan could result in improvements to the aesthetic quality of the site. The site concept and goals and guidelines would result in the conversion of a former brownfield into a park setting and green open space area, providing aesthetically pleasing surroundings for visitors and neighbors. Facility development at this site may also create a nexus for other planned improvements in the area. Aesthetic resources goals and guidelines would ensure consistency in the overall park vision and design elements. Recreation and circulation goals and guidelines would develop new trails that would create opportunities for visitors to enjoy the unique location and scenic views of the park. Plan guidelines would result in a pedestrian-focused park and would reduce the visual intrusion of vehicle use within the Park. Overall, implementation of the General Plan would result in improved aesthetic quality at the Park site.

Significance: Beneficial impact at the Program level.

Air Quality

Climatology
The site shares with the rest of the California coastal areas a mild, semi-arid, Mediterranean-type climate, with dry warm summers and winter precipitation from storms originating thousands of miles away in the northern Pacific. Mean annual rainfall is about 15 inches, though both drought years and years with three times the average rainfall are not uncommon.

Temperatures range generally from 50° to 80° Fahrenheit (F), although temperatures over 100° F in the summer are possible. The high temperature in Los Angeles has steadily increased, as irrigated orchards have given way to pavement, buildings, and homes. The high temperature in Los Angeles in 1934 was 97° F, but had risen to a high of 105° F and higher in the 1990s (Heat Island Group, 1999). During the summer, warm dry air descends from the East Pacific High and caps the cool, moist ocean-modified area creating an inversion layer or marine layer – the typical summer fog. This marine layer thickens and advances inland at night, but usually dissipates by midday.

The typical wind pattern from spring to fall is a west or southwest breeze off the Pacific Ocean, which brings in the marine inversion layer. During the fall and winter season, the Santa Ana winds may develop. These are hot, dry offshore winds that are caused by high pressure over the Great Basin as cold air flows there from Canada.

The Park site is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX. The project falls within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which encompasses 6,745 miles and includes Orange County and portions of San

Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties. The SCAQMD stretches from the Pacific Ocean in the west, the Angeles National Forest to the north, San Clemente to the south, and Riverside County to the east.

Regional Climate and Air Quality

The SCAB is primarily a coastal plain with interconnected valleys and low hills progressing into high mountain ranges on the perimeter. The region is located within a semi-permanent high-pressure system that lies off the coast. As a result, the weather is mild, tempered by a daytime sea breeze and a nighttime land breeze. This mild climate is infrequently interrupted by periods of extremely hot weather, winter storms, and dry, offshore winds. Rainfall in the SCAB is primarily restricted to November through April, with rainfall totals being highly variable from year to year.

The SCAB is enclosed on three sides by mountains and the Pacific Ocean on the other side. The mountains act as barriers, keeping pollutants from dispersing. The prevailing onshore winds transport pollutants eastward across the Basin, allowing ongoing photochemical reactions to occur as new pollutants are added to existing pollutant concentrations. The region's bright sunlight contributes ultraviolet light, which contributes to reactions producing ozone.

Compared with other urban areas in the United States, the Los Angeles area has a low average wind speed. Mild sea breezes slowly carry pollutants inland. An inversion layer, which is a layer of warm air that lies over cooler, ocean-modified air, often acts as a lid, preventing air pollutants from escaping upward. Such inversion conditions are often present in the Basin.

On spring and summer days most pollution is moved out of the SCAB through mountain passes or is lifted by the warm vertical currents produced by the heating of the mountain slopes. From late summer through the winter months, lower wind speeds and the earlier appearance of offshore breezes combine to trap pollution in the SCAB.

During summer, temperature inversions are more pronounced than during winter and prevent pollutants from flowing upward and dispersing. In the winter, surface or ground-level inversions often form during the night and trap vehicle carbon monoxide emissions from the morning commute time. In winter, the greatest pollution problems are carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, which are trapped and concentrated by the inversion layer.

Existing Air Quality

The State and federal governments have established health-based Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) for several air pollutants, including carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), lead (Pb), suspended particulate matter (PM_{10}, or particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$, or particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2). Additionally, the State has set standards

for sulfates (SO_4) and visibility-reducing particles. These standards are displayed in Table 5-2.

Ambient air pollutant concentrations in Los Angeles County are measured at 13 air quality monitoring stations operated by SCAQMD. The nearest air quality monitoring station to the project site is station number 087, located at 1630 North Main Street. It measures carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, total suspended particulates, lead, and sulfate. The following table displays the State and federal AAQS, along with the 2002 levels of the pollutants as measured at the North Main Street monitoring station.

Table 5-2
California State and National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Air Quality as Measured at SCAQMD's Central L.A. Monitoring Station, 2002

Pollutant	Averaging Time	National Standards	State Standards	Maximum Concentration Recorded	No. Days Exceeded Federal Standards	No. Days Exceeded State Standards
Ozone (O_3)	1-hour	0.12 ppm	0.09 ppm	0.122	0	8
	8-hour	0.08 ppm	n/a	0.080	0	n/a
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8-hour	9.0 ppm	9.0 ppm	4.0	0	0
	1-hour	35 ppm	20 ppm	5	n/a	n/a
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	annual	0.053 ppm	n/a	0.0327[3]	n/a	n/a
	1-hour	n/a	0.25 ppm	0.14	n/a	0
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	24-hour	365 µg/m^3	0.04 ppm	0.016	0	0
	1-hour	n/a	0.25 ppm	0.02	n/a	0
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	24-hour	150 µg/m^3	50 µg/m^3	65	0	8[4]
	annual arithmetic mean	50 µg/m^3	20 µg/m^3	39.3	n/a	n/a
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	24-hour	65 µg/m^3	n/a	66.3	1[5]	n/a
	annual arithmetic mean	15 µg/m^3	12 µg/m^3	21.8	n/a	n/a
Lead (Pb)	30-day	n/a	1.5 µg/m^3	0.5	n/a	n/a
	quarter	1.5 µg/m^3	n/a	0.3	n/a	n/a
Sulfates	24-hour	n/a	25 µg/m^3	15.2	n/a	0
Visibility-Reducing Particles	8-hour	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: *www.arb.ca.gov*; *www.aqmd.gov/smog/AQSCR2002/aq02card.pdf*

[3] Annual arithmetic mean

[4] 8 out of 55 days sampled

[5] 1 out of 330 days sampled

[6] Extinction coefficient of 0.23 per kilometer (to reduce visibility to ten miles) or more due to particles when relative humidity is less than 70 percent.

Attainment Designations

The California Air Resources Board and the U.S. EPA designate areas as in attainment or non-attainment for each criteria pollutant, based on whether ambient air quality standards have been met.

As the regional authority for air quality, SCAQMD promulgates rules and regulations that govern the permitting and enforcement processes for emitters of air pollutants. SCAQMD is also responsible for preparing planning documents that are used to ensure that national and state AAQS are met, as required by federal and State legislation. The principal planning document regarding such enforcement is the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). On August 1, 2003, the governing Board of SCAQMD approved the 2003 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) update. The California Air Resources Board approved the plan on October 23, 2003. This new air quality plan identifies new clean air strategies needed to bring the region into attainment with national AAQS for O_3, PM_{10}, and CO.

Table 5-3
South Coast Air Basin Air Quality Designations

Pollutant	2002 State Levels	2002 National Levels
Ozone (O_3)	nonattainment	nonattainment (1-hour: extreme; 8-hour: severe 17)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	nonattainment (LA County)	nonattainment (serious)
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	attainment/unclassified	attainment/unclassified
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	attainment/unclassified	attainment/unclassified
Particulate Matter 10 (PM_{10})	nonattainment	nonattainment (serious)
Sulfates	attainment	n/a
Lead (Pb)	attainment/unclassified	attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	unclassified	n/a
Visibility-Reducing Particles	attainment/unclassified	n/a

Sources: California Air Resources Board, www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm; U.S. EPA Green Book, www.epa.gov/airprogm/oar/oaqps/greenbk/index.html

Existing Air Pollution Sources

Air quality in the vicinity of the Park is affected by emissions from motor vehicle traffic on adjacent roadways. Two major freeways, Interstate 5 and Highway 110, as well as railway tracks, are located within 1/2 mile of the project.

Sensitive Receptors

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others due to the population groups or activities involved. The SCAQMD includes in its list of sensitive receptors residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, convalescent homes, retirement homes, rehabilitation centers, and athletic facilities. Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, and the acutely and chronically ill, especially those with cardio-respiratory diseases. Residential areas are also considered to be sensitive to air pollution because residents tend to be home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained

exposure to any pollutant present. Industrial and commercial districts are less sensitive to poor air quality because exposure periods are shorter and workers in these districts are, in general, the healthier segment of the public.

Approximately three schools - Cathedral High School, Ann Street Elementary School, and Solano Avenue Elementary School - are located within 1/2 mile of the project site, and another two dozen are located within two miles of the Park. An L.A. Urban League Head Start Center is located less than 1/2 mile from the project site. The nearest hospital is the Pacific Alliance Medical Center on College Street, less than 1/4 mile west of the Park site. An additional eleven medical centers, recreation centers, and group homes are known to be located within two miles of the project site.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the General Plan could result in the construction of new facilities, resulting in potential air quality impacts associated with emissions from construction equipment and vehicles as well as from the generation of dust. Implementation of the Plan could also result in air quality impacts associated with increased motor vehicle emissions due to increases in visitation to the Park and jobs related to the administration, operations, and maintenance of the Park. Mitigation measures included in this EIR would reduce potential impacts to less than significant at the program level.

A significant air quality impact would be expected to occur if the General Plan would:

- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan
- Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation
- Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)
- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people

In addition, the SCAQMD has adopted air quality thresholds of significance for construction activities and project operations that are shown in the following table.

Table 5-4
SCAQMD Air Pollution Significance Criteria

Air Pollutant	Project Construction	Project Operation
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	550 lbs. per day	550 lbs. per day
Reactive Organic Compounds (ROC)	75 lbs. per day	55 lbs. per day
Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)	100 lbs. per day	55 lbs. per day
Particulates (PM_{10})	150 lbs. per day	150 lbs. per day

Source: South Coast Air Quality Management District, 1993

Impact Air-1. Potential Construction-Related Emissions Impacts
Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in construction projects for the provision of public use opportunities and related facilities. Construction activities associated with potential General Plan projects could generate substantial amounts of dust (including PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), primarily from "fugitive[7]" sources, and lesser amounts of other criteria air pollutants, primarily from operation of heavy equipment. A large portion of the potential construction dust emissions would result from equipment and motor-vehicle traffic over paved and unpaved roads and the use of temporary, unpaved parking lots at construction sites. Potential dust emissions from construction would vary from day to day, depending on the level and type of construction activity, the silt content of the soil, and the prevailing weather.

Exhaust from potential construction equipment, haul trucks, and construction-worker commute trips, would also result in increased PM_{10} levels, along with other criteria air pollutants such as CO, NO_x, and ROC. Potential asphalt paving and application of architectural materials would also result in evaporative emissions. Criteria pollutant emissions of ROC and NO_x from these emissions sources would incrementally add to regional atmospheric loading of ozone precursors during construction of projects that could be implemented under the General Plan. In the absence of mitigation, potential construction or demolition activities could result in significant quantities of dust and air emissions, and, as a result, local visibility and PM_{10}/$PM_{2.5}$, and criteria air pollutant concentrations could be adversely affected. Without mitigation, air quality impacts by construction or demolition activities could have a significant but temporary effect in the immediate vicinity of individual sites. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Air-1 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific Management Plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

7 "Fugitive" emissions generally refer to those emissions that are released to the atmosphere by some means other than through a stack or tailpipe. Fugitive dust emissions typically include emissions from onsite surface disturbance activities and offsite vehicular travel on unpaved roadways.

Mitigation Measure Air-1. Potential construction-related emissions impacts should be reviewed at the project level for specific facilities or Management Plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- Phase construction projects in such a manner that minimizes the area of surface disturbance (e.g., grading and excavation), the number of vehicle trips on unpaved surfaces, and concurrent use of diesel equipment and other equipment or activities that release emissions. Minimizing these effects may entail clustering certain construction activities or performing them in a particular order.

- Implement a compliance-monitoring program in order to stay within the parameters of project-specific compliance documents. The compliance-monitoring program would oversee these mitigation measures and would include reporting protocols.

- Comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust Abatement). Standard dust abatement measures could include the following elements: water or otherwise stabilize soils, cover haul trucks, employ speed limits on unpaved roads, minimize vegetation clearing, and revegetate disturbed areas post-construction.

- Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds (instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph.

- Ensure that any stationary motor sources (such as generators and compressors) located within 100 feet of any residence or public facilities (sensitive receptors) are equipped with supplementary exhaust pollution control systems as required by the California Air Resources Board.

- Take appropriate measures to control pedestrian access to active construction areas. Recreational users should be kept a minimal distance from the operation of all construction equipment, except trucks hauling materials to and from the Park.

All of these measures might not apply at each construction site. Generally, larger, more intensive construction projects require more comprehensive dust abatement programs and mitigation practices than smaller, less intensive projects.

Implementation of the practices described above would reduce the potential program-level construction-related emissions impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan to a level of less than significant. However, the Department would require examination of many specific facilities and Management Plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Impact Air-2. Potential Operational Emissions

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in an increase in public use and an associated increase in car trips to the site, as use and facilities at the site are currently very restricted. A modest amount of increased motor vehicle emissions would be the chief sources of pollutants resulting from implementation of the projects that could be developed under the General Plan. Traffic levels would increase somewhat due to increases in visitation to the Park and jobs related to the administration, operations, and maintenance of the Park. No stationary on-site emissions are envisioned as a result of the General Plan. Some stationary emissions resulting from electrical energy demand projected for the Park would occur off-site at electrical power generating plants located throughout the utility's generating network, although this energy demand may be reduced by the Plan's proposed incorporation of sustainable planning, design, and materials, and would be quite small in comparison to the region's overall electrical energy use and emissions.

Facilities or projects in the Basin with daily operation-related emissions that exceed the SCAQMD's thresholds, presented in Table 5-4, SCAQMD Air Pollution Significance Criteria, constitute significant air quality impacts. Motor vehicle emission estimates can be used to account for most of the potential total daily operation-related emissions of the Park associated with implementation of the General Plan. Modeling can provide estimates of motor vehicle emissions based on average trip length and the number of new trips generated. While the potential increase in trip generation resulting from implementation of the General Plan is not known at this time, modeling provides an idea of whether projected traffic levels would exceed the established emissions thresholds. For instance, computer modeling using URBEMIS 2002 (version 7.5.0, based on EMFAC2002) shows that a 32-acre city park could result in approximately 1,600 vehicle trips per day, and that expected emissions would all fall well below the threshold levels as shown in Table 5-4, SCAQMD Air Pollution Significance Criteria.

The General Plan includes program-level specifications that would moderate air emissions. Foremost, the General Plan emphasizes non-vehicular public access to the park via connections to pedestrian and bicycle trails and to public transit. For instance, locating the multiple-use trails that serve the trail system near the Los Angeles Bikeway could reduce vehicle trips to the Park. Moreover, the General Plan aims to implement energy-efficient practices in the design and operation of proposed facilities, including use of solar and other non-fuel dependent energy sources, efficient equipment, and permeable paving.

If implementation of the General Plan does not result in daily traffic volumes much higher than predicted, then the air quality impact would be less than significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Air-2 would reduce the impact even further at the program level. Because implementation information,

such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific Management Plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and Plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures. The impact would be less than significant at the Program level.

Mitigation Measure Air-2. Potential operational emissions impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or Management Plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- Work with local and regional public transit agencies to offer schedules that meet park use demand and allowing bicycles and other recreational equipment on their routes to and from the park.
- Provide reserved and preferentially located carpool/vanpool parking spaces.
- Employ site plan design and building design mitigation measures that have been developed by the SCAQMD. This might include building orientation to the north for natural cooling, the use of energy efficient appliances and lights, increased insulation and window treatments, light-colored roof materials to reflect heat, shade trees to reduce building's heat, use of building materials that do not require use of paints/solvents, and centralized water heating systems.

Implementation of the above measures would reduce the potential program-level operational emissions impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan. However, the Department would require examination of many specific facilities and Management Plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Cultural Resources

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed General Plan would result in a significant impact if it would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical or archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Section 15064.5, such as physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings, such that the significance of the historical resource would be materially impaired.
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Activities associated with removal, maintenance, visitor use, or development of improvements, have the potential to disturb, degrade, or damage archaeological remains and historic features.

Significant archaeological and historical resources exist at the Park site. These include historic archaeological features and historic site locations. Additional archaeological resources that have yet to be discovered may also be present within the park property as well. The current property is also nearby numerous historic properties as noted in Chapter 2, Existing Conditions.

Most of the known archaeological resources are located on or within a few feet of the current surface level and are thus susceptible to both direct and indirect impacts. Steps can be taken to preserve these sensitive resources and reduce potential exposure to the elements and/or subsequent damage due to visitor use and/or facility development.

Several goals and guidelines contained in the General Plan serve to protect and preserve archaeological and historical resources by identifying, recording, protecting, and interpreting significant cultural resources. Activities associated with demolition, construction, maintenance, visitor use, and recreation have the potential to cause significant adverse long-term impacts to cultural resources are addressed in these goals and guidelines. California State Parks must work under Public Resources Codes 5024 and 5024.5 which provide identification and protection for cultural resources that are either listed on the California or National Registers of Historic Places or are eligible for such listing. Cultural resources will also be protected through specific investigations and analysis. The priority for these planning efforts will be to identify areas with the greatest resource sensitivity and develop appropriate activity guidelines and protection for those areas.

Consequently, a comprehensive Cultural Resources Management Plan is called for in this plan. Addressing cultural resource issues in public use and facility development areas will provide appropriate guidance for the overall park program. These plans will include extensive surveys of cultural resources and an evaluation of findings based on data to determine if additional management actions are necessary to protect the resources. Cultural resource sensitivity zones may be delineated as a result of findings. Additional plans to be completed such as the Interpretive Master Plan will complement the preservation goals with identification of those features and elements most appropriate for public educational programs. All such activities will be subject to CEQA and PRC 5024.5 review, addressing cultural resources, as it is prepared. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts shall be addressed in any future management plans, development projects, and specific management actions. All actions shall be in compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements with respect to cultural resources. Future projects shall follow General Plan goals and

guidelines, and include mitigation measures that are deemed appropriate and necessary at the time a project is scoped for implementation.

Incorporation of the following mitigation measures would reduce the impacts to less than significant at the Program level.

Mitigation Measure Cult-1. Prior to any actions that have the potential to disturb archaeological sites, additional research and testing shall be carried out to determine if buried cultural remains exist. New facilities shall be designed and constructed to avoid archaeological remains to the extent possible. If impacts to archaeological remains are unavoidable, then a recovery plan will be developed and implemented. To ensure that cultural resources are not adversely impacted, a California State Archaeologist will monitor those activities deemed to have the highest potential to disturb archaeological deposits. If cultural remains are uncovered during a project, work will be controlled and redirected to allow resource recordation, recovery, and treatment. Interpretive tools and programs will be utilized to educate visitors on protecting cultural resources that contribute to the integrity of the Park.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Mitigation Measure Cult-2. Proposed projects will be reviewed by California State Parks Cultural Resource Specialists (Archaeologists and Historians) to determine potential impacts to significant cultural resources. Significant resources will be mapped, recorded, and evaluated to determine their eligibility for placement in the National Register of Historic Places. Projects will be designed and implemented to avoid significant impacts to potentially eligible resources in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.*

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Geology and Soils

Existing Conditions

The site is located within the Peninsular Range Geomorphic Province of California, an area of predominately northwest-trending mountain ranges and intervening basins. It is located within the former floodplain of the Los Angeles River and bordered to the north by the Elysian Park Hills.

