

MONTEREY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting: August 13, 2014	Agenda Item No.: 2
Project Description: A Combined Development Permit consisting of: (1) Coastal Administrative Permit and Design Approval to extend and improve the Lace Lichen Trail within the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve; and (2) Coastal Development Permit to remove seven (7) small diameter (less than 6") Monterey Pine trees and native vegetation; and (3) Coastal Development Permit for development within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource.	
Project Location: Hwy 1 (eastern boundary) to the Pacific Ocean (western boundary), approximately 2 miles southwest of the City of Carmel.	APN: 243-121-001-000
Planning File Number: PLN140315	Owner/Applicant: State of California (Pt. Lobos State Natural Reserve)
Planning Area: Carmel Area Land Use Plan	Flagged and staked: No
Zoning Designation: "RC-D (CZ)" [Resource Conservation - Design Control Overlay (Coastal Zone)]	
CEQA Action: Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration	
Department: RMA-Planning Department	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission adopt a resolution (**Exhibit C**) to:

- 1) Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project; and
- 2) Approve the Combined Development Permit (PLN140315), based on the findings and evidence and subject to the conditions of approval (**Exhibit C**).

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

See "Discussion" (**Exhibit B**)

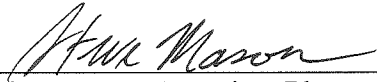
OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: The following agencies and departments reviewed this project:

- RMA-Public Works Department
- ✓ RMA-Environmental Services
- Environmental Health Bureau
- Water Resources Agency
- Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
- Monterey County Sheriff's Office
- California Coastal Commission

Agencies that submitted comments are noted with a check mark ("✓"). Conditions recommended by RMA-Environmental Services have been incorporated into the Condition Compliance/Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan attached to the draft resolution (**Exhibit C**).

The project was reviewed by the Carmel/Carmel Highlands Land Use Advisory Committee on July 7, 2014, at which time the Committee unanimously recommended Planning Commission approval of the project.

Note: The decision on this project is appealable to the Board of Supervisors and California Coastal Commission.



Steve Mason, Associate Planner
(831) 755-5228, masons@co.monterey.ca.us
August 6, 2014

cc: Front Counter Copy; Planning Commission; Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District; RMA-Public Works Department; RMA-Environmental Services; Environmental Health Bureau; Water Resources Agency; Monterey County Sheriff's Office; California Coastal Commission; Luke Connolly, RMA Services Manager; Steve Mason, Project Planner; California Department of Parks and Recreation; The Open Monterey Project (Molly Erickson); LandWatch (Amy White); John H. Farrow; Janet Brennan; Planning File PLN140315

Attachments:	Exhibit A	Project Data Sheet
	Exhibit B	Project Discussion
	Exhibit C	Draft Resolution, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conditions of Approval• Trail Map
	Exhibit D	Vicinity Map
	Exhibit E	Advisory Committee Minutes (LUAC)
	Exhibit F	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

This report was reviewed by Luke Connolly, Planning Services Manager.



EXHIBIT A

Project Information for PLN140315

Application Name: State Of California (Point Lobos State Natural Reserve)

Applicable Plan:	Carmel LUP	Primary APN:	243-121-001-000
Advisory Committee:	Carmel/Carmel Highlands Advisory Committee	Coastal Zone:	Yes
Permit Type:	Combined Development Permit	Final Action Deadline (884):	1/12/2015
Environmental Status:	Mitigated Negative Declaration		
Zoning:	RC-D(CZ)	Land Use Designation:	Forest & Upland Habitat

Project Site Data:

Lot Size:	400	Coverage Allowed:	n/a
Existing Structures (sf):	4000	Coverage Proposed:	n/a
Proposed Structures (sf):	0	Height Allowed:	n/a
Total Sq. Ft.:	4000	Height Proposed:	n/a
		FAR Allowed:	n/a
		FAR Proposed:	n/a

Resource Zones and Reports:

Seismic Hazard Zone:	VI III UNDETERMINED	Soils Report #:	n/a
Erosion Hazard Zone:	High Moderate Low	Biological Report #:	LIB140191
Fire Hazard Zone:	Moderate Very High	Forest Management Rpt. #:	LIB140191
Flood Hazard Zone:	A V X (unshaded)	Geologic Report #:	n/a
Archaeological Sensitivity:	High	Archaeological Report #:	LIB140192
Visual Sensitivity:	Highly Sensitive	Traffic Report #:	n/a

Other Information:

Water Source:	Well	Grading (cubic yds.):	440
Water Purveyor:	n/a	Sewage Disposal (method):	Septic
Fire District:	Carmel Highlands FPD	Sewer District Name:	n/a
Tree Removal:	7 - Monterey Pine		

EXHIBIT B

DISCUSSION

Project Description and Background

The State of California Parks Department proposes improvements to the Lace Lichen Trail within the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, to include a 1,200 foot westward trail extension to the Sea Lion Trail parking area and 600 foot eastward extension to the kiosk/entrance area, resulting in a continuous .75 mile trail. Seven (7) Monterey Pine trees (less than 6" diameter) and native vegetation will be removed in order to accommodate the improvements. Additional trail improvements to the Lace Lichen Trail will include trail widening (maximum 6' width), elevation and compaction of the aggregate base, new wooden trail markers and directional signage and installation of elevated puncheon walkways, as needed, in low-lying areas with poor drainage. Pedestrian crosswalks will be painted at trail crossings on Rat Hill Road, the Main Entrance Road and at the Sea Lion Trail parking area. Upon completion of the extension, the Lace Lichen Trail will allow direct pedestrian access from the park entry kiosk through to the trailheads for the Sea Lion Trail and Cypress Grove Trail without requiring that hikers traverse the main vehicle road, as is required by the current trail configuration. Upon completion of the project, the entirety of the Lace Lichen Trail will also meet ADA accessibility requirements.

The project includes Best Management Practices (BMP's) to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive plant communities, archaeological sites and water quality. The majority of the work will be completed with hand tools, handheld power tools, and small-scale mechanized equipment. In all trailside areas, vegetation will be trimmed back (brushed) to facilitate construction; brushing will be 20-feet wide and to a height of 80" (6.6 feet). The project may also include the installation of a sheltered interpretive sign/bulletin board which would be designed to match the existing signage in the Park. Construction is anticipated to take 2-3 months.

Project Issues/Environmental Review

The State of California Department of Parks and Recreation has functioned as the Lead Agency for the project environmental review process and have drafted and circulated an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) accordingly. The IS/MND has identified potential impacts to Biological Resources and Archaeological Resources, all of which impacts could be reduced to "less-than-significant" with the implementation of Mitigation measures as recommended within the document (Attached as **EXHIBIT F**) The following were designated as Reviewing Agencies for the IS/MND:

- California Coastal Commission
- State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4
- Cal Fire
- State Office of Historic Preservation
- State Department of Water Resources
- Caltrans, District 5
- Air Resources Board
- Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 3
- Native American Heritage Commission
- State Lands Commission

No comments were received by the Lead Agency from either the public or any of the Reviewing Agencies during the Review Period, which ran from May 8, 2014 through June 6, 2014. Acting as a Responsible Agency, County staff has reviewed the IS/MND and concurs with the findings and mitigations contained within.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the project as proposed.