The surficial site geology consists of Quaternary alluvium, a mixture of sand, silt, clay, and gravels deposited by the Los Angeles River prior to being channelized (Lamar, 1970). Based on soil sampling results during the hazardous waste investigation, the upper three feet of soil contains artificial fill material (Greenwood and Associates, 2003). The Elysian Park Hills are composed of Upper Miocene (approximately 5-11 million years old) marine siltstone and sandstone of the Puente Formation (Lamar, 1970). These sedimentary rocks were deposited in

a deep (greater than 2000 feet) water environment by turbidity currents (undersea flows or avalanches of water and sediment). The Puente Formation dips underneath the site, having been uplifted from depth by movement on the Elysian Park Fault.

The diatomaceous shales of the Puente Formation contain several species of marine fossil diatoms (single-celled algae with cell walls composed of silica), and a terrestrial fossil plant assemblage that includes trees and shrubs of several genera, including oak, magnolia, bald cypress, laurel, holly, maple and gum (*Nyssa*). The composition of the Puente Formation fossils suggests three climatic elements: a subtropical coastal lowland (including a swamp and associated swamp-border group); a subtropical protected upland canyon; and an exposed arid or semiarid upland. The terrestrial fossils were likely derived from the ancestral San Gabriel Mountains and deposited into the marine environment at depths of at least 1,800 feet less than four miles from the shoreline (Mount, 1970).

The site lies within the alluvial plain with soils consisting of silts and silty sand underlain with intermixed sand, gravel, and cobble layers. Implementing the transfer of property from the Trust for Public Land to State Parks required an excavation to test and remove possibly contaminated soil identified in various locations throughout the site (Greenwood and Associates, 2003). The soil sampling results are discussed in the Hazardous Materials section of this General Plan.

The soil profile was characterized as surface to 18-24 inches being comprised of fill, a medium brown loamy soil with occasional pockets of gravelly ballast (Greenwood and Associates, 2003). The loam varies from loose and friable to hardened clay-like soil. Below the uppermost fill cap is another fill layer, a disturbed stratum containing a mix of soil and construction debris, reaching to almost 40 inches below surface. Very dark brown/black pockets suggestive of soil contamination were observed within the layer. A grey/green, relatively sterile coarse sand fill was also observed between 30 inches and almost 5 feet below surface. The native alluvium was exposed at approximately 40 inches below surface and comprised of light brown to medium brown/orange colored sand with intermediate gravel and cobble layers. Borings drilled from 1989 to 2000 by various consultants encountered gravelly sand fill, underlain by mixtures of clay, silt, sand, and sandy gravels (IT Corporation, 2001). Most borings showed gravels and sands with rounded particles, indicative of stream channel deposits, at the total depth of the borings, usually around 15 to 18 feet below grade. Some borings met refusal in weathered sandstone bedrock (Puente Formation) at depths ranging from 10 feet to 22 feet, or deeper based on location.

Geologic Hazards

Seismic Hazards: Southern California is a region that has historically (and prehistorically) experienced high seismicity. In the past 100 years, several earthquakes of magnitude 5.0 or larger have been reported on the active San Andreas, San Jacinto, Elsinore, Garlock, and Newport-Inglewood fault systems.

Regionally, the site is located in the northernmost portion of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province that is bounded by the Santa Monica, Hollywood, Raymond, Sierra Madre, and Cucamonga fault zones to the north, the San Andreas fault zone to the east, to the west by the deeper parts of the Pacific Ocean, including the continental shelf and offshore islands, and the Mexican border to the south. The northwest trend is further reflected in the direction of the dominant geologic structural features of the province, which are northwest to west-northwest trending folds and faults, such as the Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone.

Downtown Los Angeles shares with the rest of the Los Angeles Basin an exposure to frequent strong earthquakes in the range of magnitude 6.0 or larger, of which the 1997 Northridge, the 1971 San Fernando, and the 1933 Long Beach earthquakes might be taken as type examples. Any future developments would need to include designs that incorporate features that allow structures to withstand the effects of strong ground motion. Table 5-5, Active Area Faults, indicates the active faults in the area, the type of fault, the expected Maximum Credible Earthquake, and distance from the project site.

The closest fault to the project site is the Elysian Park blind thrust fault, a type of fault whose existence under the Los Angeles Basin was only recently discovered in the last 15 years. Blind thrusts occur in the Los Angeles Basin due to the compressional forces (north-south squeezing) generated by the bending of the San Andreas fault system to the northeast. Blind thrusts develop where the uppermost rocks are ductile and deform by bending and folding, while the underlying rocks are brittle and break along a low-angle fault. During an earthquake, the fault breaks at depth, but there is no surface rupture, just squeezing and uplift of the ductile rocks, resulting in the formation of anticlinal structures, such as the Elysian Park Hills.

Seismically Induced Hazards

- *Surface Rupture*: No surface rupture due to an earthquake is expected at the project site. The Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Map for the Los Angeles quadrangle does not include the nearby Elysian Park Thrust Fault, since it is not considered capable of generating surface rupture.

- *Ground Shaking*: Shaking intensity can vary depending on the overall magnitude, distance to the fault, focus of earthquake energy, and type of geologic material underlying the area. Areas that are underlain by bedrock tend to experience less ground-shaking than those underlain by unconsolidated sediments such as artificial fill. The project site is underlain by artificial fill and alluvial sediments. Due to the proximity of the site to multiple earthquake sources, ground shaking during an earthquake is highly likely. The California Geological Survey (Petersen, 1999) map shows that the project area has a 10% probability in the next 50 years of experiencing

moderate ground shaking on the order of 0.5-0.7 g (acceleration due to gravity) or greater.

Table 5-5
Active Area Faults

Fault Name	Type of Fault	Maximum Credible Earthquake	Distance from Project Site
Elysian Park Thrust (B)	Blind thrust	6.7	0.95 mile northeast
Hollywood Fault (B)	Left lateral reverse oblique	6.4	3.9 miles north
Raymond Fault (B)	Left lateral reverse oblique	6.5	6.2 miles northeast
Newport-Inglewood (B)	Right lateral strike slip	6.9	9 miles southwest
Verdugo Fault (B)	Reverse	6.7	10 miles north
Whittier Fault (A) (Segment of Elsinore)	Right lateral strike slip	6.8	12 miles southeast
Northridge Thrust (B)	Blind thrust	6.9	25 miles northwest
San Andreas Fault Zone (A)	Right lateral strike slip	7.4	45 miles northeast

Source: Petersen, et al, 1996

A Faults: faults with a moment magnitude potential greater than 7.0 and a slip rate equal to or greater than 5 mm/yr.

B Faults: faults with a moment magnitude potential between 6.5 and 7 and a slip rate between and 5 mm/yr. Most active faults in California, except for the San Andreas system, are type B faults.

- *Settlement:* Loose, soft soil material comprised of sand, silt, and clay, if not properly engineered, has the potential to settle after a building is placed on the surface. Settlement of the loose soils generally occurs slowly, but over time can amount to more than most structures can tolerate. Settlement may occur as the result of ground shaking and liquefaction during an earthquake.

- *Liquefaction:* Seismic-induced ground motion can cause liquefaction. Liquefaction occurs when water-saturated sediments are subjected to extended periods of shaking, causing increases in the water pressure of soil pores and a temporary alteration from soil to a liquid state of the soil. The result is a loss of soil strength, which causes the failure of adjacent infrastructure, such as bridges and buildings. The degree of resistance to

liquefaction depends on a number of factors, including soil grain-size, degree of compaction and cementation, depth of the saturated zone, characteristics of the vibration, and the occurrence of past liquefaction. Granular, unconsolidated, saturated sediments are the most likely to liquefy, while dry, dense, or cohesive soils tend to resist liquefaction. Liquefaction is generally considered to be a hazard where the groundwater is within 30 to 40 feet of the surface. Where the soil drainage is good, the pore pressure that builds up when ground motion shakes unconsolidated soil is more easily dissipated; thus, those soils with good drainage are less likely to liquefy.

The entire Park site has been designated by the California Geological Survey (1999) as a zone of required investigation for liquefaction. The designation is "*Areas where historic occurrence of liquefaction, or local geological, geotechnical, and groundwater conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements such that mitigation as defined in Public resources Code Section 2693(c) would be required*." Existing site specific data will be reviewed and additional information will be collected, if needed, to determine the potential for damage to any planned structures.

- *Landslides:* The site is generally flat-lying and the portion of land closest to the Los Angeles River is slightly more elevated than the rest of the site. Currently, there are no significant slopes within the site. Areas to the north of Broadway on the south slope of the Elysian Park Hills have been mapped as susceptible to seismic-induced landsliding (Petersen, 1999). Any landsides that might occur should not affect the project site.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

New facilities planned as a result of the General Plan would be subjected to strong ground shaking in the event of a nearby earthquake, which could expose people or structures to adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of seismic ground failure, liquefaction, earthquake induced settlement, and possibly landslides. Mitigation measures included in this EIR would reduce potential impacts to less than significant at the program level.

A project would have a significant impact related to geology and soils if the project would:

- Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
  - rupture of known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault;
  - strong seismic ground shaking;
  - seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
  - landslides.

- Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil

- Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse

- Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property

- Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater

- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature

Impact Geo-1. Potential Seismic Impacts
Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in the addition of new facilities and improvements to existing facilities that would be subjected to strong ground shaking in the event of a nearby earthquake, and that could expose people or structures to adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death as a result of seismic ground failure, liquefaction, earthquake induced settlement, or landslides. As described in Chapter 2, Existing Conditions, numerous active faults are known to exist in the region that could potentially generate seismic events capable of significantly affecting proposed facilities. Potential affects from severe ground shaking could cause catastrophic damage to the Park site improvements. Water features that could be added to the Park could fail during strong ground shaking creating minor localized flooding.

The project area is not located within a currently established Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone for surface fault rupture hazards. Therefore, the potential for surface rupture due to fault plane displacement propagating to the surface at the site during the design life of the project is considered low.

Mitigation Measure Geo-1. Potential seismic impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or Management Plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- Geotechnical investigations shall be performed before final designs of any project facilities. The studies shall assess seismic hazards and soil suitability. Recommendations provided in these investigations shall be implemented.

- Project facilities shall be constructed in accordance with earthquake design standards in the current accepted edition of the California Building Code or the Uniform Building Code.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure Geo-1 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific Management Plans, is not yet know, specific facilities and Plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Impact Geo-2. Potential Erosion Impacts
Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in the addition of new facilities and will allow increased public use. Temporary increases in erosion may occur during geotechnical investigations and during construction activities. Long term increases in potential erosion can occur due to over-use by park visitors, lack of vegetation, and over-watering.

The reduction of overall permeable area could also increase erosion potential by leading to greater water runoff rates and concentrated flows that have greater potential to erode exposed soils. The effects of excessive erosion could be as minor as nuisance problems that require additional maintenance, such as increased siltation in storm drains.

Mitigation Measure Geo-2. Potential erosion impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or Management Plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- DPR-approved Best Management Practices to reduce or eliminate soil erosion and runoff will be implemented during construction (temporary BMPs), including geotechnical investigations, and for final design (permanent BMPs). These erosion control BMPs will be included as part of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required by the State Water Resources Control Board (see Hydrology Section). Acceptable BMPs can be obtained from the Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook (CSQA, 2003).

- Permanent BMPs would include, but not be limited to: 1) site drainage plans will be engineered to prevent excessive rainfall runoff; and 2) a landscaping and irrigation plan shall be developed to minimize erosion potential. Final grading plans shall be designed to minimize soil erosion potential.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure Geo-2 would reduce the potential program-level erosion impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan. However, the Department would require examination of specific facilities and management plans included in the General Plan at the time they

are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Impact Geo-3. Potential Unsuitable Soils
Some soils at the Park site, including natural soils, could be unsuitable for facilities development that could occur under implementation of the General Plan. Expansive soils could exist at the Park site, creating shrink-swell hazards to building foundations. As previously mentioned, the entire Park site has been designated as a zone of required investigation for liquefaction.

Mitigation Measure Geo-3. Potential unsuitable soils impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or Management Plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- Geotechnical investigations shall be performed before final designs of any project facilities. The studies shall assess seismic hazards, slope stability, and soil suitability. Recommendations provided in these investigations shall be implemented.

- A California Certified Engineering Geologist shall approve all grading and filling operations.

- A survey shall be conducted for new and abandoned wells to ensure the stability of nearby soils.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure Geo-3 would reduce the potential program-level unsuitable soils impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan. However, the Department would require examination of many specific facilities and management plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Impact Geo-4. Paleontological Impacts
No paleontological sites have been recorded within the boundaries of the Park site, which is covered with artificial fill and alluvium deposited by the Los Angeles River. The diatomaceous shales of the Puente Formation, which occurs in the adjacent Elysian Park Hills, contain several species of marine fossil diatoms (single-celled algae with cell walls composed of silica), and a terrestrial fossil plant assemblage. The Puente Formation may occur at depth beneath the site, as indicated in soil borings that encountered bedrock. Given the project location, at the margin of the former Los Angeles River floodplain, and the intensive historic land use, significant deposits of fossil material at the Park site are

unlikely. Nevertheless, significant assemblages of fossil remains are possible even in areas designated as having low-potential for resources. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific management plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure Geo-4. The Department shall provide a qualified paleontological monitor to oversee all subsurface operations, including but not limited to grading, excavation, trenching, or removal of existing features of the subject property. The monitor shall be on site during any activity when new soils are to be moved or exported. The monitor shall be authorized to halt the project in the area of the finding until such specimens may be marked, collected, and evaluated for all paleontological materials discovered during construction. Copies of paleontological surveys, studies, or reports of field observation during grading and land modification shall be prepared and certified by the attendant paleontological monitor and submitted to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Any fossils recovered during mitigation shall be deposited by an accredited and permanent scientific or educational institution such as the Department, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Implementation of the requirement described above would reduce the potential program-level paleontological resources impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan. However, the Department would require examination of many specific facilities and management plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Hazards and Hazardous Resources

Existing Conditions

Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in construction activities that include the use of hazardous materials, expose hazardous waste that might be present at construction sites (from previous industrial land use), or create fire hazards. Greater human presence would not result in significant risk of illegal dumping of wastes. In fact, increasing public activity could discourage any illegal dumping by increasing visibility of such activities. The Park may have barbecue pits, and it can be assumed that lighter fluid and other flammable materials would be used at the barbecue pits. Park maintenance would include the use of fertilizers and pesticides, motor oil, and gasoline. Diesel fuel would occasionally be used at the Park. Mitigation measures included in this EIR would reduce potential impacts to less than significant at the program-level. In addition to the information presented below, further existing conditions may be

found in Chapter 2. A synopsis of the industrial uses is provided in this section. The source of information for this section is the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (IT Corporation, 2001).

In the late 1800s the site contained stores and dwellings, and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company provided passenger and freight rail train service at the rail yard. Industrial businesses included flour milling (Capitol Milling), iron works, other metal-work shops, and an oil tank farm. Industrial activities increased at the turn of the century and existing buildings within the rail yard were replaced by additional railroad tracks, as the service became primarily freight.

By the mid-1900s storage buildings, truck maintenance facilities, washing areas, a service station, and automobile repair facilities were added to the rail yard, with nearby businesses including electric plating, welding, and automobile services. The oil tank farm (Standard Oil) was gone by 1968. Three oil exploration wells, one known to have been drilled prior to 1967, were located on the 32-acre parcel and an adjacent 8-acre parcel to the north. By 1989, the rail yard functioned as a rail switching yard with minor service/maintenance functions and a continued connection to Capitol Milling for freight transport (ceased in mid-1999). Approximately half of the tracks were removed in 1989 and removal continued in the 1990s.

In 2001, the site was still used by Union Pacific Railroad Company (merged with SPTC in 1998) to store signal and maintenance equipment. The site contained rail spurs, debris piles, and railroad tie posts.

Site Investigations

Various environmental site investigations have been performed at the former rail yard since 1989. These investigations have included collection and analysis of soil, groundwater, and soil gas samples and installation of groundwater monitoring wells. Based on these investigations, several areas of concern (AOCs) were identified within the 32-acre parcel. These AOCs are: former roundhouse; former redwood sump; former machine shop; former paint and varnish shops; drum storage area; former oil house; and a portion of the vehicle parking area (in the MTA easement). Specific information was not available for the precise activities that occurred or potential chemicals used in these areas. In addition to these AOCs, widespread contamination over the entire site is possible due to spills and releases from rail yard operations, including potential impacts from pesticide/herbicide applications.

Industrial activities on the 8-acre parcel to the north have resulted in contamination that is contributing to groundwater contamination under the project site. Two of these areas are the sites of two former underground storage tanks (UST) - UST-7 and UST-A.

Summary of Findings

Soils: The results of soil sampling indicated possible metal contamination (arsenic) in the paint and varnish shops and redwood sump areas, total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) contamination in the drum storage area, oil house, and UST-A and UST-7 to the north in the MTA easement. The deeper soils near UST-A and UST-7 have elevated levels of TPH and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that may have migrated to the project site.

Groundwater: Groundwater, which occurs at approximately 30 feet below grade, is contaminated in the vicinity of UST-A, UST-7, and other areas in the 8-acre parcel and MTA easement to the north. The compounds detected in groundwater are TPH as diesel, gasoline and oil, VOCs from gasoline, such as benzene, toluene, xylene, ethylbenzene, and MTBE[8], and chlorinated VOCs (DCA, PCE, and TCE)[9]. These compounds are also detected in wells on the 32-acre parcel. The contaminated groundwater plume appears to extend through the central portion of the project site to North Spring Street and probably further, since the direction of groundwater flow is to the south across the site. The presence of contamination in groundwater may affect future use of the project site, if VOCs volatilizing from the groundwater reach the shallow soil.

Soil Gas: Areas of elevated soil gas readings (2-5 feet below grade) occur at the former vehicle parking area, the drum storage area, and on the MTA easement/8-acre parcel near former UST-7. Ongoing soil vapor extraction is occurring at the former UST-7 site.

Soil Removal Actions

Between 1988 and 2000, several areas were excavated to remove contaminated soils, USTs, and other structures. Contaminated soil was excavated from the vehicle parking area, the drum storage area, former oil house, and UST-A site (MTA easement). Based on additional site sampling conducted in 2001, the 2002 Preliminary Endangerment Assessment report determined that soil at the site still contained chemical constituents that posed a potential risk to human health. Localized areas of soil exceeded the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) screening levels for arsenic, lead, and petroleum hydrocarbons. A Remedial Action Workplan (RAW) was developed with oversight from DTSC to address removal of the areas of impacted soil. The Department and the Trust for Public Land signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with the Department of Toxic Substances Control to provide oversight of additional site investigation activities and removal of site soil containing concentrations of contaminants in excess of acceptable levels.

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[8] MTBE: Methyl tertiary butyl ether: a gasoline additive. Long term exposure effects on humans not known at this time.

[9] Chlorinated organic compounds: DCA: Dichloroethane, a common degreaser, and PCE and TCE : perchloroethylene (PERC or tetrachloroethene) and trichloroethene are common dry cleaning solvents and degreasers. DCA and PCE and may cause cancer in humans.

From December 2002 through February 2003, soil was excavated from 20 locations within the project site (the 32-acre parcel), at total depths ranging from 1.5 feet up to 10 feet below grade. These areas were located near the former roundhouse, former paint and varnish shops, vehicle parking area, drum storage area, former oil house, near UST-A and UST-7, the former battery and waste oil storage area, and several other areas not associated with a specific structure.

Confirmation samples were collected from the floors and walls of the excavations and tested for the contaminants of concern. Additional soil was excavated, if necessary, until the soil tested below the clean-up levels for the contaminants of concern. Once removal was complete, the contaminated soil was removed from the site and disposed of at a licensed disposal facility. The excavations were backfilled with clean fill (dark brown sandy clay) from the Gypsum Canyon Quarry, and compacted to 90%. The fill was placed to within three inches of the original ground surface and covered with native soil.

The DTSC issued a letter on March 5, 2003 approving the soil remediation work and results from the Removal Action Completion Report (Shaw Environmental, Inc., 2003) for the project site. The letter states that: "*Except for the groundwater, DTSC has determined that the Site has been remediated to allow for unrestricted land use and that No Further Action for soil is required. Therefore, the Site is now suitable for park development.*"

Remediation is ongoing for contaminants in soil gas and groundwater. Groundwater quality investigation and remediation remain the responsibility of Union Pacific under the oversight of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Regulatory Setting

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), Department of Toxic Substances Control regulates the generation, transport, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. Remediation of contaminated sites is performed under the oversight of Cal-EPA and with the cooperation of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the local fire department. At sites where contamination is suspected or known to occur, a site investigation and remediation plan may be required. For typical projects, actual site remediation is performed either before or during the construction phase of the project.

Worker Safety

Federal and state laws provide occupational safety standards to minimize worker safety risks from both physical and chemical hazards in the workplace. The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA) and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are the agencies responsible for assuring worker safety in the workplace. Cal-OSHA assumes primary responsibility for developing and enforcing standards for safe workplaces and work practices. A Site Health and Safety Plan must be prepared to protect workers at sites with known contamination. The Site Health and Safety Plan establishes policies and procedures to protect workers and the public from

exposure to potential hazards at the contaminated site (NIOSH/OSHA/USCG/EPA, 1985).

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The CEQA Guidelines establish that a project would have a significant impact due to hazards and hazardous materials if it would:

- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;
- For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area;
- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; and/or
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

<u>Impact Haz-1.</u> Construction Phase Hazardous Materials Releases
Implementation of the proposed General Plan will result in the creation of new facilities. Potential construction activities would require the use of certain potentially hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, paints, and solvents. These materials would generally be used for excavation equipment, generators, and other construction equipment and would be contained within vessels engineered for safe storage. Spills during onsite fueling of equipment or upset conditions (i.e., puncture of a fuel tank through operator error or slope instability) could result in a release of fuels or oils into the environment. Storage of large quantities of these materials at the construction sites is not anticipated. However, potential release of these materials would be a potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measure Haz-1. Potential construction phase hazardous materials release impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be implemented, including but not limited to:

- All equipment will be inspected by the contractor for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly inspected thereafter until the equipment is removed from the park premises. The Department or its contractors shall implement as appropriate a spill prevention and control plan that requires all transport, storage, and handling of construction-related hazardous materials in a manner consistent with relevant regulations and guidelines, including those recommended and enforced by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and Los Angeles County.

- A spill kit shall be maintained on-site throughout the life of the project. The Department shall incorporate into construction contract specifications the requirement that construction staging areas be designed to contain runoff so that contaminants such as oil, grease, and fuel products do not drain towards receiving waters and soils. Heavy-duty construction equipment should not be stored overnight adjacent to a potential receiving water or high-use recreation area; however, if necessary, drip pans shall be placed beneath the machinery engine block and hydraulic systems.

- Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be disposed of outside of park boundaries at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure Haz-1 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific management plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Impact Haz-2. Potential Hazardous Sites

The Park site is not presently listed on the State's Cortese List (Government Code Section 65962.5). However, the site may still contain residual contaminants in the soil and groundwater resulting from the long term use as a rail yard. Construction of potential facilities requiring excavation and soil disturbance could result in hazardous materials impacts.

Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific management plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure Haz-2. Potential construction phase hazards and hazardous materials impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be implemented, including but not limited to:

- Any future site work that involves excavation or other ground-disturbing activities, or that may include contact with groundwater, will be conducted with guidance from the DTSC or the Los Angeles RWQCB.
- Soils disturbed by construction activities shall be assessed for possible contamination and sampled, if necessary, by Department staff or a qualified consultant, in accordance with waste disposal requirements and disposed of accordingly.

Implementation of the measure described above would reduce the potential program-level construction phase soil impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan. However, State Parks would require examination of many specific facilities and management plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Impact Haz-3. Potential Fire Hazard Impacts

Sparks from potential construction activities, such as welding and cutting, could ignite dry brush. Further, unregulated public use activities, such as use of barbeque pits or matches, could result in fire hazards. If such a fire occurred and spread to adjacent areas, public health and safety risks could occur. The Elysian Park Hills adjacent to the Park are designated as a high fire hazard area, according to City of Los Angeles hazard maps (City of Los Angeles, 2004).

Mitigation Measure Haz-3. Potential construction phase fire hazard impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be implemented, including but not limited to:

A fire safety plan will be developed by the contractor and approved by State Parks prior to the start of construction. This plan will include, but not be limited to, the following procedures:

- All dry brush shall be removed from the project construction area, and immediate vicinity.
- All equipment shall be provided with spark arresters, except those exempted by regulation.
- In the event that project construction ignites a fire, the State representative and/or contractor shall notify Department staff and local fire-fighting agencies immediately, consistent with applicable fire safety plans.

The public will be informed of potential fire dangers through public education regarding appropriate visitor use activities. This may consist of visitor handouts and posted signs.

Implementation of the requirements described above would reduce the potential for fire impacts to less than significant at the program level. However, State Parks would require examination of many specific facilities and management plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Potential Impacts to Schools

There are two schools located within a quarter mile of the project site: Cathedral High School and Ann Street Elementary School. Work conducted at the project site as part of park development could potentially emit hazardous emissions or involve hazardous materials, substances, or waste. However, this impact would be less than significant provided Mitigation Measures Haz-1 and Haz-2 are implemented.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Existing Conditions

The Park site is within the Los Angeles River watershed. The watershed covers an area of approximately 834 square miles (approximately 534,000 acres) from the Santa Susana Mountains to the west, the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and east, and the Santa Monica Mountains and the Los Angeles coastal plain to the south (The River Project, 2004). The L.A. River watershed has diverse land uses, ranging from forest or open space in the upper reaches to highly developed commercial, industrial, and residential uses in the lower reaches (Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 2004). The L.A. River once flowed freely over the coastal plain after exiting from the Whittier Narrows but was channelized between 1914 and 1970 to control runoff and reduce flood impacts. There are three stretches where the channel is still soft bottomed: at the Sepulveda Flood

Control Basin; through the Glendale Narrows; and south of Willow Street in Long Beach to the outlet (Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 2004).

The sub-watershed boundaries for the project area are from Glendale Boulevard just west of Stadium Way, and down into South Central Los Angeles. In areas to the west of the watershed, including the Park site, the water flows eastward towards the Los Angeles River.

The L.A. River is a designated Flood Control Channel that collects runoff from most of the City's storm drains and smaller open channels and funnels the water out to sea. In the course of this flow, water from Solano Canyon, Chinatown, and downtown may traverse through the project site before depositing into the L.A. River. This raises concerns for potential contaminants entering the river from neighboring properties.

Flooding

The Park site is not within the one-hundred year floodplain (Aeschbacher, et al., 2000). As such, natural flood hazards are not overriding factors with respect to the possibilities of developing the site; however, the site is prone to other man-made dangers. These dangers include inundation due to the failure of water storage facilities, namely two major reservoir tanks. These tanks are situated in Solano Canyon about a mile to the north of the site. Due to the high elevation of these tanks relative to the site, there is a danger that a rupture in these tanks could inundate parts of Elysian Park and the Park site at the foot of the canyon. However, there has not been such an incident in recent years. Since the area's natural topography has been modified, the actual flow path is difficult to predict, but it would potentially follow the streets or other open pathways.

Water Quality

The L.A. River has impaired water quality in the middle and lower portions, due to runoff from commercial, industrial, residential, and other urban areas. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) has designated the L.A. River on its 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. The pollutants, resulting from both point and non-point sources, include: pH; ammonia; lead and other metals; coliform, bacteria; trash; nutrients (algae); scum/foam (unnatural); oil; chorpyrifos and other pesticides; and volatile organic compounds (LADPW, 2004) and (LARWQCB, 1994).

Beneficial Uses

The LARWQCB has designated beneficial uses for the L.A. River in the Basin Plan (LARWQCB, 1994.) Once beneficial uses are designated, then water quality objectives are can be established and programs to maintain or enhance water quality are implemented. The project site is located at the northern end of Reach 2, which runs from Figueroa Street above the Arroyo Seco confluence to Carson Street in Long Beach.

The existing beneficial uses for this reach of the L.A. River include: groundwater recharge (GWR); water-contact recreation (REC-1); non-contact water recreation (REC-2); marine habitat (MAR); wildlife habitat (WILD); warm freshwater habitat (WARM); and rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE). The designation of existing means that the beneficial use has been obtained for the waterbody as of November 1975.

Potential beneficial uses are uses that, while not currently attained, are planned for the future. The potential beneficial uses include: municipal and domestic supply (MUN); industrial service supply (IND); industrial process supply (PROC); migration of aquatic organisms (MIGR); spawning, reproduction, and/or early development (SPWN; and shellfish harvesting (SHELL). A description of each of these beneficial uses is included in Appendix F.

Groundwater

The project site is located in the Los Angeles Forebay, an area of generally unconfined groundwater that underlies the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The Los Angeles Forebay is located within the northern portion of the Central Groundwater Basin. The Central Groundwater Basin is a rectangular northwest-southeast-trending groundwater basin bounded to the west by the Baldwin, Rosecrans, and Dominguez Hills, which are uplifted features along the Newport-Inglewood fault zone. This faulted and folded structural zone forms an effective barrier to lateral groundwater movement from the Central Basin to the West Coast Basin to the west. The Los Angeles Forebay is an important recharge area for the underlying aquifers in the Central Basin, since there are few aquitards (non-water-bearing layers) to impede the downward percolation. The main surface and subsurface inflow historically occurred in the Los Angeles Narrows[10] and the Whittier Narrows areas; but subsequent urbanization has increased the areas of impermeable surface and reduced the infiltration of water. (DWR, 1961, 1988).

The groundwater at the project site occurs at approximately 30-35 feet below grade within the Recent alluvium and the Puente Formation bedrock. The direction of groundwater flow is to the south towards the Los Angeles River. Groundwater beneath the site is contaminated due to past land practices.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The CEQA Guidelines establish that a project would have a significant impact to hydrology or water quality if the project would:

- Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or substantially degrade water quality;

[10] The Los Angeles Narrows is the area northwest of the site where the LA River flows between the Elysian and Repetto Hills.

- Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there should be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted);

- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site;

- Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff;

- Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map, or place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area;

- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam;

- Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Implementation of the General Plan could result in increased impervious surfaces that would increase runoff and could exceed the capacity of the existing drainage systems and would reroute the direction of stormwater and other surface water runoff. Construction and operation activities and public use could result in the addition of pollutants and sedimentation to surface water runoff. Mitigation measures included in this EIR would reduce potential impacts to less than significant at the program-level. Implementation of the General Plan would not result in groundwater impacts.

Impact Hydro-1. Potential Water Quality Impacts

Implementation of the proposed General Plan will result in the addition of new facilities and increased public use. Increased development[11] can increase the

[11] Development can increase pollutant loads in runoff from construction activities, landscape irrigation, storm water, and illegal dumping. Pollutants of concern include sediment, nutrients, bacteria and viruses, oxygen demanding substances, oil and grease, metals, pesticides, and trash. Public parks contribute substantial amounts of trash and pollutants associated with

erosion potential of the area. Overuse by park visitors can destroy vegetation and increase sediment loads to receiving water bodies. In addition, construction activities would increase the potential for spills of hazardous materials and would expose soils to wind and rain erosion. Application of pesticides to landscaped areas would decrease runoff water quality.

Mitigation Measure Hydro-1. Potential water quality impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- New facilities shall include water quality control features such as detention basins and vegetated buffers or bioswales, to prevent pollution of adjacent water resources by runoff. Parking lots shall be equipped with runoff treatment systems in compliance with Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan regulations.

- Storm water drainage systems shall be equipped to collect the anticipated increases in trash loads. The systems shall assist in reducing the park's trash contribution to the Los Angeles River from existing levels.

- Operational best management practices for street cleaning, litter control, and catch basin cleaning shall be routinely implemented to prevent water quality degradation.

- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans shall be submitted to the SWRCB prior to the commencement of construction activities. Plan requirements will include on-site soil and dust control Best Management Practices to minimize construction site erosion. State Parks-approved Best Management Practices shall be established and implemented in compliance with the SWRCB guidelines. A Spill Prevention and Response Plan will also be included as part of the SWPPP to prevent water quality degradation due to spills of vehicle fluids during any construction projects.

- A Pesticide Management Plan shall be established to regulate the storage and application of pesticides to protect water quality.

Implementation of the features, systems, and practices described above would reduce the potential program-level water quality impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan to less than significant. However, State Parks would require examination of many specific facilities and management plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

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parking lots. Paved surfaces, parking lots, and gutter designs promote the collection and concentration of pollutants.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Impact Hydro-2. Potential Runoff and Downstream Flooding Impacts
Implementation of the General Plan will result in the addition of new facilities. These new facilities will result in increased impervious surfaces[12] that would increase the amount of runoff and could exceed the capacity of the existing drainage system[13], resulting in on- or off-site flooding. The increase runoff could also cause erosion and siltation, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

Mitigation Measure Hydro-2. Potential runoff and downstream flooding impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- Any new construction shall include upgrading of storm water drainage facilities to accommodate increased runoff volumes where necessary. These upgrades may include the construction of detention basins or structures that will delay peak flows and reduce velocity. System designs shall be designed to eliminate increases in peak flow rates from current levels.

- A drainage plan shall be included with grading plan applications. Drainage systems shall be designed to maximize the use of detention basins, vegetated areas, and velocity dissipaters to reduce peak flows where possible.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure Hydro-2 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific management plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

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[12] Storm water runoff is influenced by rainfall intensity, ground surface permeability, watershed size and shape, and physical barriers. The introduction of impermeable surfaces greatly reduces natural infiltration, allowing for a greater volume of runoff. In addition, paved surfaces and drainage conduits can accelerate the velocity of runoff, concentrating peak flows in downstream areas faster than under natural conditions. Significant increases to runoff and peak flow can overwhelm drainage systems and alter flood elevations in downstream locations. Increased runoff velocity can promote scouring of existing drainage facilities, reducing system reliability and safety.

[13] Drainage structures installed to accommodate storm water flow for surface streets in Los Angeles County are sized to convey a 50-year flood event. This level of protection assumes that more severe storm events will cause temporary flooding, which is an acceptable risk for streets.

Noise

Existing Conditions

Located between two busy thoroughfares, immediately adjacent to a light rail line, and in an industrial section of a highly urban environment, there are a variety of sounds clearly audible from the Park site that can be considered noise.

The four-way intersections and busy roadways near the site produce high levels of traffic noise. Intersections at North Spring St., Ann St. and Sotello St. are main sources of traffic noise in the area, especially during peak traffic flows. There is also traffic noise generated from North Broadway. The Gold Line MTA train traveling on the tracks immediately adjacent to the park provides intermittent noise throughout the day. The surrounding industrial activities create point sources with varying levels of noise. Helicopters and sirens also contribute to the urban noise generated in the area.

Urban daytime noise levels can be as high as 80 dBA or as low as 50 dBA (California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2003c). Since the Park site is near busy transportation corridors and an industrial area, the ambient noise levels will tend to be higher during the business days and commute hours and lower on weekends.

Sensitive Receptors

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to ambient noise levels than others, due to the amount of noise exposure (in terms of both duration and insulation from noise) and the types of activities typically involved. Residential areas, schools, hospitals, and parks generally are more sensitive to noise than commercial and industrial land uses.

Residential developments are located to the north, east, and west of the Park site. Elysian Park and Dodger Stadium are located northeast of the site. Cathedral High School and Ann Street Elementary are the nearest school sites, both located less than ¼ mile from the Park.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

A project would normally result in a significant noise impact if it would:

- Expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local General Plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies;

- Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels;

- Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project);

- Create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project, in excess of noise levels existing without the project;

- For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels;

- For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise.

Impact Noise 1. Potential Construction Noise Impacts

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in construction projects related to the provision of public use opportunities and facilities, and additional support facilities. Types of facilities that could be constructed under the General Plan are described in Chapter 4, The Plan, and in the Project Description. Construction activities associated with potential General Plan projects could generate substantial amounts of noise within the proximity of individual construction sites.

The exact location and schedule of construction projects that could occur under the General Plan are unknown at this time, but could occur at locations that could adversely affect the noise environment of off-site land uses such as housing and schools to the north and south of the site, as well as park lands, such as Elysian Park.

Construction of the potential projects would result in temporary, intermittent increases in ambient noise levels, and could potentially result in groundborne vibration or noise levels. Construction noise levels at the project area would fluctuate depending on the particular type, number, and duration of use of construction equipment. The effect of construction noise would depend on the volume generated and the distance between construction activities and noise-sensitive receptors. Table 5-6, Typical Commercial Construction Noise Levels by Phase, indicates the typical noise levels expected during different construction stages. Table 5-7, Typical Commercial Construction Noise Levels by Equipment Type, indicates the typical noise levels produced by various types of construction equipment.

Noise from construction equipment in the Park, and haul trucks accessing the Park, could result in noise levels that exceed local thresholds when operated without noise controls and in areas near residences. Without noise controls and other mitigation measures, noise impacts by construction or demolition activities could have a significant temporary impact, particularly if they are located near sensitive receptors close to the Park boundary. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce the potential impacts to less than significant at the program level. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific management plans, is not

yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Table 5-6
Typical Commercial Construction Noise Levels by Phase

Construction Phase	Noise Level (dBA,Leq)[a]
Ground Clearing	84
Excavation	89
Foundations	78
Erection	85
Finishing	89

[a] Average noise levels correspond to a distance of 50 feet from the noisiest piece of equipment associated with a given phase of construction and 200 feet from the rest of the equipment associated with that phase.
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1971. *Noise from Construction Equipment and Operation, Building Equipment, and Home Appliances.*

Table 5-7
Typical Commercial Construction Noise Levels by Equipment Type

Equipment	dBA at 50 ft. [a] Without Controls	dBA at 50 ft. [b] With Controls
Backhoe	85	75
Bulldozer	80	75
Graders	85	75
Frontend loader	79	75
Dumptrucks	91	75
Concrete Pump	82	75
Flat bed delivery truck	91	75
Crane	83	75
Pumps	76	75

[a] Average noise levels correspond to a distance of 50 feet from the noisiest piece of equipment associated with a given phase of construction and 200 feet from the rest of the equipment associated with that phase.
[b] Implementing controls may include selecting quieter procedures or machines and implementing noise-control features requiring no major redesign or extreme costs (e.g. improved mufflers, equipment redesign, use of silencers, shields, shrouds, and ducts, and engine enclosures)
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1971. *Noise from Construction Equipment and Operation, Building Equipment, and Home Appliances.*

Mitigation Measure Noise-1. Potential construction noise impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan and additional mitigation measures shall be implemented, if appropriate, including, but not limited to:

- Activities required to ensure compliance with CEQA and local ordinances, including the City of Los Angeles Noise Ordinance, shall be implemented,

as applicable. This may include measuring ambient noise levels on a regular schedule, posting informational signs containing construction schedules and contacts for noise complaints, and/or reporting protocols.

- Impact tools used for project construction shall be hydraulically or electrically powered wherever possible. However, where use of pneumatic tools is unavoidable, an exhaust muffler on the compressed-air exhaust shall be used; this muffler can lower noise levels from the exhaust by up to 10 dBA. External jackets on the tools themselves shall be used where feasible, which could achieve a reduction of 5 dBA. Quieter procedures shall be used, such as drills rather than impact equipment, whenever feasible.