**EXHIBIT C
DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**Before the Planning Commission in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

In the matter of the application of:

**State of California (Pt. Lobos State Natural Reserve)
(PLN140315)**

RESOLUTION NO. ----

Resolution by the Monterey County Hearing Body:

- 1) Considering the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 2) Approving a Combined Development Permit consisting of: (1) Coastal Administrative Permit and Design Approval to extend and improve the Lace Lichen Trail within the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve; and (2) Coastal Development Permit to remove seven (7) small diameter (less than 6") Monterey Pine trees and native vegetation; and (3) Coastal Development Permit for development within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource.

[PLN140315, State of California, HWY 1, Carmel
Area Land Use Plan (APN: 243-121-001-000)]

The State of California (Pt. Lobos State Natural Reserve) application (PLN140315) had a public hearing before the Monterey County Planning Commission on August 13, 2014. Having considered all the written and documentary evidence, the administrative record, the staff report, oral testimony, and other evidence presented, the Planning Commission finds and decides as follows:

FINDINGS

- 1. FINDING:** **PROJECT DESCRIPTION** – The proposed project is a Combined Development Permit consisting of: (1) Coastal Administrative Permit and Design Approval to extend and improve the Lace Lichen Trail within the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve; and (2) Coastal Development Permit to remove seven (7) small diameter (less than 6") Monterey Pine trees and additional native vegetation; and (3) Coastal Development Permit for development within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource.

EVIDENCE: The application, project plans, and related support materials submitted by the project applicant to Monterey County RMA-Planning for the proposed development found in Project File PLN140315.
- 2. FINDING:** **CONSISTENCY** – The Project, as conditioned, is consistent with the applicable plans and policies which designate this area as appropriate

- for the type of recreational, open space development proposed.
- EVIDENCE:** a) During the course of review of this application, the project has been reviewed for consistency with the text, policies, and regulations in:
- the 1982 Monterey County General Plan;
 - Carmel Area Land Use Plan;
 - Monterey County Coastal Implementation Plan Part 4;
 - Monterey County Zoning Ordinance (Title 20);
 - Point Lobos State Reserve and Carmel River State Beach General Plan (October 1979)

No conflicts were found to exist with the above plans and ordinances. No communications were received during the course of review of the project indicating any inconsistencies with the text, policies, and regulations in these documents.

- b) The property is located between Hwy 1 (eastern boundary) and the Pacific Ocean (western boundary), approximately 2 miles southwest of the City of Carmel. (Assessor's Parcel Number 243-121-001-000), Carmel Area Land Use Plan. The parcel is zoned "RC-D (CZ)" [Resource Conservation - Design Control Overlay (Coastal Zone)], which allows development within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource with an approved Coastal Development Permit, construction of trails and related improvements with an approved Coastal Administrative Permit and Design Approval, and the removal of seven (7) small diameter (less than 6") native trees and native vegetation with an approved Coastal Development Permit. Once these permits are obtained, the project is an allowed land use for this site.
- c) The project planner conducted a site inspection on June 3, 2014, to verify that the project on the subject parcel conforms to the plans listed above.
- d) The project was referred to the Carmel/Carmel Highlands Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC). Based on the LUAC Procedure guidelines adopted by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors per Resolution No. 08-338, this application warranted referral to the Carmel/Carmel Highlands Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) since it includes CEQA review and a Design Approval requiring Planning Commission approval. The project was reviewed by the LUAC on July 7, 2014, at which time the LUAC recommended approval of the project with a unanimous vote.
- e) The application, project plans, and related support materials submitted by the project applicant to Monterey County RMA-Planning for the proposed development found in Project File PLN140315.

3. **FINDING:** **SITE SUITABILITY** – The site is physically suitable for the use proposed.

- EVIDENCE:** a) The project has been reviewed for site suitability by the following departments and agencies: RMA- Planning, Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, RMA-Public Works, RMA-Environmental Services, Environmental Health Bureau, Monterey County Sheriff's Department and Water Resources Agency. There has been no indication from these departments/agencies that the site is not suitable for the proposed development, and conditions have been incorporated from Planning and

4. **FINDING:** **HEALTH AND SAFETY** - The establishment, maintenance, or operation of the project applied for will not under the circumstances of this particular case be detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the vicinity of such proposed use, or be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the Nature Reserve or to the general welfare of the County.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) The project was reviewed by the RMA - Planning, Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, Public Works, Environmental Health Bureau, and Water Resources Agency. The respective agencies have recommended conditions, where appropriate, to ensure that the project will not have an adverse effect on the health, safety, and welfare of persons either residing or working in the neighborhood.
 - b) All necessary public facilities are available, no new facilities are required.
 - c) Staff conducted a site inspection on June 3, 2014, to verify that the site is suitable for this use.
 - d) The application, project plans, and related support materials submitted by the project applicant to the Monterey County RMA - Planning for the proposed development found in Project File PLN140315.

5. **FINDING:** **NO VIOLATIONS** - The subject property is in compliance with all rules and regulations pertaining to zoning uses, subdivision, and any other applicable provisions of the County's zoning ordinance. No violations exist on the property.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) Staff reviewed Monterey County RMA - Planning and Building Services Department records and is not aware of any violations existing on subject property.
 - b) Staff conducted a site inspection on June 3, 2014, and researched County records to assess if any violation exists on the subject property.
 - c) The application, plans and supporting materials submitted by the project applicant to Monterey County RMA-Planning for the proposed development are found in Project File PLN140315.

6. **FINDING:** **CEQA (Mitigated Negative Declaration)** - On the basis of the whole record before the Monterey County Planning Commission, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project, as designed, conditioned and mitigated, will have a significant effect on the environment. The Mitigated Negative Declaration Prepared by the State Department of Parks & Recreation as Lead Agency reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the County, which is a Responsible Agency as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15381.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) Public Resources Code Section 21080.d and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.a.1 require environmental review if there is substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.
 - b) The State Department of Parks & Recreation prepared an Initial Study

pursuant to CEQA. The Initial Study is on file in the offices of RMA-Planning and is hereby incorporated by reference (PLN140315).

- c) The Initial Study identified several potentially significant environmental impacts, however, the Mitigated Negative Declaration includes mitigation measures that avoid the impacts or mitigate to a point of less than significant.
- d) A Condition Compliance and Mitigation Monitoring and/or Reporting Plan has been prepared.
- e) The Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (“MND”)/Negative Declaration (“ND”) for PLN140315 was prepared in accordance with CEQA and circulated for public review from May 8, 2014, through June 6, 2014 (SCH#: 2014051036). No comments from the public were received.
- f) Issues that were analyzed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration were: biological resources and cultural resources.
- g) The following mitigation measures designed to reduce potential impacts which were identified:

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - 1: To avoid impacts to monarch butterflies, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will implement the following measures:

- ☐ Schedule construction to occur in spring, summer or early fall (i.e., March through September), which is outside the monarch butterfly roosting season. If these schedule limitations are not possible, DPR will have a qualified biologist survey the trees for monarch butterflies along the project work corridor within one week prior to commencement of vegetation removal. If monarch butterflies are present, a buffer of at least 50 feet will be established around the roost tree(s) and construction postponed in that area until the biologist has determined that the monarch butterflies have left.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - 2: To avoid impacts to Monterey dusky footed woodrats, DPR will implement the following measures:

- ☐ DPR will have a qualified biologist survey the trail alignment within two weeks of commencement of work. If any woodrat nests are observed within the work area, DPR will realign the trail to avoid the woodrat nest. If this is not possible, DPR will prepare and implement a plan to replace or move the woodrat nest, with the approval of California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - 3: To minimize and avoid impacts to Monterey pine forest during construction, DPR will implement the following measures:

- ☐ Trees to be removed will be limited to small saplings, averaging four to six inches in diameter.
- ☐ Within the drip line of trees, excavation shall be limited to hand digging the best arboriculture management practices will be followed. These practices include hand-cutting of any roots encountered during excavation/trail construction.
- ☐ The most current arboricultural guidelines will be followed during the

cutting and removal of small diameter Monterey pine trees to prevent the spread of fungal disease. DPR will minimize the possibility that removing and pruning pine tree limbs would cause infested trees to release bark- and wood-boring insects and attack other nearby trees. Infested trees will be pruned outside the adult beetles' flight season; infested trees will not be pruned between February and mid-October. Unseasoned, freshly cut wood shall not be piled near woody landscape plants if the freshly cut wood and trees are dying or have recently died (from beetle infestations); this will reduce the possibility of the cut material providing an abundant breeding source for some wood-boring beetles.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - 4: To avoid impacts nesting of migratory birds, DPR will implement the following measures:

- ☐ Schedule construction to take place between August 15 and February 1 of any given year, which is outside the nesting season for the central coast of California.
- ☐ If schedule limitations are not possible, DPR will have a qualified biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds no more than two weeks prior to the start of construction. If any bird nests are observed within the project work area, a buffer of 50 feet for migratory birds and 200 feet for raptors will be established where no construction will take place until the biologist has determined that all young have fledged the nest.

CULTURAL RESOURCES - 1: To avoid impacts to any previously undiscovered archaeological sites which may exist within the project area, the following measures will be implemented.

- ☐ The DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, will conduct a survey of the proposed trail alignment after the area has been cleared of vegetation. The survey shall occur prior to ground disturbance for trail construction. In the event that a potentially significant cultural deposit is identified during the survey, the DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, will evaluate the find. The Archaeologist will determine the appropriate avoidance, preservation or recovery measures required, in compliance with DPR directives and CEQA prior to ground disturbance and trail construction activities at the location of the find.
- ☐ A qualified archaeological monitor will remain on site during trail construction to ensure that if any archaeological resources are exposed they will be avoided or otherwise preserved. In the event that a potentially significant cultural deposit is identified during the pre-construction survey or uncovered during trail construction, all work will be stopped at the specific location of the find until the DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, can evaluate it. Prior to work resuming at the location, the Archaeologist will determine the appropriate avoidance, preservation or recovery measures required, in compliance with DPR directives and CEQA. Work will not resume at the location until the appropriate measures have been implemented as determined by the Archaeologist.

- h) Monterey County RMA-Planning, located at 168 W. Alisal, 2nd Floor, Salinas, California, 93901, is the custodian of documents and other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the decision to consider the negative declaration is based.

7. **FINDING:** **PUBLIC ACCESS** – The project is in conformance with the public access and recreation policies of the Coastal Act (specifically Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act of 1976, commencing with Section 30200 of the Public Resources Code) and Local Coastal Program, and does not interfere with any form of historic public use or trust rights.
- EVIDENCE:** a) The project will serve to promote the goals of the California Coastal Act as defined in Section 30001.5, specifically:
30001.5 (c) Maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resources conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners.
8. **FINDING:** **APPEALABILITY** - The decision on this project may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission
- EVIDENCE:** a) Section 20.86.070 (Action by the Board of Supervisors on Appeal) and 20.86.080. (Development Appealable to the California Coastal Commission) Monterey County Zoning Ordinance.

DECISION

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the above findings and evidence, the Planning Commission does hereby:

1. Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration per (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15070; and
2. Approve a Combined Development Permit consisting of: (1) Coastal Administrative Permit and Design Approval to extend and improve the Lace Lichen Trail within the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve; and, (2) Coastal Development Permit to remove seven (7) small diameter (less than 6") Monterey Pine trees and additional native vegetation; and, (3) Coastal Development Permit for development within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource, in general conformance with the attached trail map and subject to the attached conditions, all being attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of August, 2014, upon motion of xxxx, seconded by xxxx, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Mike Novo, Secretary, Planning Commission

COPY OF THIS DECISION MAILED TO APPLICANT ON DATE

THIS APPLICATION IS APPEALABLE TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

IF ANYONE WISHES TO APPEAL THIS DECISION, AN APPEAL FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE CLERK TO THE BOARD ALONG WITH THE APPROPRIATE FILING FEE ON OR BEFORE [DATE]

THIS PROJECT IS LOCATED IN THE COASTAL ZONE AND IS APPEALABLE TO THE COASTAL COMMISSION. UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF THE FINAL LOCAL ACTION NOTICE (FLAN) STATING THE DECISION BY THE FINAL DECISION MAKING BODY, THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES A 10 WORKING DAY APPEAL PERIOD. AN APPEAL FORM MUST BE FILED WITH THE COASTAL COMMISSION. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COASTAL COMMISSION AT (831) 427-4863 OR AT 725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300, SANTA CRUZ, CA

This decision, if this is the final administrative decision, is subject to judicial review pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Sections 1094.5 and 1094.6. Any Petition for Writ of Mandate must be filed with the Court no later than the 90th day following the date on which this decision becomes final.

NOTES

1. You will need a building permit and must comply with the Monterey County Building Ordinance in every respect.

Additionally, the Zoning Ordinance provides that no building permit shall be issued, nor any use conducted, otherwise than in accordance with the conditions and terms of the permit granted or until ten days after the mailing of notice of the granting of the permit by the appropriate authority, or after granting of the permit by the Board of Supervisors in the event of appeal.

Do not start any construction or occupy any building until you have obtained the necessary permits and use clearances from Monterey County RMA-Planning and RMA-Building Services Department office in Salinas.

2. This permit expires 3 years after the above date of granting thereof unless construction or use is started within this period.