- Noise control measures shall be applied to construction equipment. Equipment and trucks used for project construction shall utilize normal noise control techniques (e.g. mufflers in good working order).

- Construction equipment may not be operated during sensitive times of the day. Seasonal time constraints may also need to be implemented.

- Plan construction activities so that additive noise and duration is minimized (e.g., avoid concurrent use of loud construction equipment).

- Take appropriate measures to control pedestrian access to active construction areas. Recreational users should be kept at a safe distance from the operation of construction equipment.

- Limit the proximity of construction noise to sensitive receptors. Stationary noise sources, such as diesel generators, shall be located as far from sensitive receptors as possible. Haul-trucks and other construction equipment shall be restricted to routes that practicably avoid sensitive receptors.

Implementation of mitigation measures described above would reduce the potential program-level construction noise impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan. However, the Department would require examination of specific facilities and management plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

<u>Impact Noise-2.</u> Potential Operational Noise Impacts

Implementation of the proposed General Plan could allow additional noise sources associated with the operation of the potential new park facilities and activities, such as special events and performing arts. The plan anticipates an

increased number of visitors to the Park if plan components were implemented. The amount of vehicular traffic to the Park is expected to increase, resulting in additional noise along adjacent roadways. Given the purpose and vision of the site as a park it is not anticipated that implementation of the general plan would result in operational activities or park uses that would generate excessive groundborne vibrations or noise levels.

While implementation of the General Plan could result in additional noise sources, the General Plan includes several components that would limit the level of additional noise associated with plan development. The General Plan aims to limit the amount of vehicular traffic both to and within the Park by emphasizing non-vehicular public access to the Park via connections to pedestrian and bicycle trails and to public transit. Private vehicles would not have access throughout the Park, limiting areas that could be affected by vehicular noise. Potential visitor activities such as recreation and educational field trips could also contribute noise to the environment.

While components of the General Plan may reduce potential noise sources, potential impacts could be associated with implementation of projects under the General Plan, depending on the size and location of potential facilities and uses. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Noise-2 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities, is not yet known, specific facilities would be reviewed at the time they are proposed to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure Noise-2. Potential operational noise impacts should be reviewed at the project level for specific facilities or management plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be implemented as appropriate, including but not limited to:

- The effects of noise resulting from the use or operation of new facilities should be analyzed to ensure consistency with relevant local noise ordinances. The design of new facilities shall incorporate specifications that prevent significant noise impacts on nearby residences.

- Operation of maintenance equipment such as mowers and landscaping equipment should abide by the local noise ordinances.

Implementation of the requirements described above would reduce the potential program-level operational noise impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan. However, the Department would require examination of specific facilities and management plans developed under the General Plan at the time they are proposed to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Public Services

Wastewater Treatment Services

The Park is in the area served by the Hyperion Treatment Plant, located directly southwest of the Los Angeles International Airport. The Hyperion Treatment Plant treats wastewater from almost all of the City of Los Angeles. There is an existing sanitary sewer line located along North Spring Street.

Stormwater

Stormwater currently is absorbed into the ground and/or flows into the Los Angeles River. There is an existing storm drain sewer line and easement located along North Spring Street at the southwestern end of the Park.

Water Supply

Water service to the site is currently supplied by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Approximately 75 percent of Los Angeles' water is from the Los Angeles-Owens River Aqueduct, 15 percent from local groundwater sources and 10 percent purchased from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). These proportions are not typical during drought periods, when MWD water makes up the majority of water supplies. MWD's ability to deliver water to Southern California has the potential to be severely affected by an extended drought, and more stringent water conservation measures during drought periods are anticipated. A municipal water line is located along North Spring Street.

Initial water service to the site has been established by the IPU project. This consists of a four inch waterline connection near the North Spring Street-Sotello Street intersection.

Electrical Power Service

Electrical power service is currently supplied by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and is available along North Spring Street. The overhead power lines are located along the southwestern side of the street. Initial electrical power service into the site was established by development of the Interim Public Use project.

No large power lines run within the Park property. There are, however, utility poles and overhead lines surrounding the Park property. Overhead power transmission lines run along the along the north levee of the Los Angeles River at the northeastern end of the property. These lines are supported by steel frame towers and are spaced 600 to 800 feet apart. These transmission lines are prominent features in views to the east.

There is a LADWP electrical distribution vault located along North Spring Street extending approximately 371 feet north from the College Street intersection.

Telecommunications
Telephone service is available along North Spring Street. The overhead telephone lines, in combination with electrical power service, are located along the southwestern side of the street.

There are underground fiber optic telecommunication easements along perimeter locations of the Park. There is an approximate 500 foot section at the southern Park boundary along North Spring Street and a 1,000 foot section along the mid-section of the Gold Line right-of-way boundary at the middle of the site. Another fiber optic cable (Qwest) is located adjacent to the entire southwestern boundary line length of the North Spring Street and Baker Street.

Solid Waste Disposal
The management of solid waste in the City of Los Angeles involves public and private refuse collection services as well as public and private operation of solid waste transfer, resource recovery, and disposal facilities. The Bureau of Sanitation provides collection services primarily to single-family residences and some of the smaller multi-family residences. The City is also responsible for collecting waste from the City Hall complex, some public buildings, parks, and fire stations, but does not collect solid waste from public schools. Multi-family residences, such as apartment complexes and condominiums and most other non-residential properties (including public schools) are served by private collectors contracted directly by individual property owners to collect and transport their materials for disposal or recycling. These private haulers have access to a number of landfill and transfer stations located throughout the City and County.

Oil Pipeline
There is a 20 inch pressurized oil pipeline located outside of the park property but adjacent to the entire length of the southwestern boundary line along North Spring Street and Baker Street.

Police Protection Services
As mentioned in Chapter 2, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) provides police protection services for the site. The Park is located within the Central Community Area (in the Central Bureau/Chinatown) of the LAPD's Reporting District No. 1A1. The area covers roughly four and a half square miles and serves a population of approximately 40,000 residents. The closest police substation is located at 823 N. Hill Street. It is a Crime Prevention and Reporting Center with a 1,700 square foot community meeting space ¼ mile from the Park.

Fire Protection Services
As described in Chapter 2, the primary fire protection provider for the Park is the City of Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Station No. 4 located at 800 North Main Street, less than 1/2 mile from the Park. The adequacy of fire protection for a given area is based on required fire-flow (the optimum or standard amount of water flow required for a theoretical fire at a specific location, or how much

water can be delivered by one or more hydrants to fight a fire at a specific location), response distance from existing fire stations, and the Fire Department's ability to respond to the demand for fire protection.

Other Community Services

Library services are provided by the City of Los Angeles Public Library system and include a Central Library, more than 60 branch libraries, and several bookmobiles. The Los Angeles Public Library is also a major resource for individuals, libraries, and other organizations throughout the United States.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

A project would normally result in a significant public services impact if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

  - Fire protection
  - Police protection
  - Schools
  - Parks
  - Other public facilities

<u>Impact Pub-1.</u> Potential Fire Protection Services Impacts

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would encourage the development of new park facilities and increased visitation to the project site, thereby increasing the probability of fires caused by human activity and the demand for fire protection services.

As stated above, the adequacy of fire protection for a given area is based on required fire-flow, response distance from existing fire stations, and the Fire Department's judgment for needs in the area. In general, the required fire-flow is closely related to land use. The quantity of water necessary for fire protection varies with the type of development, life hazard, occupancy, and the degree of fire hazard.

The General Plan includes some management actions for providing additional fire protection. Under the General Plan, fire roads and hydrants could be installed where necessary to facilitate fire protection.

Potential fire protection services impacts could occur if new facilities are not designed properly and proper access and water flow is not provided. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Pub-1 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-

specific management plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and Plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure Pub-1. Potential fire protection services impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or Management Plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- The Department shall comply with all applicable State and local codes and ordinances. Requirements may relate to automatic fire extinguishing systems and smoke detectors, availability of fire-fighting support equipment, and appropriate notification procedures.

- Roof design, construction, and material shall conform to the Uniform Building code.

- Requirements for emergency vehicle access shall be incorporated into project design, including access to physical structures and fire hydrants. Such requirements include emergency breakaway gates, vertical clearance, turning radii, turn-around areas, and signage.

- Water flow requirements and fire hydrant specifications shall be met. All fire hydrants shall be in place prior to construction of any facilities. Emergency vehicle access shall be maintained at all times during construction phases.

Implementation of the requirements described above would reduce the potential program-level fire protection services impacts associated with the implementation of the General Plan. However, the Department would require examination of many specific facilities and Management Plans included in the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level were necessary.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

Transportation/Traffic

Existing Conditions

The access, circulation, and transportation network around the Park site is extensive due to the site's proximity to major freeways, an arterial road system, bus service, rail service, and an urban pedestrian network. The primary elements of the surrounding circulation network are described in Chapter 2.

The following direct bus access table lists the bus number, bus route, and nearest stop to the Park site (MTA, 2003).

Table 5-8
Bus Routes in the Vicinity of the Park

Bus Number	Bus Route	Nearest Bus Stop
45	Broadway to Mercury Ave.	Broadway @ College St.
46	Broadway to Griffin Ave.	Broadway @ College St.
83	Pasadena to Marmion Way to York Blvd.	Broadway @ College St.
84	Cypress Ave. to Eagle Rock Blvd.	Broadway @ College St.
85	Cypress Ave. to Verdugo Road	Broadway @ College St.
58	Chinatown Gold Line Station to the Blue Line station at Washington Blvd. @ Long Beach Ave.	Chinatown Gold Line Station
76	Downtown LA to El Monte via Valley Blvd.	Chinatown Gold Line Station

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation also provides a commuter express bus LX409 that services the Sylmar, Tujunga, and Glendale areas and Dash B and DD bus services. Access south to the Blue Line light rail service and Long Beach is available on bus number 58 from the Chinatown Gold Line station.

The Angeleno Heights Trolley Line, Inc., a nonprofit public benefit corporation, intends to restore a circa 1920 St. Louis Car Co. Birney streetcar and re-establish a working public transportation electric streetcar service to the historic neighborhood of Angeleno Heights and the surrounding area. The preliminary route plans to pass through Angeleno Heights, traveling east on Sunset Boulevard with stops including Chinatown and Olvera Street, traveling back west on Sunset Boulevard to Echo Park Avenue, south past the Lake and east again to Angeleno Heights. Service could possibly be extended to the project site as part of the historic and scenic route.

Metrolink trains run from Union Station (about a mile from the site) to Montalvo in San Bernardino County, Lancaster in Los Angeles County, Riverside in Riverside County, and Oceanside in San Diego County.

The Los Angeles redevelopment board authorized a feasibility study (via federal HUD grant) in the summer of 2004 for reestablishing a trolley system in downtown Los Angeles. The study will examine the feasibility of reestablishing Red Car trolleys that would run a five mile loop connecting downtown landmarks from Chinatown to the Staples Center. Possible stops may include the Convention Center, hotels on Figueroa Street and Bunker Hill, the Music Center, the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, City Hall, Union Station, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, Little Tokyo, the Broadway District, and the Walt

Disney Concert Hall. The proposed system would use trolley replicas from the historic Pacific Electric Railway that ran from 1903 to 1961. The study will investigate the possibilities for expanding an initial downtown loop system with lines serving the Exposition Park/USC area to the south and Echo Park to the north. Furthermore, the study will examine how such a system would fit into the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's plans.

Trails

Currently, no hiking, biking, or equestrian trails connect to the Park site.

The Los Angeles River Bike Path, a Class I bike path, starting in the San Fernando Valley, runs along the bank of the L.A. River. The path is located along the western bank about one mile north of the site, upstream of the Arroyo Seco confluence. This bike path will eventually run from the Sepulveda Basin (and past the east end of the Park site) to Long Beach via the L.A. River.

An Arroyo Seco bikeway is proposed to run parallel with the Arroyo Seco Channel/Pasadena Freeway and intersect with the Los Angeles River Bike Path (City of Los Angeles, 2002) and would provide non-motorized access from the L.A. River-Arroyo Seco confluence to Pasadena.

The Los Angeles River Center is located near the confluence of the Arroyo Seco and L.A. River and is partner to a concerted effort along the Los Angeles River and the Arroyo Seco to connect bicycle and pedestrian trails throughout the region. One of the first self-service bicycle staging areas in the City of Los Angeles is located at the River Center. The facility provides cyclists a drinking fountain, a repair station, and a tire pump to handle basic bicycle maintenance, as well as bicycle racks, a picnic table, a sitting area, and a family restroom.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (de Anza Trail) begins near Nogales, Arizona, traverses California, and terminates in San Francisco. This trail passes about one mile north of the Park site at the confluence of the Los Angeles River and the Arroyo Seco as it follows the Los Angeles River northwest through the Glendale Narrows. While much of the trail can be hiked, most of the trail through Los Angeles must be explored by automobile. Many interpretive sites are located in the area providing present day explorers the opportunity to learn more about de Anza's journey.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the General Plan would result in significant impacts to transportation and traffic if it would:

- Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections);

- Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways;
- Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks;
- Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards;
- Result in inadequate emergency access;
- Result in inadequate parking capacity; or
- Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks).

The precise amount of vehicle traffic that might be associated with implementation of the plan is currently unknown; however, modeling can provide estimates of average trip length and the number of new trips generated. Although the potential increase in trip generation resulting from implementation of the General Plan is not known at this time, modeling provides an idea of whether projected traffic levels would exceed the established emissions thresholds. For instance, computer modeling using URBEMIS 2002 (version 7.5.0, based on EMFAC2002) shows that a 32-acre city park could result in approximately 1,600 vehicle trips per day.

The General Plan includes program-level specifications that would moderate transportation and traffic impacts. Foremost, the General Plan emphasizes non-vehicular public access to the Park via connections to pedestrian and bicycle trails and to public transit. For instance, locating the multiple-use trails that serve the trail system near the Los Angeles Bikeway could reduce vehicle trips to the Park.

If implementation of the General Plan does not result in daily traffic volumes much higher than predicted above, then the transportation/traffic impact would likely be less than significant. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific management plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

The Los Angeles County Congestion Management Program (CMP) requires that all projects undergoing an environmental impact report conduct a CMP-level traffic impact analysis. Adopted significance standards for traffic circulation and pedestrian and bicycle safety for the project-specific analysis would be determined by the appropriate jurisdiction for each roadway and intersection

facility (i.e., City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County MTA, and Caltrans). Parking requirements for project specific land uses may be subject to Zoning Code Parking Requirements of the Los Angeles County MTA or the City of Los Angeles.

Impact Trans-1. Potential Transportation Impacts
Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in an increase in public use and an associated increase in car trips to the Park. The potential forecast generation of increased traffic during the weekday peak commute hours, and the peak weekend hour may impact the local and regional circulation networks in the project vicinity. Addition of park-related traffic could exacerbate current and forecast peak hour levels of service at local roadways and intersections. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Trans-1 would reduce the potential impact to less than significant at the program level. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific Management Plans, is not yet know, specific facilities and Plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measure Trans-1. Potential traffic circulation, parking, and alternative transportation impacts should be reviewed at the project-level for specific facilities or Management Plans proposed under the General Plan and mitigation measures shall be considered, including but not limited to:

- Concurrent with planning and development of project level facilities and Management Plans, evaluate the project's potential to affect traffic and circulation, consistent with the requirements of the Los Angeles County Congestion Management Program (CMP). Components of the CMP-level traffic and circulation analysis could include, but not be limited to the following: 1) project trip generation analysis; 2) roadway, intersection and freeway mainline operations and level of service analyses; 3) provision of mitigation measures to reduce potential project traffic impacts; and 4) an on-site circulation and access analysis. Project-specific mitigation would be developed, based on the results of this evaluation.

- Concurrent with planning and development of project level facilities and Management Plans, evaluate the project's potential to affect access and on-site circulation to determine the adequacy of pedestrian and vehicular access locations and facilities. This analysis would be consistent with design guidelines established by the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles. Components of the access and on-site circulation analysis could include, but not be limited to the following: 1) vehicular queuing at main access locations; 2) roadway design (horizontal and vertical sight distance, roadway width and grade, etc.); and 3) consistency of pedestrian facilities with local and State design guidelines (e.g., Caltrans Highway Design Manual, and local Zoning Ordinances).

Project-specific mitigation would be developed, based on the results of these evaluations.

- Concurrent with planning and development of project level facilities and Management Plans, evaluate the project's potential to affect parking demand and the adequacy of on-site parking supply. This analysis shall be consistent with the Zoning Code Parking Requirements established by the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles. Project-specific mitigation would be developed, based on the results of these evaluations.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant at the Program level.

5.7 Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in unavoidable significant environmental effects. The General Plan goals and guidelines and the proposed plan element designations are intended to avoid, mitigate, and minimize significant effects of facility development, maintenance, operations, and visitor use. The General Plan will be implemented by subsequent actions, each subject to further review under CEQA.

Future actions at the Park site will be subject to the General Plan. They must be consistent with the goals and guidelines of the General Plan, and must be in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, which includes CEQA review and compliance. If a future project does not conform to the guidelines set forth in the General Plan, it will not be implemented.

With adoption of the General Plan potentially significant unavoidable environmental effects or significant irreversible environmental changes are mitigated through appropriate management and the implementation of the Plan goals and guidelines.

5.8 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would allow construction of new facilities that in turn could result in short-term, construction-related impacts, impacts from operations and maintenance activities, and impacts associated with public access and use. These potential impacts are identified in the section above entitled "Significant Environmental Effects and Mitigation". If the

mitigation measures identified in this section were approved and implemented, implementation of the General Plan would not result in significant irreversible environmental impacts at the program level or irreversible commitment of resources. However, the commitment of land, resources, and energy for maintenance of the project facilities would be long-term. Once the project has been developed, it is unlikely that circumstances would arise that could justify the return of the land occupied by the park facilities to its current condition. However, the Department may rotate uses and remove, replace or realign facilities in response to adverse impacts.

5.9 Growth-Inducing Impacts

Growth-inducing effects are defined as those effects that could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Growth-inducing effects could result from projects that would remove obstacles to population growth. Increases in population could strain existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects.

The purpose of the General Plan is to portray the desired resource conditions of the Park and desired visitor experience, and to provide goals and guidelines that will direct future management efforts toward achieving those desires. An important component of this purpose is to protect the natural and cultural/historic resources of the Park. This purpose and the goals, policies, and resource areas of the Plan have no potential to foster significant population growth either directly or indirectly, or the construction of additional housing. The Plan's potential to foster economic growth through revenue generating facilities is minimal and would not result in significant growth-inducing effects.

5.10 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Overview

The purpose of the alternatives analysis in an EIR is to describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project or project location that could feasibly attain the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and to evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6(a)].

Additionally, Section 15126.6(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires consideration of alternatives that could avoid or substantially lessen any significant adverse environmental effects of the proposed project, including alternatives that might be more costly or could otherwise impede the project's objectives. The range of alternatives considered must include those that offer substantial environmental

advantages over the proposed project and may be feasibly accomplished in a successful manner considering economic, environmental, social, technological, and legal factors.

Factors in Selection of Alternatives

The CEQA Guidelines recommend that an EIR should briefly describe the rationale for selecting the alternatives to be discussed, identify any alternatives that were considered by the lead agency but were rejected as infeasible, and briefly explain the reasons underlying the lead agency's determination [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6(c)].

The alternatives addressed in this EIR were selected in consideration of one or more of the following factors:

- the extent to which the alternative would accomplish most of the basic goals and objectives of the project;
- the extent to which the alternative would avoid or lessen any of the identified significant environmental effects of the project;
- the feasibility of the alternative, taking into account site suitability, economic viability, availability of infrastructure, General Plan consistency, and consistency with other applicable plans and regulatory limitations;
- the appropriateness of the alternative in contributing to a "reasonable range" of alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice; and
- the requirement of the CEQA Guidelines to consider a "no project" alternative [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6(e)].