Form Rev. 5-14-2014

Monterey County RMA Planning

DRAFT Conditions of Approval/Implementation Plan/Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

PLN140315

1. PD001 - SPECIFIC USES ONLY

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: This Combined Development Permit (PLN140315) allows the extension and improvement the Lace Lichen Trail within the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, the removal of seven (7) small diameter (less than 6") Monterey Pine trees and additional native vegetation, and development within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource. The property is located at Highway 1, approximately 2 miles southwest from the city of Carmel (Assessor's Parcel Number 243-121-001-000), Camrel Area Land Use Plan. This permit was approved in accordance with County ordinances and land use regulations subject to the terms and conditions described in the project file. Neither the uses nor the construction allowed by this permit shall commence unless and until all of the conditions of this permit are met to the satisfaction of the Director of RMA - Planning. Any use or construction not in substantial conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit is a violation of County regulations and may result in modification or revocation of this permit and subsequent legal action. No use or construction other than that specified by this permit is allowed unless additional permits are approved by the appropriate authorities. To the extent that the County has delegated any condition compliance or mitigation monitoring to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, the Water Resources Agency shall provide all information requested by the County and the County shall bear ultimate responsibility to ensure that conditions and mitigation measures are properly fulfilled. (RMA - Planning)

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: The Owner/Applicant shall adhere to conditions and uses specified in the permit on an ongoing basis unless otherwise stated.

2. PD002 - NOTICE PERMIT APPROVAL

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation The applicant shall record a Permit Approval Notice. This notice shall state:

Monitoring Measure: "A Combined Development Permit (Resolution Number ***) was approved by the Planning Commission for Assessor's Parcel Number 243-121-001-000 on August 13, 2014. The permit was granted subject to 7 conditions of approval and 5 mitigation measures which run with the land. A copy of the permit is on file with Monterey County RMA - Planning."

Proof of recordation of this notice shall be furnished to the Director of RMA - Planning prior to issuance of building permits or commencement of the use. (RMA - Planning)

Compliance or Prior to the issuance of grading and building permits or commencement of use, the
Monitoring Owner/Applicant shall provide proof of recordation of this notice to the RMA -
Action to be Performed: Planning.

3. PD003(A) - CULTURAL RESOURCES NEGATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation If, during the course of construction, cultural, archaeological, historical or
Monitoring Measure: paleontological resources are uncovered at the site (surface or subsurface resources) work shall be halted immediately within 50 meters (165 feet) of the find until a qualified professional archaeologist can evaluate it. Monterey County RMA - Planning and a qualified archaeologist (i.e., an archaeologist registered with the Register of Professional Archaeologists) shall be immediately contacted by the responsible individual present on-site. When contacted, the project planner and the archaeologist shall immediately visit the site to determine the extent of the resources and to develop proper mitigation measures required for recovery.
(RMA - Planning)

Compliance or The Owner/Applicant shall adhere to this condition on an on-going basis.
Monitoring
Action to be Performed: Prior to the issuance of grading or building permits and/or prior to the recordation of the final/parcel map, whichever occurs first, the Owner/Applicant shall include requirements of this condition as a note on all grading and building plans. The note shall state "Stop work within 50 meters (165 feet) of uncovered resource and contact Monterey County RMA - Planning and a qualified archaeologist immediately if cultural, archaeological, historical or paleontological resources are uncovered." When contacted, the project planner and the archaeologist shall immediately visit the site to determine the extent of the resources and to develop proper mitigation measures required for the discovery.

4. PD004 - INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: The property owner agrees as a condition and in consideration of approval of this discretionary development permit that it will, pursuant to agreement and/or statutory provisions as applicable, including but not limited to Government Code Section 66474.9, defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County of Monterey or its agents, officers and employees from any claim, action or proceeding against the County or its agents, officers or employees to attack, set aside, void or annul this approval, which action is brought within the time period provided for under law, including but not limited to, Government Code Section 66499.37, as applicable. The property owner will reimburse the County for any court costs and attorney's fees which the County may be required by a court to pay as a result of such action. The County may, at its sole discretion, participate in the defense of such action; but such participation shall not relieve applicant of his/her/its obligations under this condition. An agreement to this effect shall be recorded upon demand of County Counsel or concurrent with the issuance of building permits, use of property, filing of the final map, recordation of the certificates of compliance whichever occurs first and as applicable. The County shall promptly notify the property owner of any such claim, action or proceeding and the County shall cooperate fully in the defense thereof. If the County fails to promptly notify the property owner of any such claim, action or proceeding or fails to cooperate fully in the defense thereof, the property owner shall not thereafter be responsible to defend, indemnify or hold the County harmless. (RMA - Planning)

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: Upon demand of County Counsel or concurrent with the issuance of building permits, use of the property, recording of the final/parcel map, whichever occurs first and as applicable, the Owner/Applicant shall submit a signed and notarized Indemnification Agreement to the Director of RMA-Planning for review and signature by the County.

Proof of recordation of the Indemnification Agreement, as outlined, shall be submitted to RMA-Planning .

5. EROSION CONTROL PLAN

Responsible Department: Environmental Services

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: The applicant shall submit an Erosion Control Plan addressing the requirements of Monterey County Code Chapter 16.12. The plan shall include the location and details for all selected erosion control measures. The Erosion Control Plan may be incorporated into other required plans provided it is clearly identified. (RMA-Environmental Services)

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: Prior to issuance of any grading or building permits, the applicant shall submit an Erosion Control Plan to RMA-Environmental Services for review and approval.

6. GRADING PLAN

Responsible Department: Environmental Services

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: The applicant shall submit a Grading Plan that identifies the location and extent of all proposed grading activities. (RMA-Environmental Services)

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: Prior to issuance of any grading or building permits, the applicant shall submit a Grading Plan to RMA-Environmental Services for review and approval.

7. PD006 - CONDITION OF APPROVAL / MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: The applicant shall enter into an agreement with the County to implement a Condition of Approval/Mitigation Monitoring and/or Reporting Plan (Agreement) in accordance with Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15097 of Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations. Compliance with the fee schedule adopted by the Board of Supervisors for mitigation monitoring shall be required and payment made to the County of Monterey at the time the property owner submits the signed Agreement. The agreement shall be recorded. (RMA - Planning)

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: Within sixty (60) days after project approval or prior to the issuance of building and grading permits, whichever occurs first, the Owner/Applicant shall:

- 1) Enter into an agreement with the County to implement a Condition of Approval/Mitigation Monitoring Plan.
- 2) Fees shall be submitted at the time the property owner submits the signed Agreement.
- 3) Proof of recordation of the Agreement shall be submitted to RMA-Planning.

8. MM01 - BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES 1

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: To avoid impacts to monarch butterflies, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will implement the following measures:
Schedule construction to occur in spring, summer or early fall (i.e., March through September), which is outside the monarch butterfly roosting season. If these schedule limitations are not possible, DPR will have a qualified biologist survey the trees for monarch butterflies along the project work corridor within one week prior to commencement of vegetation removal. If monarch butterflies are present, a buffer of at least 50 feet will be established around the roost tree(s) and construction postponed in that area until the biologist has determined that the monarch butterflies have left.

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: As listed in MM01 pursuant to the staff report for PLN140315.

9. MM02 - BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES 2

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: To avoid impacts to Monterey dusky footed woodrats, DPR will implement the following measures:
DPR will have a qualified biologist survey the trail alignment within two weeks of commencement of work. If any woodrat nests are observed within the work area, DPR will realign the trail to avoid the woodrat nest. If this is not possible, DPR will prepare and implement a plan to replace or move the woodrat nest, with the approval of California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: As listed in MM02 pursuant to the staff report for PLN140315.

10. MM03 - BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES 3

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: To minimize and avoid impacts to Monterey pine forest during construction, DPR will implement the following measures:
Trees to be removed will be limited to small saplings, averaging four to six inches in diameter.
Within the drip line of trees, excavation shall be limited to hand digging the best arboriculture management practices will be followed. These practices include hand-cutting of any roots encountered during excavation/trail construction.
The most current arboricultural guidelines will be followed during the cutting and removal of small diameter Monterey pine trees to prevent the spread of fungal disease. DPR will minimize the possibility that removing and pruning pine tree limbs would cause infested trees to release bark- and wood-boring insects and attack other nearby trees. Infested trees will be pruned outside the adult beetles' flight season; infested trees will not be pruned between February and mid-October. Unseasoned, freshly cut wood shall not be piled near woody landscape plants if the freshly cut wood and trees are dying or have recently died (from beetle infestations); this will reduce the possibility of the cut material providing an abundant breeding source for some wood-boring beetles.

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: As listed in MM03 pursuant to the staff report for PLN140315.

11. MM04 - BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES 4

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: To avoid impacts nesting of migratory birds, DPR will implement the following measures:

Schedule construction to take place between August 15 and February 1 of any given year, which is outside the nesting season for the central coast of California.

If schedule limitations are not possible, DPR will have a qualified biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds no more than two weeks prior to the start of construction. If any bird nests are observed within the project work area, a buffer of 50 feet for migratory birds and 200 feet for raptors will be established where no construction will take place until the biologist has determined that all young have fledged the nest.

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: As listed in MM04 pursuant to the staff report for PLN140315.

12. MM05 - CULTURAL RESOURCES 1

Responsible Department: RMA-Planning

Condition/Mitigation Monitoring Measure: To avoid impacts to any previously undiscovered archaeological sites which may exist within the project area, the following measures will be implemented.

The DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, will conduct a survey of the proposed trail alignment after the area has been cleared of vegetation. The survey

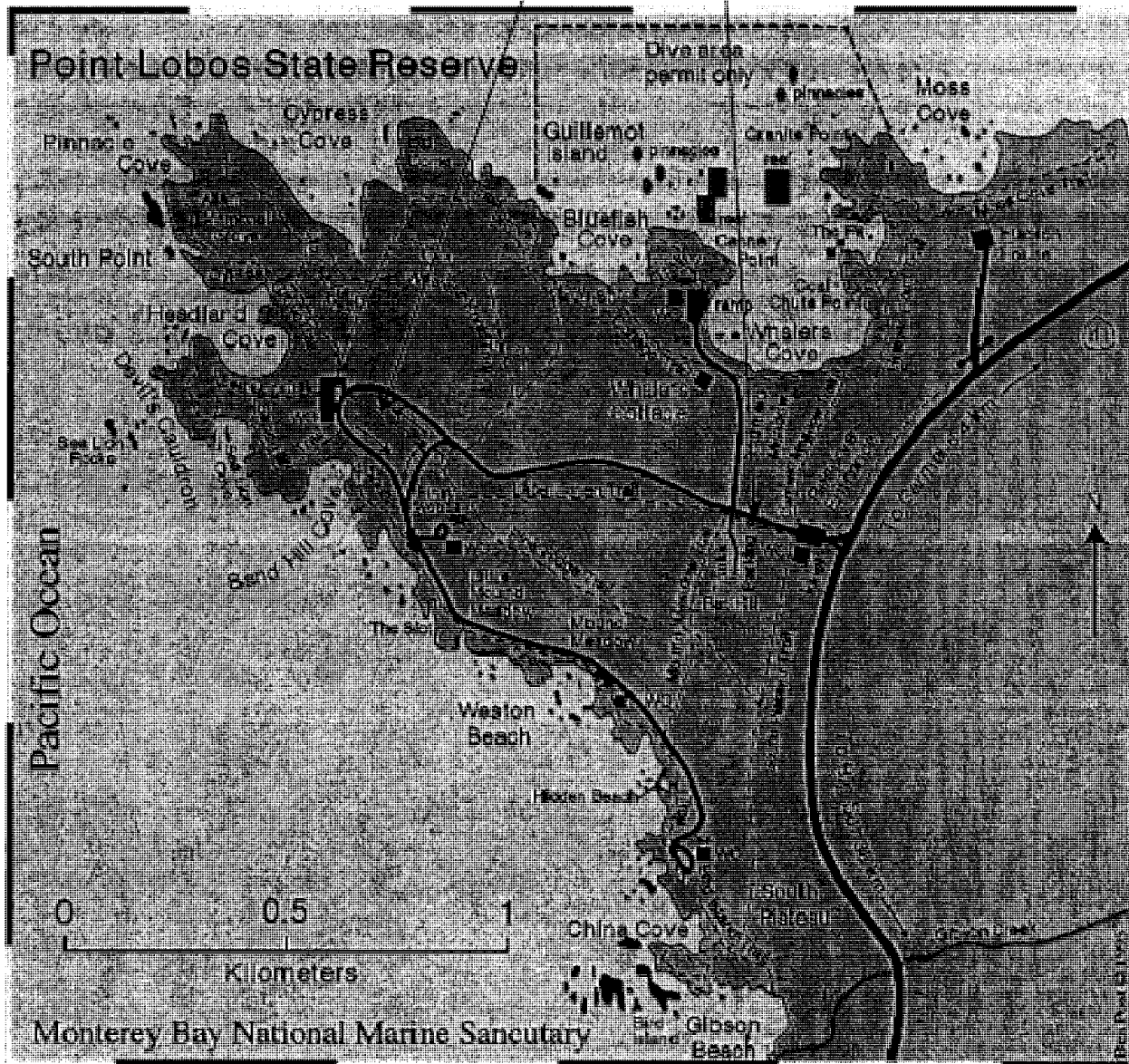
shall occur prior to ground disturbance for trail construction. In the event that a potentially significant cultural deposit is identified during the survey, the DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, will evaluate the find. The Archaeologist will determine the appropriate avoidance, preservation or recovery measures required, in compliance with DPR directives and CEQA prior to ground disturbance and trail construction activities at the location of the find.