Alternatives

In addition to the preferred alternative (Chapter 4, The Plan), three alternatives were considered:

- No Project Alternative
- Minimal Build-out Alternative
- Maximum Build-out Alternative

No Project Alternative

If a general plan is not implemented for the Park site the existing situation will continue for park development, operation, and management. Development of the Park would be restricted to projects that:

- Repair, replace or rehabilitate an existing facility;
- Provide a temporary facility, so long as the construction does not result in the permanent commitment of resources;
- Are necessary for the protection of public health and safety; or
- Provide emergency measures necessary for the immediate protection of a natural or cultural resource [Public Resources Code 5002.2(c)].

This alternative would allow the Park to function (with the addition of the Interim Public Use facilities), but would not achieve any of the improvement goals of this General Plan. Under the No Project Alternative the site may continue to be owned by the Department and further development may not occur beyond the previously approved Interim Public Use (IPU) Plan (State Clearinghouse #2003061053).

The IPU Plan provides for limited facilities and development of the site. While no permanent buildings will be constructed under the IPU Plan, the IPU Plan includes modest amounts of visitor parking; a drop-off area; an elevated boardwalk; trees, lawn, and native plants; a pedestrian trail; temporary restrooms; picnic tables; interpretive panels and an informal amphitheater. As currently planned, the IPU will develop only about 3 to 5 acres of the 32-acre site. This alternative would result in a continued regional deficiency of urban open space access and opportunities.

Impacts and Reasons for Rejection

The No Project Alternative would eliminate the potential of creating a State Historic Park, with the inherent resource protection and public access it affords, in an area historically deficient in urban open space opportunities and altered from its natural conditions. The No Project Alternative would avoid potential construction and operation impacts associated with future park uses and facilities, such as potential increases in vehicular emissions. However, as discussed above, the impacts of implementation of The Plan (the preferred alternative) can be reduced to less than significant at the program level with measures identified in this EIR. Under the No Project Alternative, unauthorized transient habitation and illegal dumping could take place, hence further degrading the site's viability as an improved urban open space area. This alternative would not respond to the Department's *Mission* statement or the purpose and vision set forth for the acquisition of the site, related to providing for recreation opportunities and protection of resources. Therefore, this alternative was rejected.

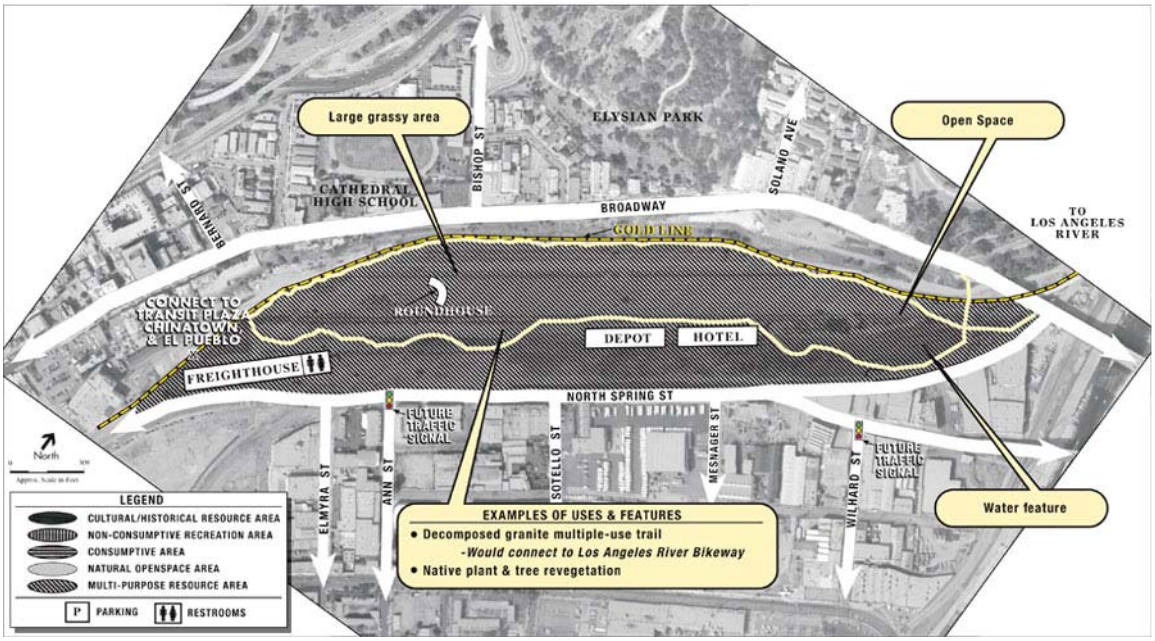
Minimum Build-out Alternative

The entire site under the Minimum Build-out Alternative would be designated as a multiple-purpose resource area. The most developed feature of this

alternative would be the multiple-use trail that would encircle the proposed park and connect to the future and existing portions of the Los Angeles River Bikeway. The trail would be constructed with a decomposed granite surface and would accommodate various park users such as bicyclists and pedestrians. A water feature, such as a fountain, would be located in the northeast corner closest to the Los Angeles River. This portion of the site would also provide a large open space area with native plant and tree revegetation, toward which the site would be oriented. There would be a large, grassy area near the Roundhouse footprint and the Freighthouse would be reconstructed and provide public restroom facilities. The grassy area would be a high visitor use area. This alternative would not include lighting, park operations support facilities, or concessions.

The primary park gateway (ingress and egress) of the site would be located near the Chinatown MTA Station, the transit plaza that also connects to Chinatown and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. The primary park gateway and the connection to the transit plaza would constitute an access node in this alternative. There would be no on-site visitor parking in this alternative.

Figure 5-1: Community Involvement - Park Concept A (Minimum Build-out Alternative)



Impacts and Reasons for Rejection

The Minimum Build-out Alternative would make it difficult for the Department to seek funds for restoration and interpretive improvements for use at the Park site that could enhance visitor experiences and resource protection. The Minimum Build-out Alternative would require less mitigation than identified above in order to reduce impacts to a less than significant level (i.e., impacts due to

construction and operation of park facilities and from visitor use activities). However, it is noted that the General Plan includes Guidelines and Mitigation Measures that would reduce all potential impacts to less than significant at the program level.

The Minimum Build-out Alternative would partially respond to the Department *Mission* statement by creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation, but would not fully respond to the *Mission* regarding protection of California's most valued cultural resources. Similarly, the alternative would respond to the unit Purpose and Vision regarding provision of opportunities for active recreation, but would not fully respond to the purpose and vision regarding celebration of history, provision of venues for cultural events, and making art accessible. Furthermore, this alternative would not respond to statewide and regional recreation demand for uses not regionally available, such as urban open space.

By definition, the State Historic Park designation would allow for the preservation and protection of resources while allowing for compatible public access. The goals of a minimally built-out alternative would be achieved at the expense of fulfilling other objectives of the Park project, such as protection of cultural/historic resources and interpretation and education. Therefore, this alternative was rejected.

Maximum Build-out Alternative

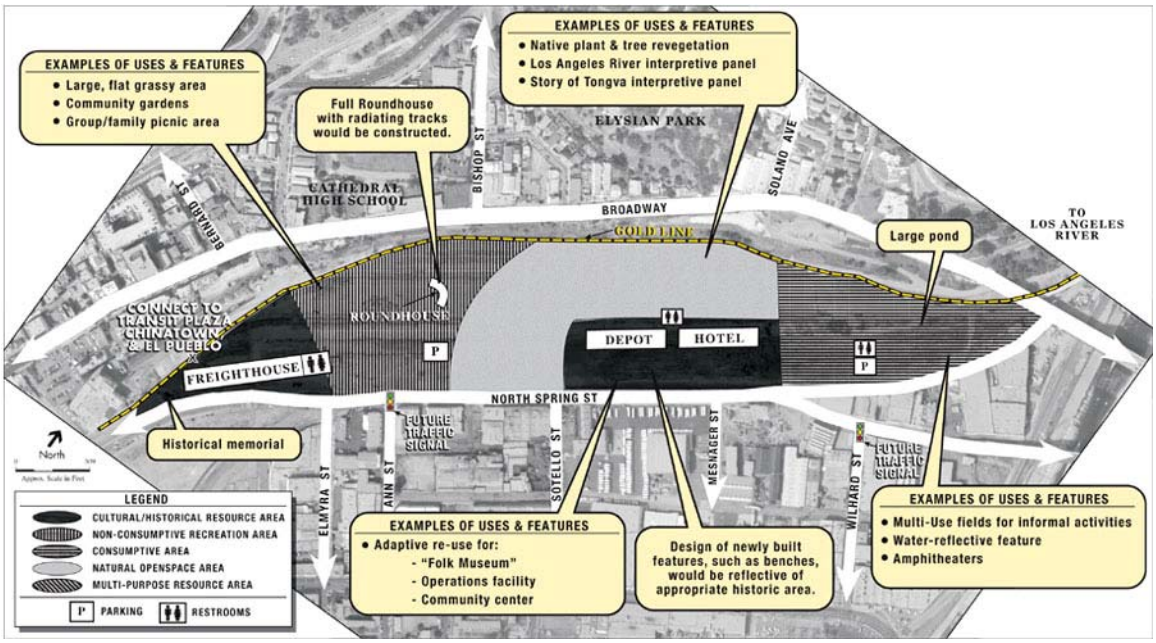
The Maximum Build-out Alternative would be the alternative with the most developed park features. The northeast area of the Park nearest the Los Angeles River would be designated as an Informal Recreation area with a large water feature, such as a pond, that also reflects the cultural importance of the area. This high-use area would include approximately two amphitheaters, parking lot (approximately 20-25 spaces), and public restrooms.

A bridge across the site connecting to North Broadway could be constructed, and another footbridge connecting Chinatown to the site would also be constructed. A Natural/Open Space Area would include native plant and tree revegetation, as would the rest of the site. A Cultural/Historical Resource Area would include a reconstructed Hotel and Depot, which would be used as a folk museum, a multiple-use community center, park operations support, and restrooms. The Cultural/Historical Resource Area also would provide concessions such as food sales, equipment rentals, and pedi-cabs.

An informal recreation area would be located in the western area of the site. This area would include a group/family picnic area, community gardens, and a large, flat grassy area. The informal recreation area also would include a parking lot (approximately 20-25 spaces). This parking lot, in addition to the connection to the transit plaza, Chinatown, and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, would form the primary park gateway and an access node.

The western end of the site would be a Cultural/Historical Resource Area. The Freighthouse would be reconstructed and used for facilities such as public restrooms. This area would incorporate a historical memorial as well.

Figure 5-2: Community Involvement - Park Concept C (Maximum Build-out Alternative)



Impacts and Reasons for Rejection

The Maximum Build-out Alternative would respond to the Department's *Mission* statement by protecting valued cultural resources and creating high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities. Similarly, the alternative would respond to the unit Purpose and Vision regarding celebration of history, provision of venues for cultural events, and providing opportunities for recreation. This alternative would also respond to statewide and regional recreation demand for uses not regionally available, such as urban open space.

However, the Maximum Build-out Alternative would aggravate the potential impacts related to construction and operation of potential future park facilities because of its highly developed nature. While the Maximum Build-out Alternative would respond to the goals and objectives, the Plan (the preferred alternative) would provide greater balance between resource protection and development while avoiding significant resource impacts. Therefore, the Maximum Build-out Alternative was rejected.

5.11 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative environmental effects are multiple individual effects that, when considered together, are considerable or compound or increase other environmental impacts. The individual effects might result from a single project or a number of separate projects and might occur at the same place and point in time or at different locations and over extended periods of time. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects.

The purpose of this cumulative analysis is to determine whether potentially significant cumulative environmental impacts would occur from implementation of the General Plan in combination with other projects or conditions, and to indicate the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence. The CEQA Guidelines require that EIRs discuss the cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable," meaning that the project's incremental effects are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. The discussions of cumulative impacts should include:

(1) Either: (A) a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts; or (B) a summary of projections contained in an adopted General Plan or similar document, or in an adopted or certified environmental document, which described or evaluated conditions contributing to a cumulative impact;

(2) A discussion of the geographic scope of the area affected by the cumulative effect;

(3) A summary of expected environmental effects to be produced by these projects; and

(4) Reasonable, feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects.

The proposed General Plan could allow new or expanded facilities. The project-level implementation schedule for envisioned facilities at the Park site is not known at this time; therefore, a definitive list of specific cumulative projects at the Park site cannot be prepared. Generally, cumulative projects would include development and construction projects within close proximity to the Park site, as guided by the City of Los Angeles and other local as well as regional organizations. Extensive redevelopment is anticipated within these jurisdictions, including areas adjacent to the Park site, such as regional, multiple-use trails, residential development of areas near the Park site, and mixed-use redevelopment of the other areas near the Park site. Regional development could be considered cumulatively with implementation of the General Plan,

where such development relates to regional traffic and transportation and air quality; such effects could be cumulatively considerable.

Because specific plans timelines for implementation of facilities that could be developed under the General Plan are not known and many of the projects under the authority of other jurisdictions are not fully developed or designed, assessing the expected environmental effects that these projects would produce is speculative. However, there are two general categories of effects that could be expected. The first and most widespread would be general construction impacts, such as temporary air quality degradation and increased erosion resulting from earth movement. However, construction impacts would be temporary and local in nature and thus unlikely to constitute cumulatively considerable contributions to cumulative significant impacts. The second category of impacts is related to operational effects to regional traffic and air quality.

Implementation of the General Plan, in conjunction with other regional projects and ongoing regular park maintenance activities, could adversely affect resources within the Park. However, implementation of mitigations described in the section entitled "Significant Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures" would reduce any impacts, including cumulative impacts, to a less than significant level at the program-level. Furthermore, the General Plan calls for extensive regional coordination and planning, to ensure that development within the Park site area is consistent with the guidelines and plans of local as well as regional agencies, as appropriate, and is consistent with development anticipated under the authority of other jurisdictions and vice versa (see the Regional Planning section within Chapter 2, Existing Conditions). The Department would require examination of any specific facilities and management plans allowed under the General Plan at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine if further environmental review at a more detailed project-specific and site-specific level is necessary, including analysis of potential cumulative effects.

5.12 Effects Not Found to be Significant

Aesthetics

Scenic Highway Impacts

The Park site and the immediate surrounding land uses do not include designated or eligible state scenic highways (as determined by Caltrans), or otherwise designated scenic routes. The project would not substantially damage scenic resources (including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings) within a state scenic highway; therefore no impacts to scenic highways would occur.

Degradation of Existing Visual Character
The proposed project would make improvements to the existing site aesthetics. Therefore, it would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site or its surroundings.

Agricultural Resources

While the site was used for agriculture in the 1800s, agriculture is not known to have been practiced there following construction of the railroad in the late 1800s. The site is not included in any of the Important Farmland categories, as delineated by the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The site does not conflict with any Williamson Act contracts. The site and neighboring areas are not zoned for agriculture by the City of Los Angeles, nor is the area designated for agriculture under the general plan land use. There are no agricultural resources located within the project site. Therefore the proposed plan would have no effect on agricultural resources.

Air Quality

The proposed General Plan would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan, the South Coast Air Quality Management District 2003 Air Quality Management Plan update. Nor would the General Plan have a potential to create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

Biological Resources

Existing Conditions
Despite the fact that this property was once a bustling rail yard and subsequently classified as a brownfield, plants found their way to this site. See Appendix D for a list of the species observed on site.

Invasive Non-Native Vegetation
The intentional and accidental introduction of non-native plant species has permanently changed the historic plant communities of southern California. Generally an invasive non-native plant is a species that is not known to have occurred previously in an area which can out-compete native species in the absence of natural ecological processes, often out-competing native plants for valuable resources. Non-native plants can spread by a variety of ways and are usually able to proliferate in highly disturbed areas. Characteristic dominant species, including non-natives such as wild oats (*Avena* spp.), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), and ox-tongue (*Picris echioides*), can be found throughout the site.

Historic Vegetation

The area surrounding the Los Angeles River from the headwaters to the delta, has historically been associated with a wide variety of habitat types including coastal dunes, freshwater and brackish wetlands, riparian and oak woodlands, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub.

Historically, wetlands in the area consisted of marshes, streams, lakes and seeps covering much of present day downtown Los Angeles to San Pedro Bay and eastward to the San Gabriel River. Plant species likely to have occurred along the river in this area included willows (*Salix* spp.), cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*), oaks (*Quercus* spp.), and sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*). Riparian vegetation also may have included an understory of brambles (*Rubus* spp.), grapevines (*Vitis* spp.) and native roses (*Rosa* spp.). Marshy vegetation such as cattails (*Typha* spp.) and tules (*Scirpus* spp.) occurred in the freshwater and brackish water marshes providing habitat for shorebirds and wading birds.

Historical upland habitats most likely consisted of oak and oak walnut woodlands, grasslands, and chaparral and coastal sage scrub covering the hillsides. Much of what remains along the L.A. River drainage are mere fragments of natural vegetation, exotic plantings, and disturbed ruderal vegetation. Industrialization and the subsequent urbanization of the floodplain have adversely affected upland plant species such as oaks, and the coastal sage scrub plant community.

While we do not have an exact description of the historic vegetation on the Park site, we have a general idea based on photographs, research, and other documentation, as well as observations of the native vegetation found in the surrounding areas. The following vegetation communities were most likely found on-site and in the surrounding area.

- Grasslands
- Coastal sage scrub
- Alluvial fan scrub
- California Walnut Woodland
- Oak woodlands
- Agriculture

See Appendix E for descriptions of these historic vegetation communities.

Non-Native Animal Life

Several non-native bird species have expanded their range into urban and suburban habitats to the detriment of other bird species. Even native species can become a nuisance in the absence of natural ecological processes. The common raven has exploded in population in recent decades in urban areas and adapts well to urban environments. This species is considered extremely detrimental to smaller birds as they prey extensively on eggs and nestlings. Feral cats and domestic dogs are considered very detrimental to ground-nesting birds

as well as to native small mammals and reptiles. The Los Angeles Basin has a large and ever expanding population of the eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*). The fox squirrel was introduced into the area in the early 1900s and has now expanded its range south into Orange County and north into Ventura County. As with all ecosystems, there are invasive invertebrates such as the Argentine ant that have become naturalized along the urban edge and have a deleterious effect on native species.

Historic Animal Life

Historically this area supported a wide diversity of habitats and diverse animal life including large and small mammals, rodents, migratory birds, shore and wading birds, raptors, and small fish and aquatic invertebrates. Some of these species still exists along the Los Angeles River and the adjacent upland habitats in the less urbanized and industrialized areas of the Los Angeles Basin.

Of the fish species present within the Los Angeles River, the Arroyo chub is the only native fish that can still be found and are only found upstream near the headwaters. Non-native fish species can be found throughout the Los Angeles River near the Park site and include, Mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*), Fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), Goldfish (*Carasius auratus*), and Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*).

Very little evidence exists on the historic invertebrates that inhabited the Park site and the Los Angeles River but we can assume that what is left is a mere fraction of what once existed in the Los Angeles Basin.

Impacts

A project would normally result in a significant impact to biological resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;

- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;

- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance;

- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The General Plan would not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification on any species identified as sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because there are no sensitive, candidate, or special status species found on or adjacent to the Park.

The General Plan would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because the Park does not support any natural community identified as sensitive by any plan or resource agency. The existing vegetation on site is predominately ruderal and dominated by non-native plants.

The General Plan would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means because the Park does not support any wetland habitat.

Implementation of the General Plan would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The Park is not within an established wildlife corridor nor will it impede the movement of any native resident wildlife species. The property does not support an assemblage of native resident or migratory wildlife species due to the existing conditions (ruderal vegetation, isolated from native habitat and adjacent to the channelized portion of the Los Angeles River), the historical use, and the surrounding landscape.