A qualified archaeological monitor will remain on site during trail construction to ensure that if any archaeological resources are exposed they will be avoided or otherwise preserved. In the event that a potentially significant cultural deposit is identified during the pre-construction survey or uncovered during trail construction, all work will

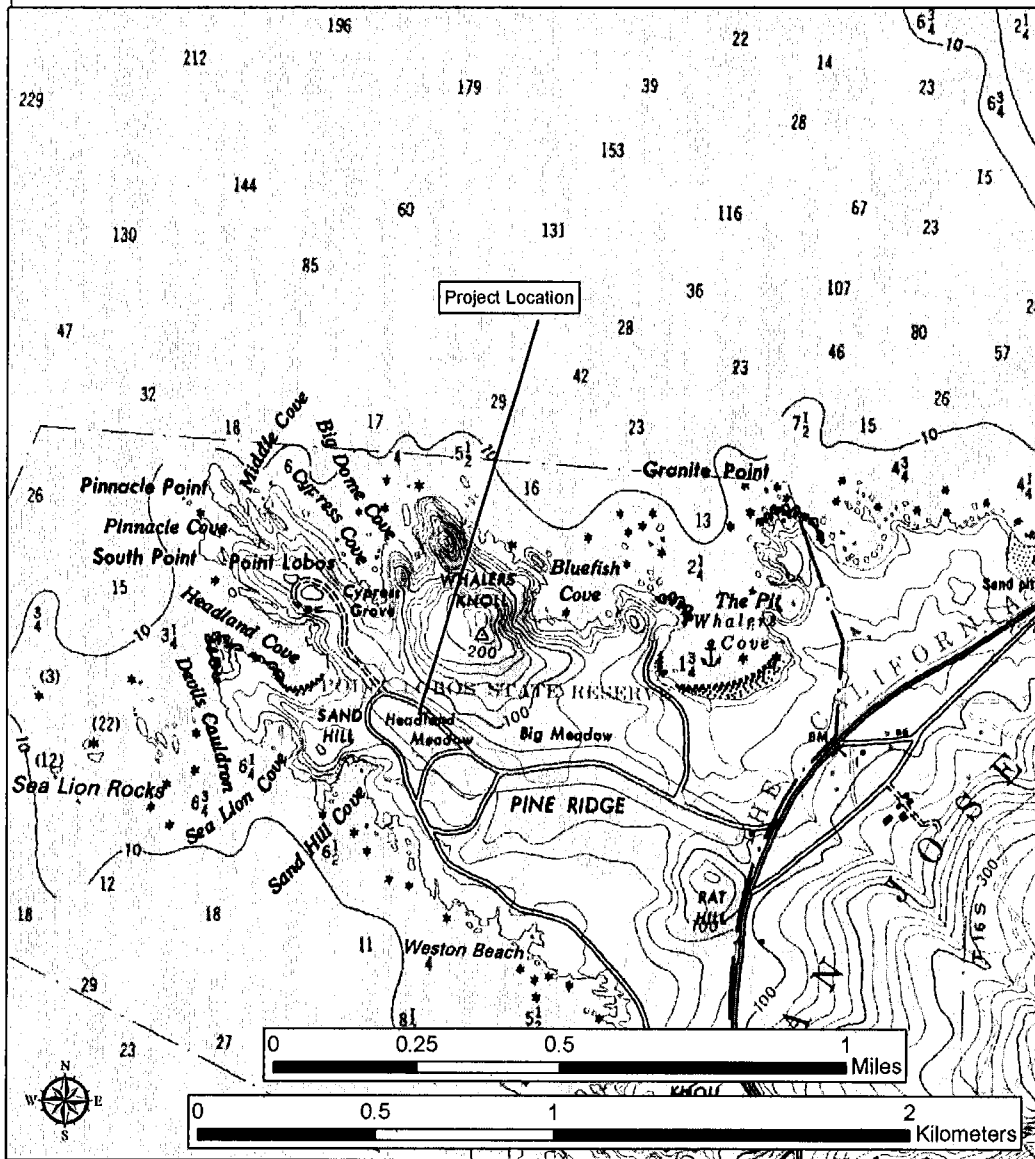
be stopped at the specific location of the find until the DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, can evaluate it. Prior to work resuming at the location, the Archaeologist will determine the appropriate avoidance, preservation or recovery measures required, in compliance with DPR directives and CEQA. Work will not resume at the location until the appropriate measures have been implemented as determined by the Archaeologist.

Compliance or Monitoring Action to be Performed: As listed in MM05 pursuant to the staff report for PLN140315.

Proposed Trail Extensions



Project Location Map



Date: 05/13/2013

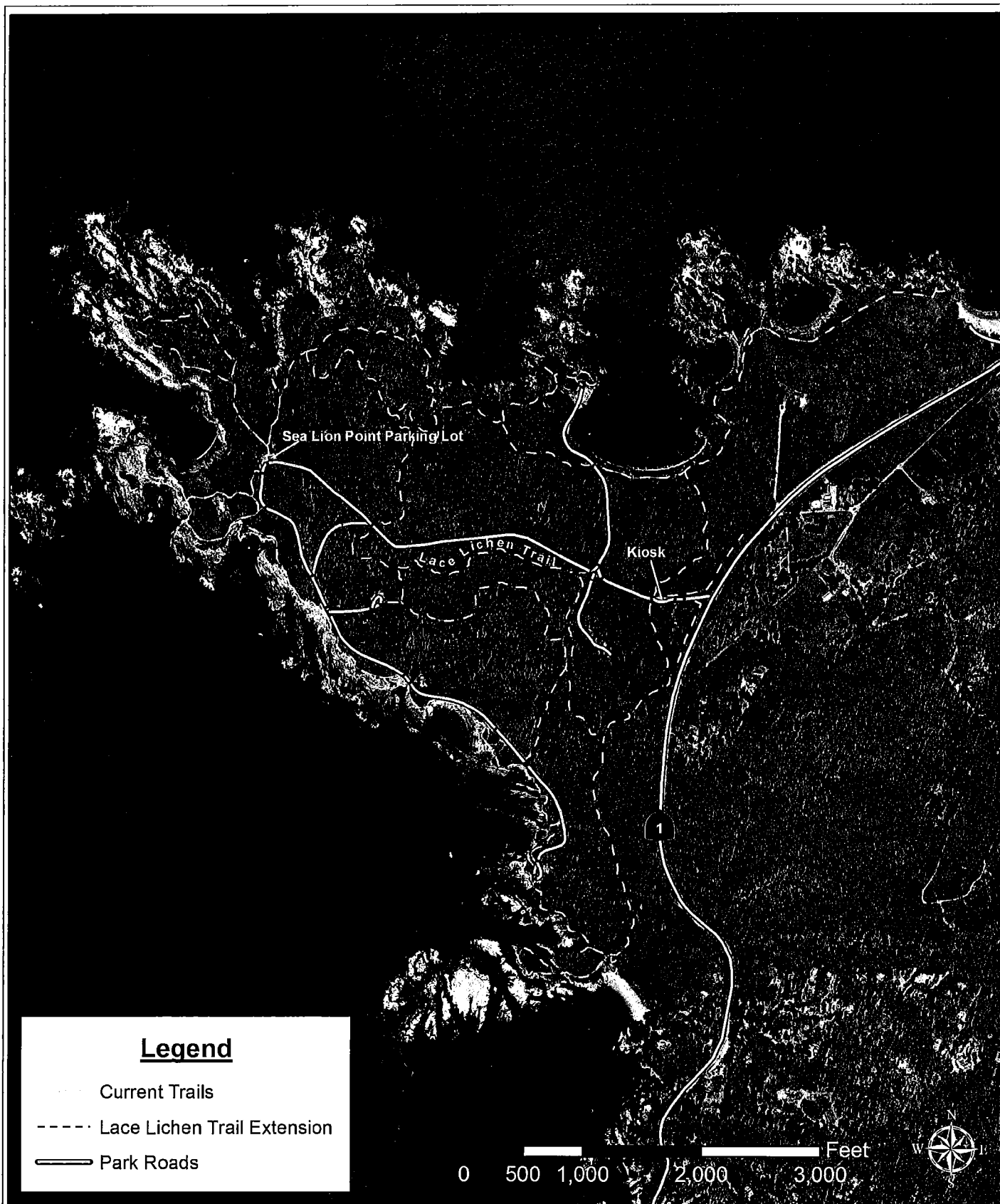
Projection:
Universal Transverse
Mercator
NAD 83