The General Plan would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The Park does not currently support large trees that would be protected by a local preservation ordinance.

The General Plan would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state HCP. The Park is not located within or adjacent to any adopted HCP nor is this part of Los Angeles enrolled in the NCCP program. Currently there are no plans to work on or adopt a HCP for this area of Los Angeles as it is highly urbanized and many of the native species have been lost due to direct impacts or by habitat fragmentation.

Cultural Resources

The Park has no recorded prehistoric sites or known land uses that would indicate the potential for human remains. The likelihood of finding unexpected burials or remains is extremely low.

Geology and Soils

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not expose people or structures to potential risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. It would not involve the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Potential Impacts from Nearby Airports

The project is located approximately twelve miles from four airports, Burbank, Compton, Santa Monica Municipal, and Los Angeles International. The project site is not located within the land use plan area for those nearby airports. There are no public airports or private airstrips located within two miles of the project site. As the project site is surrounded by numerous airports, it is most likely on the flight path of several of the airports. The project would not expose the public to any greater safety hazard for than already exists in the urban area.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Potential Depletion of Groundwater Supplies

Implementation of the General Plan will result in an increase in water usage for both public use and for landscape irrigation. Water will be supplied to the Park from the existing public system. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power draws water from the Sierra Nevada (via two aqueduct systems) and from local groundwater sources (LADWP, 2004). The project would not result in a substantial depletion of groundwater supply. The existing groundwater beneath the site is not usable due to volatile organic hydrocarbon contamination.

Potential Impacts from Flooding

According to the available flood maps, the site is not within the 100-year floodplain of the Los Angeles River (Aeschbacher, et al., 2000). Therefore, no structures will be placed within the 100-year floodplain. There is a potential for possible inundation due to the failure of several water supply tanks located about one mile north of the site in Solano Canyon.

Inundation Impacts from Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow

The project is not located near a large body of water and would not be subject to a seiche or tsunami. The potential for inundation from a mudflow is low due to the flat topography of the project site. The Elysian Park Hills to the north may be subject to landslide and mudflows.

Land Use and Planning

The following list is representative of the local, regional and community planning that has transpired and will influence future management, operations and visitor experiences at the Park.

- Central City North Community Plan (1989)
- Downtown Strategic Plan (1993)
- Alameda District Plan (1995)
- MTA Chinatown Station: Land use and Economic Development Study (1996)
- FoLAR Chinatown Alliance (2000/2001)
- Chinatown Redevelopment Plan (1980)
- Dreams of Fields: Soccer, Community, and Equal Justice (December 2002)
- Cornfields Chinatown Yards Study (2000)
- Cornfield of Dreams: A Resource Guide of Facts, Issues and Principles (UCLA Planning Study, 2000)
- Urban Site Analysis-Chinatown Yard (USC, Spring 2001)

Demographics

Today, California's 35 million residents are multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. Since the largest racial group (White) is now less than 50% of the population, there is no ethnic majority in the state. According to the U.S. Census 2000 data, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander populations accounted for 61 percent and 27 percent, respectively, of California growth in the last decade. Census data also revealed that Hispanic population growth was driven mostly by natural increase, while Asian/Pacific Islander population increased mostly from immigration.

Most of California's growth has been in major metropolitan areas – Los Angeles, San Diego, and the San Francisco Bay Area. California is now the second most urbanized state in the nation. In 2000, California had 217 persons per square mile compared to the U.S. average of 79. In 2020, it is estimated that California will have 291 persons per square mile. Los Angeles County is the third most urbanized county in the state with 2,344 persons per square mile (San Francisco County is the highest with 16,526 and Orange County the second highest with 3,607).

Between the years 2000 and 2020, California's population is projected to grow by 31 percent. By 2020 California's population of European descent will have grown only 4 percent, while the Hispanic population will have grown 58 percent, and the Asian/Pacific Islander population will have grown 55 percent. The African American population will have grown 20 percent, and American Indian population will have grown 29 percent. California's population mix will have shifted even more by 2030, when Hispanics will be the largest demographic group, comprising 43 percent of the state's population.

The changing demographic nature of the community can be shown in the enrollment changes over the past several years of a nearby local elementary school, Castelar Elementary, located in Chinatown. This school has been teaching children since 1882, and is currently serving grades K-5. Data shows that the percentage of Asian students has been declining as the percentage of Hispanic students has been growing. While Asian students still comprise the majority of students at Castelar Elementary, the trend shows a shift in the racial composition of the students.

Limited English proficiency, as documented by the Los Angeles Unified School District, is a problem for 74% of the students of Castelar Elementary. As students advance grade levels, the number of students with limited English skills declines as, on average, approximately 12% of students are redesignated (status change from Limited English Proficiency to English Proficient) each school year.

Easements and Rights of Access

Generally, there does not appear to be any significant easement constraints on development of the site. The easements that do exist on the property are located along its periphery. These easements include the following:

- North Broadway Bridge Crossing: A 70 foot wide easement for footings, pillars, and overhead bridge structure at the northeast corner of the property.
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority: Temporary construction easement for underground footing, pilings, or similar structures. This is located along the entire length of the northern boundary adjacent to the Gold Line light rail transit right-of-way.
- Storm Drainage: There is an existing storm drain sewer line and easement approximately 520 feet in length located along the North Spring Street boundary line from the southwestern corner of the Park. Another storm drain easement crosses the property at the northeast corner near the Broadway Bridge.
- Telecommunication Fiber Optic: There are underground fiber optic telecommunication easements along perimeter locations of the Park. One is an approximate 500 foot section at the southern park boundary along North Spring Street and an approximately 1,000 foot section along the mid-section of the Gold Line right-of-way boundary at the middle of the site. Another fiber optic cable (Qwest) is located adjacent to the entire southwestern boundary line along North Spring Street and Baker Street.
- Access: There is an access easement to telecommunication fiber optic cables at the southwest end of the property.

Additionally, under the terms and conditions of the acquisition agreement for the property, Union Pacific is provided with rights of access for the purpose of

monitoring existing groundwater monitoring wells. An environmental assurance agreement contained as an attachment to the acquisition agreement requires Union Pacific to notify the Department three days prior to accessing the monitoring wells.

Impacts
A potentially significant impact would occur if the project would:

- Physically divide an established community;
- Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect; or
- Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

Implementation of the General Plan would create a park from a former rail yard and brownfield. The intent of the project is to create an open space that will provide a variety of recreational and educational facilities and opportunities for visitors from the surrounding communities, the region, as well as throughout the state. The project will not physically divide an established community, but will provide a community gathering place and public access to trails that will potentially link communities. The General Plan does not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted to avoid or mitigate an environmental effect, nor does the General Plan conflict with a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Implementation of the General Plan would not have a significant effect on land use and planning.

Mineral Resources

The only potential mineral resources that might exist at the project site are oil within the marine siltstone and sandstone of the Upper Miocene Puente Formation (Lamar, 1970). These sedimentary rocks were deposited in a deep (greater than 2,000 feet) water environment by turbidity currents (undersea flows or avalanches of water and sediment). Three exploratory wells drilled in the 1960s, one known to have been drilled prior to 1967, were located on the Park site and an adjacent 8-acre parcel to the north. Apparently none of them encountered any significant oil-bearing zones within the Puente Formation.

Impacts
The CEQA Guidelines establish that a project would have a significant impact related to mineral resources if the project would:

- Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

- Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.

There are no known mineral deposits of economic importance directly underlying the project site. Implementation of the General Plan would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource. Mineral resource extraction is not permitted under the Resource Management Directives of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Noise

The Park is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or private airstrip, and would not expose people working in the project area to excessive noise levels from these sources. No mitigation for this issue is necessary.

Population and Housing

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would have the potential for significant impacts if it would:

- Induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure);
- Displace substantial numbers of existing housing; or
- Displace substantial numbers of people.

The proposed plan, while it includes provisions for a limited amount of on-site employee housing, would not lead to any significant or substantial growth of population, nor would it extend any existing roads. There are no existing housing facilities or business on the site; therefore there would be no displacement.

Public Services

Police Protection

Implementation of the proposed General plan would encourage the development of new park facilities and increased visitation to the project site, thereby increasing the need for police protection services to ensure visitor safety. Currently, the site is only minimally patrolled, as it is not open or fully developed for public use.

The General Plan provides guidelines that will support on-site park staff and encourage cooperation with community law enforcement to ensure public safety. Guidelines also encourage park staff involvement in community outreach

to work with community members and volunteers to enhance security and police protection presence at the Park. The proposed plan would not have a significant effect on police services.

Schools, Parks, and Other Public Facilities
Implementation of the proposed plan would not lead to an increased need for schools, parks, or other public facilities. The plan does not have any component involving housing for the public, and would therefore not increase demand on schools. By providing increased park land and facilities available to the public it will lead to a decreased burden on other public parks and have a beneficial impact.

Recreation

Existing Recreation Resources
As described in Section 2.7, Existing Facilities, funding was approved in 2002 for the design and installation of Interim Public Use (IPU) Facilities at the project site to allow for public access prior to the completion of a general plan for the Park. The design concept for the IPU project incorporates elements from the Cornfield Advisory Committee's "Vision" for the property as well as specific comments directed toward a draft concept for the IPU.

The IPU design concept is a linear pedestrian-oriented day-use park that runs the length of the property (approximately ¾ of a mile). This concept intends that the Park project serve as the "front porch" for the City of Los Angeles. Visually, the project site represents a large open space "porch" that fronts the majestic downtown skyline. This is especially true for the northern two-thirds of the property and from the North Broadway bridge. The City of Los Angeles recognizes this unique vantage point and is currently implementing plans to enhance North Spring Street as a grand "entry" into the downtown area. Once the City implements the North Spring Street enhancements, pedestrian and vehicular access to the Park site will be improved by the addition of future traffic signals.

The IPU project plans to develop a centrally located core use area that will include a large lawn area, multi-purpose plaza, amphitheater, restrooms, and off-street parking. Day-use facilities and amenities will include such features as picnic tables, trash receptacles, hardened or compacted paths, multi-use event areas, interpretive panels and exterior exhibits, lawn areas, landscaping, temporary restrooms, fencing, lighting, and up to 30 parking spaces. These facilities are designed for universal accessibility.

Regional Recreation
Downey and Alpine Recreation Centers are neighborhood-based parks which are easily accessible to local residents. Downey Recreation Center is located on the east bank of the Los Angeles River adjacent to the North Broadway Bridge, less than one block from the Park site. The Downey Recreation Center is a 12-acre facility offering an outdoor pool and a children's playground. Alpine

Recreation Center is located in the center of Chinatown and is a focal point for the community. Less than ½ mile from the Park site, Alpine Recreation Center's 1.6-acre facility offers recreational classes and limited outdoor recreational space. Both Downey and Alpine offer recreation and services directly linked to community needs, such as after-school programs and pre-school. However, the facilities are often severely crowded and do not keep up with the demand of children who live within a one-mile radius of the recreation centers.

Bicycle trails are managed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Transportation. In December of 1999, the County Board of Supervisors unanimously moved to mandate that the County take the lead on connecting the Los Angeles River Bikeway and the Arroyo Seco Bikeway with downtown's Union Station. This has initiated a study to connect commuter bikeways from the Arroyo Seco and the Los Angeles River into Union Station. The bikeway will traverse the both the Park site and State Park at Taylor Yard. In August 2000, a 1.4-mile segment of the Los Angeles River Bikeway opened from Los Feliz Boulevard to Fletcher Drive. State Parks is working with the City of Los Angeles as a participant in the Ad Hoc Los Angeles River Committee to coordinate linkages with trails that will eventually connect to the Park site and to the future State Park at Taylor Yard.

Recreational Needs and Opportunities

Outdoor recreational opportunities are limited in the downtown Los Angeles area. In view of the regional open space deficit, it is important to consider Elysian Park and the future State Park at Taylor Yard in trail linkages and complementary visitor activities with the proposed Park site. Given proposals for bicycle and pedestrian trails along the Los Angeles River through the area, these three parks can strengthen visual, pedestrian, and transit connections.

Impacts

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would have the potential for significant impacts if it would:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated;

- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

The Park is located near six parks in some of the most heavily populated areas of Los Angeles County. Several goals and guidelines contained in the General Plan will enhance recreational programs and services. An analysis of state, regional and local recreational plans have been examined to determine significant impacts and anticipated impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) that the General Plan may effect during future development. These plans include the

California Outdoor Recreation Plan, Regional and Comprehensive Plan and Guide (Southern California Association of Governments), Streamlined County of Los Angeles General Plan, Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for 2010 (County of Los Angeles), and the City of Los Angeles Central City Community Plan.

The closest parks within one mile of the site are Alpine Recreation Center and Playground, Elysian Park, Downey Recreation Center and Playground, and William Mead Homes' Playground and Athletic Fields (currently closed due to environmental contamination). El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument is within ½ mile of the site. Plan recommendations would accommodate local residents as well as out of town visitors and provide much needed open space improving opportunities for enjoying recreational activities. Implementation of the General Plan would not be expected to result in significant environmental effects related to recreation.

Transportation/Traffic

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not contain any design features or incompatible uses that would substantially increase hazards or result in inadequate emergency access. The emphasis on coordinating with local public transportation agencies, as well as proposals that would link park entrances to existing public transit stops and bikeways would be supportive of any adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

Utilities and Service Systems

All existing municipal utility services that are available for future park development are located along North Spring Street. This includes services for sanitary sewer, storm drain sewer, potable water, electrical power, telephone, and solid waste disposal. Initial water and electrical power service to the Park site has been established by the Interim Public Use project. No utilities are known to cross the site.

Impacts

A project would normally result in a significant impact to utilities and service systems if it would:

- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;

- Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or require new or expanded entitlements;

- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments;

- Be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs;

- Be out of compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Given the location of the Park in a large urbanized area, the demands to utilities and service systems generated by implementation of the plan would be very minimal in comparison. Implementation of the General Plan would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board or require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, experience insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or require new or expanded entitlements, result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves the Park that it has inadequate capacity to serve the Park's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments, be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs, or be out of compliance with federal, state, or applicable local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in increased visitation to the Park, which would result in increased demand for wastewater treatment, water supply, and stormwater management. However, this would be partially offset by a decrease to demand for services as local park users would not be using utilities at home while they are in the Park.

Potential impacts would occur if individual projects were not designed to provide adequate infrastructure for wastewater treatment, water supply, and stormwater management. Because implementation information, such as locations of specific facilities and development of project-specific management plans, is not yet known, specific facilities and plans would be reviewed at the time they are proposed for implementation to determine the potential for project-specific impacts and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

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7. APPENDICES

Appendix A
Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AOC	Area of Concern
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BMP	Best Management Practice
Cal EPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
Cal OSHA	California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Survey
CORP	California Outdoor Recreation Plan
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CRMP	Cultural Resources Management Plan
CSP	California State Parks
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
DOM	Department Operations Manual
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substance Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
IPU	Interim Public Use
LADPW	Los Angeles Department of Public Works
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
LAPD	Los Angeles Police Department
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
msl	Mean Sea Level
MTA	Metropolitan Transit Authority
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
PORTS	Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students
PRC	Public Resources Code
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SHP	State Historic Park
SMMC	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
SP	Southern Pacific
SPTC	Southern Pacific Transportation Company

SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TIS	Temporary Information Site
TPL	Trust for Public Land
UBC	Uniform Building Code
VCM	Visitor Capacity Management

Appendix B
Glossary

Access (Egress/Ingress) – The ability to enter a site (ingress) from a roadway or trail and exit a site (egress) onto a roadway or trail by vehicle, walking, bike, horse, etc.

Accessibility (for people with disabilities) – Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, state and local governments that construct new buildings and facilities, or make specific alterations to existing buildings, facilities and programs, must make them accessible. Title II requires a public entity to ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from services, programs, and activities because existing building and facilities are inaccessible. Beyond Federal law, the state has established standards for accessibility in the California Building Code. Title I and Title III would also be applicable. See **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**.

Adaptive Use – Use of a historic structure for a purpose other than that for which it was originally intended. This may require alterations to a structure's interior while maintaining the original exterior appearance.

Alluvium – Sand, gravel, silt, and clay deposited by rivers and streams in valley bottoms.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) – Ensures equal access to all users of public (and private) facilities and programs. This federal civil rights legislation for persons with disabilities passed in 1990. The ADA covers a wide range of disabilities, from physical conditions affecting mobility, stamina, sight, hearing, and speech, to conditions such as emotional illness and learning disorders. The ADA also addresses access to the workplace. See **Accessibility** and **Reasonable Accommodation**.

Anticline – A fold, generally convex upward, whose core contains the stratigraphically oldest rocks.

Aquifer - A layer of water-bearing permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of providing significant amounts of water to wells or springs. The upper boundary of the topmost aquifer is known as the water table. Some areas have several aquifers, each capped on top by an impervious layer (aquitard). If the recharge area is elevated higher that the capping layer, the water may be under considerable pressure, and flowing or Artesian wells may be likely.

Aquitard – A layer of impermeable sediments (clays and silts) or rock that impedes the flow of groundwater.

Best Management Practice – The most current methods, treatments, or actions in regard to environmental mitigation responses.

Biocorridor – A route that allows movement of species from one region or place to another; segments of land with appropriate habitat that links one core reserve area to another and provides for normal wildlife movements and migrations necessary for the preservation of animal and plan species that use ecosystems.

Biotic – Living components of an ecosystem; all animals and plant life, including fungal and microorganisms.

Brownfields – Previously developed lands, contaminated and now vacated, sites that could be restored for new uses, e.g. abandoned rail yards and former pumping operations. See **Hazardous Material**.

Buffer – An area or strip of land separating two distinct and/or incompatible land uses or zones, which acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on another. It should function as a barrier for both vision and sound.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – The California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq.; Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et. seq. CEQA is a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental and historical impacts of their proposed actions and to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts, if feasible.

California State Park and Recreation Commission – Established in 1927 to advise the Director of Parks and Recreation on the recreational needs of the people of California. The commissioners are appointed by the Governor and conduct public hearings on naming, classification and the approval of general plans (and amendments) for State Park System units.

Clay – A particle of sediment less than 1/256 of a millimeter in diameter. Also, a family of platy silicate minerals that commonly from as a product of weathering.

Concessions – A contract with persons, corporations, partnerships, or associations for the provision of products, facilities, programs and management and visitor services that will provide for the enhancement of park visitor use, enjoyment, safety, and convenience. Concessions may be for food service, overnight accommodation, equipment rentals (canoes, raft, skis), gift stores, etc.

Direct Impacts – Primary environmental effects that are caused by a project and occur at the same time and place. See **Environmental Assessment**.

Environment – The California Legislature defined 'environment' to refer to "the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, noise, objects of historic or aesthetic significance."

Environmental Analysis – The task of addressing the potential impact of any given plan or development project on the state's environment, an analysis that can range across any number of topics including air pollution, toxins, and impacts on plants, animals and historical resources. See **Project**.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) – An informational document prepared by the lead agency responsible for carrying out a project as part of the CEQA public review process that describes and analyzes a project's potential significant environmental effects and discusses ways to mitigate or avoid those effects. See **California Environmental Quality Act**, **Impact Analysis**, **Tiered Approach/Tiering**.

Exotic Species (or alien, non-native or non-indigenous species) – A species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range that has been intentionally introduced or has inadvertently penetrated the system. Also known as introduced, non-native, non-indigenous or ornamental species. See **Non-native Species**.

General Plan – A document providing broad public policy and programmatic guidance regarding development and management of an individual unit of the State Park System, essential to the managers, staff and stakeholders. A General Plan is sometimes called a "comprehensive plan" or "master plan." See **Master Plan**.

Gravel – All sedimentary particles (rock or mineral) larger than 2 millimeters and smaller than 64 millimeters in diameter.

Greenway – A linear area maintained as open space in order to conserve natural and cultural resources, and to provide recreational opportunities, aesthetic and design benefits, and linkages. More specifically, a coordinated system or open space that links existing facilities using streets, railroad rights-of-way, utility easements and natural features such as stream corridors and drainage channels. Greenways also provide corridors for wildlife habitat, as well as acting as visual buffer zones between developments.

Guidelines – General statements of policy direction around which specific details may later be established.

Habitat – The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs, often characterized by a dominant plant form or physical characteristic (e.g., the oak-savanna, wetland, or a coastal habitat).

Hazardous Material – Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant potential hazard to human health and safety, or to other organisms in the environment. Lead-based paint is an example of a hazardous material. See **Brownfields**.

Historic Context – An organizing framework for interpreting history that groups information about historical resources sharing a common theme, geographic area, or chronology. The development of 'historic context' is a foundation for decisions regarding the planning, identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historical resources based upon comparative historic significance.

Historic District – A geographic area that contains a concentration of historic buildings, structures, or sites united historically, culturally, or architecturally. Historic districts are defined by precise geographic boundaries.

Historic Resource(s) – Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically significant or which is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, archaeological or cultural history of California.

Holocene – An epoch of the Quaternary Period, from the end of the Pleistocene, approximately 8,000 years ago to the present time.

Impact Analysis – The section of an Environmental Impact Report that analyzes the significant, unavoidable, and irreversible environmental effects of a proposed project. See **Environmental Impact Report**.

Impact Mitigation Measure – Action or change to a project that will minimize its negative environmental effects. See **California Environmental Quality Act**, **Mitigation**, **Mitigation Measure**.

Indirect Impacts – Also referred to as secondary effect, indirect impacts are caused by a project and occur later in time or at some distance from the project.

Interim Use – Temporary use or improvements that allow for public access and use of park lands without creating a permanent commitment of the underlying resources; i.e. a gravel or dirt parking area as opposed to a paved lot. Land uses that require temporary structures, land

improvements, and landscaping and which, from an economic and political standpoint, can be converted at the end of that limited life.

Interpretation – A communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings in the resource. The term is used to describe communication activities designed to improve understanding at parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, historic sites and other travel destinations. *www.interpnet.com*

Interpretive Activities – Hikes, talks, tours or demonstrations that provide the participants with information and inspiration on a given natural or cultural resource. Participants learn and discover new ideas or concepts about the subject.

Lead Agency – The governmental agency responsible for compliance with CEQA for a proposed project. Generally, it is the agency with the broadest permit discretion for the project or the agency actually carrying out the project. For example, California State Parks is the Lead Agency for Departmental projects, and has the authority to approve its own projects, even though permits may also be required from other agencies. See **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**.

Liquefaction - In cohensionless (sand and silt) soil, the transformation from solid to a liquid state due to increased pore water pressure and resulting reduction of effective stress (loss of soil strength). Often induced by earthquake shaking.

Management Plans – In California State Parks, management plans define the objectives, methodologies, and/or designs regarding how management goals will be accomplished. Occurring on an as-needed basis, they are typically focused on specific management topics, goals, or issues. Depending on their focus, the plans can apply to all or part of a unit. Management plans are consistent with system-wide plans and policies, and with the unit's general plan. See **Specific Plan**.

Master Plan – Master plans are tangible statements of where the park is now, what it should be in the future and what is required to get there. While circumstances vary from place to place, the decision to develop a master plan is often determined by the need to understand the current conditions of the park, to generate and build community interest and participation, to create a new and common vision for the park's future, and/or to develop a clear and solid set of recommendations and implementation strategies. See **General Plan**.

Mission Statement – A broad statement of purpose derived from an organization's values and goals. See **Vision Statement**.

Mitigate, Mitigation – To ameliorate, alleviate, or avoid to the extent reasonably feasible – usually impacts to the environment associated with a project or undertaking. According to CEQA, mitigation for environmental impacts include: (a) avoiding an impact by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (b) minimizing an impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; (c) rectifying an impact by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the environment affected; (d) reducing or eliminating an impact by preserving and maintaining operations during the life of the action; (e) compensating for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments. Refer also to Section 106 of the National Historic Protection Act.

Mitigation Measure – Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), when an environmental impact or potential impact is identified, measures must be proposed that will eliminate, avoid, rectify, compensate for, reduce or compensate for those environmental effects.

Multi-use or Multi-purpose Trail – An appropriately surfaced trial intended as a circulation connection for a variety of uses (bicycle, hiking, pedestrian).

Native Species – A plant or animal that is historically indigenous to a specific area.

Non-native Species – Introduced species or exotic species; refers to plants and animals that originate in other regions of the world and are brought into a new region, where they may dominate the local species or in some way negatively impact the environment for native species. Also known as non-indigenous species. See **Exotic Species**.

Paleontology: A branch of geology that studies prehistoric life forms other than humans, through the study of plant and animal fossils. Fossils are the remains of organisms that lived in the region in the geologic and are now extinct. Fossils are found embedded in geologic formations that range in thickness from a few feet to hundreds of feet.

pH - pH is a measure of the acidic or basic (alkaline) nature of a solution. The concentration of the hydrogen ion [H+] activity in a solution determines the pH. Mathematically this is expressed as: $pH = - \log [H+]$

Pleistocene – An epoch of the Quaternary Period, after the Pliocene of the Tertiary and before the Holocene. It began 1.6 million years ago and lasted until about 8,000 years ago (Holocene). Syn: *ice age; glacial epoch*

Province – A broadly defined geographical area. It is a term that helps predict where plant species can be expected to grow.

Public Resources Code (PRC) – California law that addresses natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources of the State, in addition to the State Constitution and Statutes.

Quaternary – The most recent period of the Cenozoic era, encompassing the time interval of 1.6 million years ago through today. See geologic time scale.

Riparian – (land or area) – The strip of land adjacent to a natural watercourse such as a river or stream. Often supports vegetation that provides fish habitat when growing large enough to overhang the bank.

Runoff – That portion of rainfall or surplus water that does not percolate into the ground and flows overland and is discharged into surface drainages or bodies of water.

Sand – Loose particles of rock or mineral that range from 0.0625-2.0 millimeters in diameter.

Scenic Corridor – A transportation corridor, bikeway or waterway of outstanding scenic beauty, warranting special scenic conservation treatment.

Shale – A fine-grained detrital sedimentary rock, formed by the deposition and compaction of clay, silt, or mud. It has finely laminated (layered) structure, which gives it a fissility along which the rock splits readily, especially on weathered surfaces. Shale is well indurated, but not as hard as argillite or slate. It may be red, brown, black, or gray. A diatomaceous shale is usually a light colored, soft rock composed mostly of the opaline frustules (the hard, siliceous bivalve shell of a diatom).

Significant Effect – A substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment.

Silt – Loose particles of rock or mineral that range from 0.002-0.0625 millimeters in diameter.

Specific Plan – A tool for detailed design and implementation of a defined portion of the area covered by a General Plan. Specific plans put the provisions of the local general plan into action.

Stakeholder – Group or individual who can affect, or is affected by, the achievement of the jurisdiction or organization's mission; examples include managers, employees, policy makers, suppliers, vendors, citizens, users, community activists, businesses, and community groups; and who should have a right to participate in the decision-making process.

Sustainable Design – To locate, design, reconstruct, construct, rehabilitate, renovate, operate, and maintain built environments that are models of energy, water, and materials efficiency, while providing healthy, productive, and comfortable habitable environments and long term benefits. This design approach is sometimes called "green design" or "green technology." See **Sustainable Landscape**.

Sustainable Landscape – A landscape enhanced and maintained to the highest degree of ecological harmony. See **Sustainable Design**.

Tiered Approach (Tiering) – In General Plans, used to meet the requirement of CEQA. The first tier EIR will be prepared for the general plan. Subsequent management plans, area development plans, and specific project plans, implementing the general plan may be subject to additional environmental review (second and third tiers, etc.) The degree of specificity will reflect the level of detail in the general plan and subsequent plans. See **California Environmental Quality Act**, **Environmental Impact Report**, and **General Plan**.

Turbidity Current – A density current in water or air; specifically a bottom-flowing current laden with suspended sediment, moving swiftly down an underwater slope and spreading horizontally on the floor of the body of water, having been set in motion by locally stirred-up sediment that gives the water a density greater than the surrounding clear water.

Unit Data File (UDF) – In California State Parks, the working file that contains an organized body of information about a unit, and references the location of other information. It acts as an organized library of both unit data and the status of current issues.

Viewshed – The total area within a view from a defined observation point.

Vision Statement – A vision statement is a compelling image (description) of a desirable state of reality made possible by accomplishing the mission in a way that is consistent with the core values of key stakeholders. The vision statement is an inspiring view of the preferred future. See **Mission Statement**.

Watershed – The total area above a given point on a waterway that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse that drains into a lake, reservoir, or other body of water. A watershed may, and often does, cover a very large geographical region.

Appendix C
Listed Properties within One Half Mile of the Park

Property	Number	Date	Location	Description
Los Angeles Plaza Historic District	NR - listed 1972-11-3	1781-1930s	Roughly bounded by Spring, Macy, Alameda, Arcadia, and Old Sunset Blvd.	Historic core of Los Angeles and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
Avila Adobe	CHL#145	1818c.	Olvera Street, El Pueblo Historical Monument	Oldest existing private house in Los Angeles.
Los Angeles Plaza	CHL#156	1818	500 N. Main Street, El Pueblo Historical Monument	Site of El Pueblo's public plaza since relocation in 1818.
Pico House (Hotel)	CHL#159	1869-70	400 Main Street, El Pueblo Historical Monument	First three story hotel built in Los Angeles, associated with former Governor of Mexican California, Pio de Jesus Pico.
Merced Theatre	CHL#171	1870	420 Main Street, El Pueblo Historical Monument	First theatre only building in Los Angeles.
Lugo Adobe (site of)	CHL#301	1840s	SE corner of Los Angeles and Alameda Streets, El Pueblo Monument	Site of early two story adobe house.
Portola Trail Campsite (no. 1)	CHL#655	1769	North Broadway and Elysian Park Drive	Approximate campsite location of Portola Expedition, August 3, 1769
Old Plaza Firehouse	CHL#730	1884	501 N. Los Angeles St.; El Pueblo Historical Monument	First fire station building built in City
First Jewish Site in LA	CHL#822	1854	800 West Lilac Terrace near Lookout Drive	Pioneer Jewish settlers burial ground site
Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center	CHL#972	1941	1700 Stadium Way	WPA funded Art Deco Style building significant for unique architecture and service to Naval personnel since WWII.
Plaza Church	LA#3 CHL#144	1822	535 N. Main St.	Oldest established church in the city

Property	Number	Date	Location	Description
First Cemetery	LA#26	1823-1844	Adjacent to Plaza Church	First graveyard, may still contain aboriginal Gabrielino from Yang-na village
The Castle	LA#27	1882	325 S. Bunker Hill Ave.	19th Century craftsmanship, classic suburban residential development, burned to ground by vandals.
San Antonio Winery	LA#42	1917	737 Lamar St.	Last remaining winery LA
River Station Area/SP railroad	LA#82	1875	N. Broadway-N. Spring- LA River-Elysian Park	Vestiges of 19th Century station, yard, warehouse, tracks, switch houses, etc.
Union Station-Terminal	LA#101 NR – listed	1933	800 N. Alameda St.	Streamline Modern and Spanish style station.
Granite –Block Paving	LA#211	No date	Bruno St.	This short industrial street, only surviving St. with hand – hewn granite blocks.
Cathedral High School	LA#281	1923	1253 Bishops Rd.	Reported to be oldest Catholic High School in city.
Albion Cottages and Milagro Market	LA#442	1870	1813 Albion St.	Cottages and turn of the century market are a window into the past.
Lincoln Heights Jail/LA City Jail	LA#587	1931	401-449 North Ave. 19	Art Deco and Modern additions

Appendix D
Species Observed and Expected to Occur on the Park Site

The following is a list of those species observed during site visits. In addition, common urban dwelling species that were not observed but would be expected to occur on the site include: European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), House finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), black rat (*Rattus rattus*), Norway or brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*).

Species Observed On-site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family
Plants		
Mulefat	*Baccharis salicifolia*	Asteraceae
Horseweed	*Conyza canadensis**	Astereaceae
Prickly lettuce	*Lactuca serriola**	Asteraceae
Bristly ox-tongue	*Picris echioides**	Asteraceae
Virgate wreath plant	*Stehanomeria virgata*	Asteraceae
Black mustard	*Brassica nigra**	Brassicaceae
Russian thistle/tumbleweed	*Salsola tragus**	Chenopodiaceae
Deerweed	*Lotus scoparius*	Fabaceae
California sycamore	*Platanus racemosa+*	Platanaceae
Wild oats	*Avena* spp.*	Poaceae
Ripgut grass	*Bromus diandrus**	Poaceae
Soft chess	*Bromus hordaceus**	Poaceae
Foxtail chess	*Bromus madritenisis**	Poaceae
Tree tobacco	*Nicotiana glauca**	Solanaceae
Birds		
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferious*	Charadriidae
Mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*	Columbidae
Rock dove/pigeon	*Columba livia*	Columbidae
Red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	Accipitridae
American kestrel	*Falco sparverius*	Falconidae
Mammals		
Beechey's ground squirrel	*Spermophilus beecheyi*	Sciuridae
Invertebrates		
Pallid winged grasshopper	*Trimerotropis pallidipennis*	Acrididae
West Coast Lady	*Vanessa anabella*	Nymphalidae

* = exotic species
+ = cultivar/landscape species

Appendix E
Plant Community Descriptions

Grasslands

Native grasslands represent a component of the landscape that have been heavily impacted by the introduction of non-native plants, which have replaced historic native bunch grasses and wildflower fields that once grew in the upland terraces along the Los Angeles River. Grasslands as an understory are an important component to oak woodlands and provide habitat for small rodents and ground-nesting birds such as the greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*). Grasslands provide foraging habitat for raptors such as the red-tailed hawk and are still an important habitat type today. However, most of the native grasslands in southern California have disappeared due to urbanization pressures and the invasion of exotic grass species (*e.g., Avena* spp. and *Bromus* spp.).

Coastal sage scrub

Coastal sage scrub is one of the major shrub dominated communities in southern California. It supports drought deciduous species such as California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), flat top buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*). Coastal sage scrub occurs from sea level to 3100 ft. and is the most widespread sage scrub community in southern California. As a result, this community has been impacted the greatest by urbanization. Historically the Park site was most likely a transition zone from oak woodland to coastal sage scrub on the surrounding hills. From the Park site, coastal sage scrub can still be seen in Chavez Ravine on the slopes below Dodger Stadium and this vegetation type is also found on many of the surrounding hills (*e.g.* Verdugo Hills).

Alluvial fan scrub

Alluvial fan scrub is a structurally and floristically diverse scrub community. It consists of an unusually large proportion of tree-like evergreen shrubs and a rich assemblage of sub-shrubs often dominated by squaw bush (*Lepidospartum squamatum*). Other characteristic species commonly found in alluvial fan scrub include Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicanus*) and various coastal sage scrub and chaparral sub-shrub species. The understory is typically dominated by native and non-native herbaceous species. Riparian trees may also occur within this community but are not considered common. Allullvial fan scrub is primarily restricted to floodplain habitats containing riverine cobbles, boulders and sand. These areas flood occasionally (every 5-10 years) which is the driving force that maintains this habitat. Today alluvial fan scrub is considered an endangered natural community by the California Department of Fish and Game. Alluvial fan scrub once covered much of the Los Angeles Basin, including the Park site as it transitioned into walnut and coast live oak woodlands.

California walnut woodland

California walnut woodlands are similar to live oak woodlands and often intergrade with them in the foothills and along river banks. Walnut woodlands are dominated by California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), a rare and declining species throughout its range. It has an open tree canopy allowing for the development of an understory composed of coastal scrub, chaparral, and non-native grass species. Walnut woodlands can be found on relatively moist and fine-textured soils that are intermittently flooded and saturated on valley slopes and bottoms. Walnut woodlands occur in riparian corridors, floodplains, incised canyons, river and stream low flow margins, seeps, stream and river banks, and terraces. They occur from 500 ft. to 3000 ft. elevation. Historically California walnut woodlands were found throughout the Los Angeles Basin and it is likely that they once occurred on the Park site with the live oak woodland on terraces above the main Los Angeles River flow margin.

Oak woodlands

Oak woodlands along the Los Angeles River were most likely those described as Coast Live Oak series (Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, 1995). This vegetation community occurs from sea level to approximately 3900 ft. on raised stream banks and often intergrades with coastal sage scrub. It is dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) with a poorly developed shrub layer and an herb layer generally dominated by non-native grasses such as rip gut grass (*Bromus diandrus*). Historically the understory was more likely annual native grasses and wildflower fields and the woodlands had a more defined structure (*i.e.,* trees of various ages).

Agriculture

By the mid 1800s this site had been cleared of all native vegetation and replaced by agricultural fields. The agricultural fields provided hawks and other birds of prey opportunities to hunt and return to the trees along the river for shelter. Grains appear to have been the main crops until the rail yard was constructed in the late 1800s. Once the rail yard became more widely used non-native plants could be found growing in and around the tracks. From the time of the active rail yard to present very little native vegetation could be found growing on site.

Appendix F
Los Angeles River Beneficial Uses

Existing Beneficial Uses

GWR - **Ground Water Recharge**: Uses of water for natural or artificial recharge of ground water for purposes of future extraction, maintenance of water quality, or halting of saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers.

REC-1 - **Water Contact Recreation:** Uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, whitewater activities, fishing, or use of natural hot springs.

REC-2 – **Non-contact Water Recreation:** Uses of water for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but where there is generally no body contact with water, nor any likelihood of ingestion of water. These uses include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beachcombing, camping, boating, tide pool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, or aesthetic enjoyment in conjunction with the above activities.

MAR – Marine Habitat: Uses of water that support marine ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of marine habitats, vegetation such as kelp, fish, shellfish, or wildlife (e.g. marine mammals, shorebirds).

WILD - Wildlife Habitat: Uses of water that support terrestrial or wetland ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation and enhancement of terrestrial habitats or wetlands, vegetation, wildlife (e.g., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates), or wildlife water and food sources.

WARM – Warm Freshwater Habitat: Uses of water that support warm water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates.

RARE – Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: Uses of water that support habitats necessary, at least in part, for the survival and successful maintenance of plant or animal species established under state or federal law as rare, threatened, or endangered.

Potential Beneficial Uses

MUN – Municipal Supply: Uses of water for community, military, or individual water supply systems, including, but not limited to, drinking water supply.

IND – Industrial Service Supply: Uses of water for industrial activities that do not depend primarily on water quality, including, but not limited to, mining, cooling water supply, hydraulic conveyance, gravel washing, fire protection, or oil-well re-pressurization.