Source:
DPR GIS
USGS: Monterey Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24,000

POINT LOBOS
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Lace Lichen
Trail Extension

Monterey
District
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA
93940



Date: 02/05/2013

Projection:
CA Teale Albers
NAD 83

Source:
DPR GIS
USGS

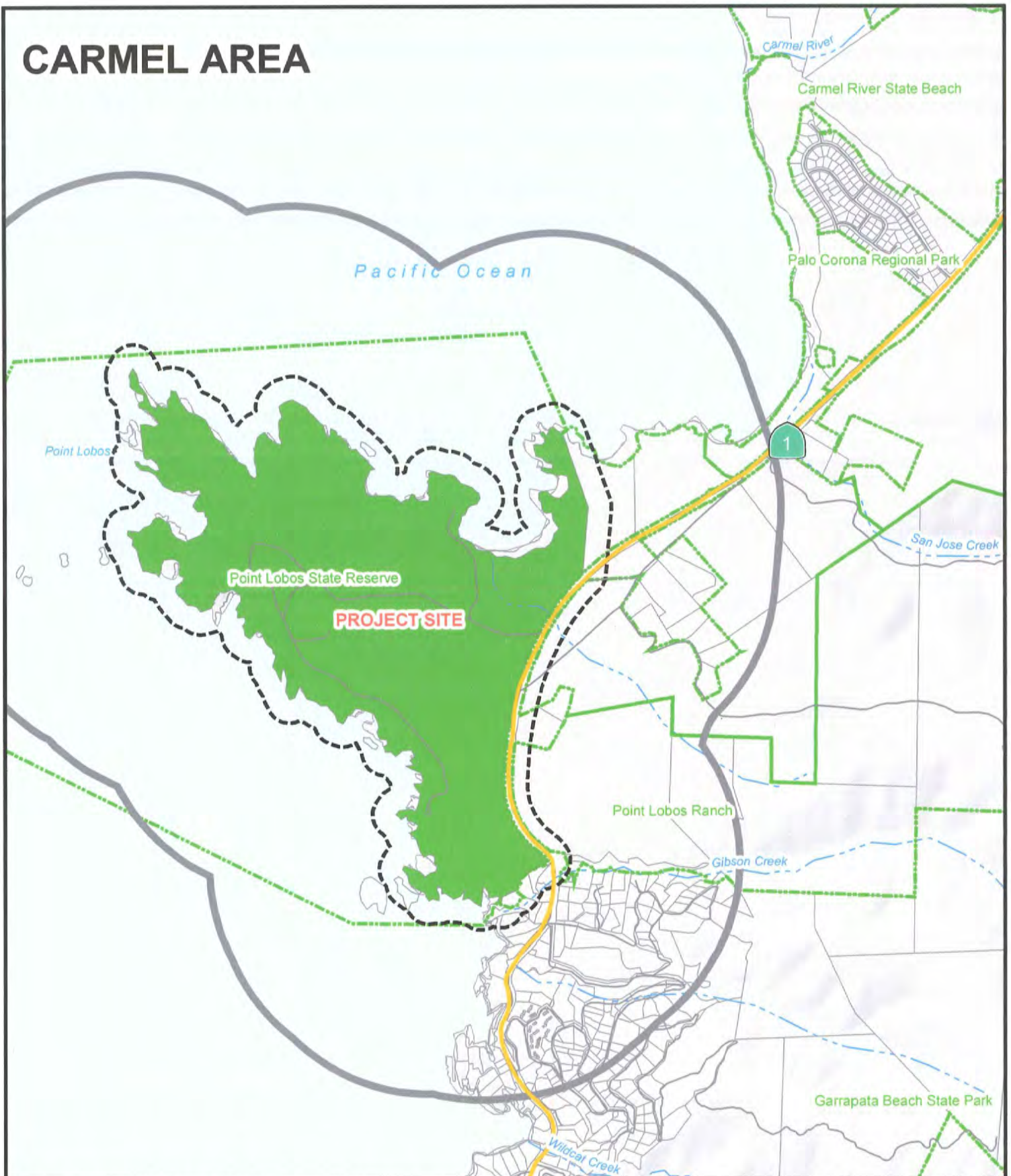
**POINT LOBOS
STATE NATURAL RESERVE
Lace Lichen Trail
Extension and Improvement
Project**

NOTES:
Trail path is approximate

Monterey
District
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA
93940



CARMEL AREA



APPLICANT: STATE OF CALIF (POINT LOBOS STATE NATURAL RESERVE)

APN: 243-121-001-000

FILE # PLN140315

2500' Limit 300' Limit Water



EXHIBIT D

PLANNER: MASON

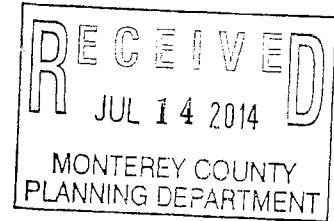
EXHIBIT E

Action by Land Use Advisory Committee Project Referral Sheet

Monterey County Planning Department
168 W Alisal St 2nd Floor
Salinas CA 93901
(831) 755-5025

Advisory Committee: Carmel Unincorporated/Highlands

Please submit your recommendations for this application by: July 7, 2014



Project Title: STATE OF CALIFORNIA (POINT LOBOS STATE NATURAL RESERVE)

File Number: PLN140315

File Type: ZA

Planner: MASON

Location: OFF THE W SIDE OF HWY 1 CARMEL

Project Description:

Combined Development Permit consisting of: (1) Coastal Administrative Permit and Design Approval to extend and improve the Lace Lichen Trail within the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. Project to include a 1,200 foot westward trail extension to the Sea Lion Trail parking area and 600 foot eastward extension to the kiosk/entrance area resulting in a continuous .75 mile trail. Seven (7) Monterey Pine trees (less than 6" diameter) and additional native vegetation to be removed. Trail improvements to also include widening (maximum 6' width), elevation and compaction of aggregate base, wood trail markers and directional signage and installation of elevated puncheon walkways as needed in low-lying areas with poor drainage. Crosswalks to be painted at trail crossings on Rat Hill Road, the Main Entrance Road and at the Sea Lion Trail parking area; and, (2) Coastal Development Permit to remove seven (7) small diameter (less than 6") Monterey Pine trees and additional native vegetation; and, (3) Coastal Development Permit for development within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource. The property is located to the west side of Highway 1, Carmel (Assessor's Parcel Number 243-121-001-000), Carmel Area Land Use Plan, Coastal Zone.