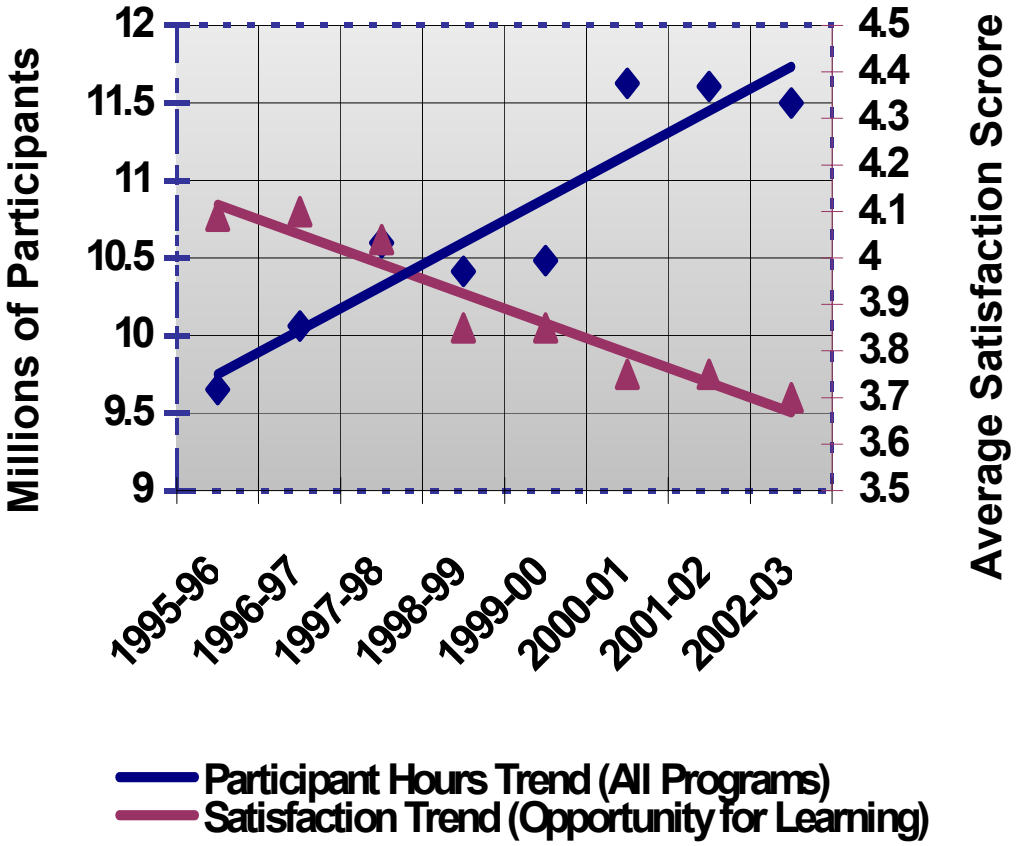
PROC – Industrial Process Supply: Uses of water for industrial activities that depend primarily on water quality.

MIGR - Migration of Aquatic Organisms: Uses of water that support habitats necessary for migration or other temporary activities by aquatic organisms, such as anadromous fish.

SPWN - **Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development:** Uses of water that support high quality aquatic habitats suitable for reproduction and early development of fish.

SHELL – Shellfish Harvesting: Uses of water that support habitats suitable for the collection of filter-feeding shellfish (e.g. clams, oysters, and mussels) for human consumption, commercial, or sports purposes.

Appendix G
Participant Hours in All Programs Compared to Satisfaction with Opportunity



Appendix H
California State Parks Angeles District
Five Year Summary of Attendance to Parks and to Programs

2002-2003

Total Attendance to Angeles District Parks:	3,705,316
Total Attendance to Interpretive Programs:	402,163

School Program Attendance (K-12): 21,184
Other Presented Program Attendance: 83,844
Non-Presented Program Attendance: 286,747
Number of School Programs: 536 / Hours of School Programs: 31,572

2001-2002

Total Attendance to Angeles District Parks:	3,910,241
Total Attendance to Interpretive Programs:	244,722

School Program Attendance (K-12): 19,178
Other Presented Program Attendance: 79,022
Non-Presented Program Attendance: 136,908
Number of School Programs: 585 / Hours of School Programs: 28,792

2000-2001

Total Attendance to Angeles District Parks:	3,235,743
Total Attendance to Interpretive Programs:	368,539

School Program Attendance (K-12): 19,973
Other Presented Program Attendance: 128,159
Non-Presented Program Attendance: 207,431
Number of School Programs: 571 / Hours of School Programs: 32,949

1999-2000

Total Attendance to Angeles District Parks:	954,582
Total Attendance to Interpretive Programs:	221,503

School Program Attendance (K-12): 28,163
Other Presented Program Attendance: 57,340
Non-Presented Program Attendance: 136,000
Number of School Programs: 410 / Hours of School Programs: 32,254

1998-1999

Total Attendance to Angeles District Parks:	1,732,489
Total Attendance to Interpretive Programs:	193,517

School Program Attendance (K-12): 24,453
Other Presented Program Attendance: 77,518
Non-Presented Program Attendance: 91,546
Number of School Programs: 478 / Hours of School Programs: 28,091

Sources: California State Parks Interpretation and Education Division (interpretive summaries) and Facilities Support Division (park attendance)

Appendix I
Planning Influences

System-wide Planning

Existing State Park system-wide planning influences that cross park and regional boundaries may affect planning decisions regarding the Park site. The following represent such influential policies, regulations, and plans.

Federal:

- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title II and III
- Clean Water Act (including CWA Section 401 Certification, Section 404 Permits, and Nationwide Permits)
- Federal Endangered Species Act
- Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, revised in 1992

State:

- Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act
- California Code of Regulations
- California Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect, Access Compliance
- California Endangered Species Act
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- California Fish and Game Code (including 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement process)
- California Native Plant Protection Act
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
- California Public Resources Code
- Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act

California Department of Parks and Recreation:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation Operations Manual
- California Department of Parks and Recreation Administrative Manual
- California Outdoor Recreation Plan
- California Recreational Trails Plan
- California State Park and Recreation Commission Statements of Policy
- California State Parks System Plan
- Planning Handbook
- California State Parks Access to Parks Guidelines
- California State Parks Mission Statement
- California Department of Parks and Recreation Diversity Steering Committee Report

- The Strategic Vision of California State Parks, The Seventh Generation
- System-wide Park Operations and Concessions Policies
- California Heritage Task Force
- Vegetation Management Guidelines for Trails and Roads in the Units of the State Park System
- Policies, Rules, Regulations, and Orders of the California State Park and Recreation Commission and the California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Resource Management Directives.
  These directives amplify the legal codes contained in the Public Resources Code, the California Code of Regulations, and the California State Park and Recreation Commission's Statement of Policy and Rules of Order.

Regional Planning Influences

The policies, plans and programs of agencies and organizations in the region affect the Park in various ways. These influences represent government on many levels and address regional issues that may affect planning decisions.

Federal:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

State:

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Transportation
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Air Quality Management District

County and Local:

- City of Los Angeles
- County of Los Angeles
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Metropolitan Water District
- South Coast Air Quality Management District

Department Documents, Manuals, and Policies

There are certain Department documents that set forth key strategies for managing the future of the State Park System and are also influential in the acquisition of the Park and preparation of this General Plan. These include the State Park System Plan 2002 and the California Outdoor Recreation Plan 2002. The following is a description of key aspects of these documents that have particular relevance to this park and General Plan:

State Park System Plan 2002

The *State Park System Plan 2002* (SPS Plan) addresses the activities and needs of the system today and over the next ten years. The SPS Plan is presented in two parts. *Part I: A System for the Future* identifies the challenges and trends as well as some of the ways in which the Department can meet current park visitor needs. *Part II: Initiatives for Action* identifies directions that the Department can take to meet anticipated future needs. This summary section highlights the initiatives for action identified in the SPS Plan that can be addressed at the Park.

Initiatives for Action

Advancing Core Programs: The Department has established directions in the State Park System Plan for its core programs to help accomplish its *Mission*. The following are key directions that are particularly relevant to this park.

Cultural Heritage Preservation

The proposed Los Angeles State Historic Park is part of a new thoughtful approach in cultural heritage preservation, emphasizing human diversity as seen from multiple perspectives. Specific directions that can be addressed at the Park include:

- Consider themes, concepts, heritage networks, and cultural landscapes that allow the Department to tell a broader more comprehensive story beyond individual sites or events. The site can be a focal point for the diverse stories about L.A. heritage.
- Park sites are increasingly viewed as venues for cultural/community activities and events that preserve ethnic cultural traditions and enhance appreciation for ethnic groups. The Park can meet this need in the Los Angeles urban area by establishing park areas where such activities and events can take place.

Outdoor Recreation

There is a great need to expand and upgrade recreational opportunities, not only those that occur in natural settings, but also those associated with historic areas and urban settings. The Park is a key new state park unit in fulfilling the Department's Urban Park Initiative recreation goals. Specific directions that apply include:

- Heavily urbanized areas of Los Angeles should be the first areas considered for the Department's "Urban Initiative".
- All new development of facilities will be accessible to people with disabilities.
- Develop partnerships with community-based organizations with close ties to underserved populations in an effort to broaden the recreation knowledge and experience of their members.
- Work with other providers of outdoor recreation, as well as with closely related agencies, to provide mutual support in the advocacy of legislative and public support for needed lands, facilities, and programs.

Education and Interpretation
Education and interpretation can help reconnect the State Park System with the people of California. Specific directions that apply include:

- Develop programs to reach under-served communities or groups.
- Determine new techniques and venues that are appropriate for bringing interpretive and educational efforts to non-traditional state park visitors.
- Ensure that interpretive and educational facilities and programs are accessible to people with disabilities.
- Continue to develop interpretive facilities such as visitor centers, outdoor interpretive panels, and interpretive trails.
- Develop, promote, and improve interpretive special events closely related to the resources and values of state park units.
- Continue to develop and expand the use of media and information technology, both traditional and innovative.
- Expand interpretive and educational efforts using languages other than English.

Public Safety
Visitors depend on qualified public safety staff with high standards for providing medical and law enforcement responses when necessary. Specific directions that apply include:

- Through advocacy and community involvement, promote the importance of staff presence in reducing crime in the Park.

<u>Implementing Key Initiatives:</u> Key initiatives have been developed in the State Park System Plan to address issues that go beyond the scope of core programs. The following summary identifies where State Parks, the Park, and the General Plan address these key initiatives that are especially pertinent.

State Parks in Urban Areas
As a part of improving open space and recreation conditions in urban areas, California State Parks is implementing an urban parks initiative focusing attention and efforts to establish State Park System units near urban populations. The SPS Plan specifically notes:

> *"…the Los Angeles metropolitan area...is recognized as a region that is largely underserved in terms of park facilities and open space areas. The Department has identified Los Angeles as its highest priority urban area due to its diverse demographic makeup and the fact that there are two acres or less of parkland for every 1,000 residents in the areas of central Los Angeles"*

The proposed Los Angeles SHP and nearby State Park at Taylor Yard are focal points in State Parks' efforts towards proactive provision of services, facilities, and recreation open space in urban areas. The Park and Taylor Yard acquisitions in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, and the subsequent General Plan efforts for those sites, are a part of the Department's initial efforts towards those ends. The Park and this General Plan address this "State Parks in Urban Areas" issue by providing the following actions and proposals:

- Collaborative and coordinated efforts with local and non-profit agencies as well as other various stakeholders groups to acquire, plan, and develop the proposed Los Angeles State Historic Park and Taylor Yard sites.
- Acquisition and establishment of State Park units near the Downtown Los Angeles metropolitan area.
- Selection of a park site that can become an integral part of an emerging regional open space network.
- Park planning that includes recreation open space as a primary plan component.
- A Plan Concept that includes a cultural activities area intended as a venue for interpretive, cultural, community activities, events, and celebrations.
- A Plan Concept with Garden Open Space that could include cultural or historical theme gardens.
- Extensive public involvement and outreach as a part of the General Plan process and subsequent park planning and project efforts.

Facility Development

The SPS Plan identifies criteria for facility development in the park system. The following are criteria that are pertinent to the Park:

- <u>Urban-Based Park System Developments</u>
  The Department will develop parks in the state's most highly urbanized areas to include both resource based facilities and facilities for active recreation and environmental recreation. This includes providing new, varied, and accessible recreation facilities.

- <u>Cultural Resource Interpretation</u>
  These efforts will link park units together into broader statewide themes, with emphasis on those eras and themes that are currently under-

represented. This includes providing new, varied, and accessible educational and interpretive facilities.

- Operations Support Facilities
  The Department should develop new structures or systems needed to support both visitor use and staff operation and administration of the park.

California Outdoor Recreation Plan 2002

The *California Outdoor Recreation Plan 2002* (CORP) is part of State Parks' continuing outdoor recreation planning program. The primary objective of CORP is "to determine outdoor recreation issues – which are currently the problems and opportunities-most critical in California, and to explore the most appropriate actions by which public agencies…might best address them".

The Issues and Actions section of the CORP is a statewide guide for enhancing parks and outdoor recreation opportunities and making them relevant and responsive to the needs of California's citizens and visitors. Consideration of this information provides this General Plan effort, guidance in meeting statewide recreation needs in addition to addressing regional and local recreation needs. The intent of issues and actions identified in CORP is to improve the diversity and availability of quality parks and recreation opportunities. Although all identified issues are pertinent to the Park, the following two in particular have special relevance to the Park:

Preservation and Protection of California's Cultural Heritage

Issue: *California's rich and diverse cultural heritage is not well understood and statewide preservation and protection is in need of better coordination.*

"A look back in time provides an understanding and appreciation of the people, places, and events that have helped define the character of California" (CORP 2002). There is a limited amount of comprehensive awareness of the richness, depth, and interwoven complexity of this heritage. Most have only a partial awareness of this. There is an opportunity at the Park, to provide a greater understanding of California's and Los Angeles' cultural heritage in a location that is accessible by a large urban population as well as having a location linked to this heritage. This opportunity can also help broaden sensitivity towards the value of cultural preservation and protection.

- Although many stories about various portions of L.A. heritage are told in many locations, there is no single permanent place that provides a comprehensive story that unifies all the various aspects together. By proposing that the Park be the one place where the comprehensive story of Los Angeles can be told (no such place currently exists), creation of an interpretive park that tells that comprehensive story can fulfill a significant gap in California's cultural history and make that story accessible to the public.

- The Park can show that the diversity of groups that are a part Los Angeles' heritage (past and present) creates a cultural mosaic that is an essential part of Los Angeles' character. The Park can be a place where visitors can learn about and celebrate California's cultural heritage and diversity among a wide range of ethnic groups.
- Projects that create coalitions of federal, state, local, non-profit and stakeholders in cultural resource protection.

The Park can address the issue of preserving California's cultural heritage by providing for the following:

- Designating park unit classification of property as a State Historic Park.
- Establishing a Cultural Resources Management Plan with goals and guidelines for the Park.
- Providing an Interpretive mission statement (provide connections between the diverse cultural roots of Angelenos and the contemporary experiences of all Californians) and themes (a comprehensive and multi-faceted perspective of Los Angeles history).
- Providing a concept for establishing an interpretive park for telling and celebrating the story of Los Angeles. This includes areas within the Park for celebrations of the diverse inhabitants and communities around the Park.
- Enhance cultural diversity by reaching out to the diverse local communities by providing increased opportunities for cultural recreation in the Park. Such opportunities include the use of multi-purpose spaces for cultural celebrations and festivals that bring to life the cultural diversity of the Los Angeles urban community.

Access to Public Parks and Recreation Resources

Issue: *Park and recreation lands as well as facilities and programs are not fully accessible to all Californians, further decreasing the relevancy of the services provided.*

A key point that CORP makes is that a variety of obstacles impedes contemporary park access and relevancy. Future development and management of the Park should acknowledge them and incorporate ways to eliminate or overcome them. Such obstacles include:

- Physical, environmental, demographic and administrative obstacles can impede participation in outdoor recreation opportunity.
- Many park and recreation facilities, programs and services lack relevance to, or don't meet the needs of, segments of California's rapidly changing population, such as the elderly, youth families, ethnic groups, new immigrants, and persons with disabilities.
- Many park and recreation facilities, programs and services are inaccessible due to barriers such as distance, location, and fees, environmental restrictions, security, access for disabled persons, traffic, and the lack of public transportation.

- Safety and security in many park and recreation areas is not keeping pace with increases in use, user conflicts, inappropriate behaviors and illegal activities.

As a response to identifying these obstacles, the CORP identified ways in which funding and certain project direction could provide some solutions to overcoming these obstacles. Possibilities include:

- Projects that respond to underserved populations and emerging needs with a particular emphasis on economically disadvantaged populations;
- Projects that are readily accessible by a variety of park visitors and which remove physical psychological, and economic barriers;
- Projects which preserve open-space corridors, allow for connections to trail systems, and encourage multiple use of trails.

In addition to the SPS Plan and CORP, two other Department documents will be important in guiding future development of the Park. Those documents are the *Diversity Steering Committee – Report and Recommendations (2002)* and *Access to Parks Guidelines*.

Diversity Steering Committee – Report and Recommendations (2002)

As a part of its visioning process in 1999, California State Parks recognized the need to increase diversity among its workforce, in its programs and services, and with the public, in order to make State Parks relevant to and inclusive to an increasingly diverse population. In response, State Parks developed a diversity initiative and committee to address this issue. The Diversity Steering Committee – Report and Recommendations was prepared to develop strategies regarding diversity.

The following four strategies were formulated to increase diversity in its organization, programs, and park visitor experiences:

- Increase diversity awareness of DPR employees, volunteers, and visitors.
- Reduce barriers for access to parks, services, facilities and career opportunities.
- Increase accountability for DPR supervisors, managers and executives.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships and relationships with other public and private sector agencies, businesses and non-profit organizations.

The report also provides implementation direction within each of the strategy areas.

The character of the Park and General Planning process with the purpose and the Department's diversity strategies share many common objectives. Diversity is very much a part of the comprehensive and interwoven stories and multiple perspectives that are a part of the story of Los Angeles and the Park. The strategies identified in this report along with the General Plan concepts, goals,

and guidelines will be a part of how diversity is established and enhanced at the Park.

Access to Parks Guidelines

State Parks is committed to providing universal access in its park units for all visitors. The concept of access to parks and recreational environments is intended to allow access, circulation and full use of the building, facilities and programs by persons with disabilities.

The programs, site development, and facilities proposed for the Park will be guided by the Department's *Access to Parks Guidelines*. These Guidelines also provide direction for the treatment of information and communication in the park system. *Access to Parks Guidelines* represents a distillation of accessibility standards, recommendations and regulations for compliance with accessibility laws. The *Guidelines* document is intended for use throughout California State Parks. Many chapters relate to the physical environment and serve as a resource for planners, designers, maintenance staff and contractors.

Appendix J
Location of EIR Required Content

CEQA Guidelines Content	Location in General Plan/EIR
Section 15122. Table of Contents or Index	Beginning of this document/Table of Contents
Section 15123. Summary	Sec. 5.2 Summary
Section 15124. Project Description	Ch. 4 The Plan (description) Sec. 5.3 Project Description (summarized) Ch. 1 Introduction (information about project objective and general plan process)
Section 15125. Environmental Setting	Ch. 2 Existing Conditions Sec. 5.4 Environmental Setting
Section 15126. Consideration and Discussion of Environmental Impacts	Ch. 5 Environmental Analysis
(a) (and Section 15126.2) Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project.	Sec. 5.6 Significant Environmental Effects and Mitigation
(b) Significant Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided if the Proposed Project is Implemented.	Sec. 5.7 Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects
(c) Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would be Involved in the Proposed Project Should it be Implemented.	Sec. 5.7 Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects
(d) Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Project.	Sec. 5.9 Growth-Inducing Impacts
(e) (and Section 15126.4) The Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Significant Effects.	Ch. 4 The Plan, Sec. 4.5 Goals and Guidelines (intended to minimize adverse environmental effects) Sec. 5.6 Significant Environmental Effects and Mitigation
(f) Alternatives to the Proposed Project.	Sec. 5.10 Alternatives to the Proposed Action
Section 15127. Limitations on Discussion of Environmental Impact.	Sec. 5.8 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes
Section 15128. Effects Not Found to be Significant.	Sec 5.12 Effects Not Found to be Significant
Section 15129. Organizations and Persons Consulted.	Ch. 6 References
Section 15130. Discussion of Cumulative Impacts.	Sec. 5.11 Cumulative Impacts
Section 15131. Economic and Social Effects. (optional topic)	Ch. 4 The Plan Throughout the document under discussions of recreation and visitor experience

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