Was the Owner/Applicant/Representative present at meeting? Yes ☒ No ☐
John Hiles and Larry Tierney

Was a County Staff/Representative present at meeting? Steve Mason
Ortiz Spence (Name)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

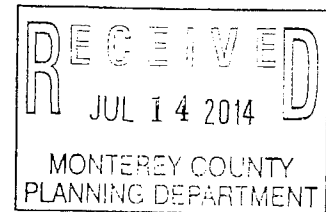
Name	Site Neighbor?		Issues / Concerns (suggested changes)
	YES	NO	
no one present from public			

LUAC AREAS OF CONCERN

Concerns / Issues (e.g. site layout, neighborhood compatibility; visual impact, etc)	Policy/Ordinance Reference (If Known)	Suggested Changes - to address concerns (e.g. relocate; reduce height; move road access, etc)
7 - 6" pines to be removed		No impact from small pines to be removed
New Trails will be edged with ^{red} wood to hard P.G. in place and confined to the trail pathway.		

ADDITIONAL LUAC COMMENTS

New signage is sensitive to locations in which they will be placed. No visual impacts to trail start & finish.



RECOMMENDATION:

Motion by: Jack McNeen - approval (LUAC Member's Name)

Second by: Peter Davis (LUAC Member's Name)

☒ Support Project as proposed

☐ Support Project with changes

☐ Continue the Item

Reason for Continuance: _____

Continued to what date: _____

AYES: 5 - (Davis, Wald, McNeen, Littell, Rainier)

NOES: None

ABSENT: 1 - Adam Tschornick

ABSTAIN: None

EXHIBIT F



**Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
Lace Lichen Trail Extension and Improvement Project
Initial Study
Mitigated Negative Declaration**



State of California
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Monterey District

February 2014

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Lace Lichen Trail Extension and Improvement Project at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve in Monterey County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et. seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 *et. seq.*

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 (a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant mitigate the potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines Section 15071.

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. The lead agency for the project is the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The Monterey District of DPR would carry out the project.

Purpose and Document Organization

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Lace Lichen Trail Extension and Improvement Project at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project as needed. This document is organized as follows:

- **Chapter I - Introduction and Project Description**
This chapter includes the need, objectives, and description of the project.
- **Chapter II - Environmental Checklist**
This chapter includes a description of the setting and a discussion of the environmental issues (Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality,

Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems). For each of these issues, the potential environmental impacts are identified. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce the potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. This Chapter also includes the Mandatory Findings of Significance, which summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impacts to human beings, as identified in the Initial Study.

- **References**

This section includes the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND.

- **Report Preparation**

This section provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

- **Appendix A – Site Maps and Figures**

This appendix includes maps of the regional location, Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, and the proposed Lace Lichen Trail extension alignment.

- **Appendix B – Site Photos**

This appendix includes photos depicting the existing setting and the proposed Lace Lichen Trail extension alignment.

- **Appendix C – Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program**

This appendix includes the program for monitoring and reporting the revisions required in the project and the measures imposed to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects.

Summary of Findings

Chapter II of this document includes the Initial Study (IS) Environmental Checklist. This checklist identifies the potential environmental impacts by issue and a discussion of each impact that could result from the proposed project.

Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed Lace Lichen Trail Extension and Improvement Project would result in less-than-significant impacts or no impacts for the following issues: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use

and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems. With implementation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts for Biological Resources and Cultural Resources.

In accordance with Section 15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) would be prepared if the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of mitigation measures. Based on the available information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after incorporation of the mitigation measures, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted for this project, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines.

Project Location

The proposed project includes improvements to the Lace Lichen Trail, located within Point Lobos State Natural Reserve (SNR). The Reserve, a unit within State Park system, is situated on the Central California coast approximately 2.5 miles south of Carmel-by-the-Sea (See Appendix A – Figure 1). Situated on the headlands to the west of State Highway 1, the Reserve totals 1,325 acres and features the Point Lobos promontory, coves, Monterey pine forest, meadows and coastal scrub. An offshore underwater area, the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve, is also part of the State Park system. The state-owned Point Lobos Ranch property is located to the east of Highway 1.

The project area is located within the central portion of the Point Lobos headland (See Appendix A – Figure 2). This area extends from the vicinity of the entrance station westward approximately 0.75 miles to the Sea Lion Point parking lot. It includes the existing Lace Lichen Trail and proposed trail extensions at the west and east ends of the existing trail (See Appendix A – Figure 3). Entrance to the Reserve is accessed from State Highway 1. Visitors to the Reserve enter in automobiles, by walking in, or on bicycles. The number of motor vehicles allowed to enter the Reserve is limited by DPR.

Project Need

The proposed project addresses three needs: visitor and motor vehicle safety, trail stability, and accessibility. Many visitors to Point Lobos SNR walk into the Reserve from unimproved parking along State Highway 1. Currently the primary park road is frequently used by pedestrians to access the Sea Lion Point area. The park road is approximately 15 feet in width with no designated shoulders. The use of the park road by motor vehicles and pedestrians creates potential traffic and pedestrian safety conflicts.

A continuous trail from the Reserve's main entrance to Sea Lion Point is needed to address visitor and motor vehicle safety issues. The Lace Lichen Trail currently extends along the south side of the primary park road from Rat Hill Road to the vicinity of the intersection with Whalers Cove Trail. Extension of the existing Lace Lichen trail at both the west and east end would provide a continuous trail from the entrance to Sea Lion Point. The improved and extended trail would continue to be pedestrian only, with bicycle use continuing to be limited to paved park roads.

The existing Lace Lichen Trail is a natural surface trail with moderate entrenchment. Exposed roots also exist within some sections of the trail. Due to the generally level terrain and entrenched conditions, rainfall does not flow efficiently off of the trail surface. During the wet season, rainfall accumulates within the entrenched trailbed resulting in unstable and muddy conditions. Improvement of the existing Lace Lichen Trail to provide a raised trailbed would provide a firm and stable trail surface for visitors throughout the year. The Lace Lichen Trail improvements and extension would also increase accessible trail opportunities within the Reserve.

Project Objectives

The objectives for the Lace Lichen Trail Extension and Improvement Project at Point Lobos SNR include:

- Avoid potential pedestrian and motor vehicle safety conflicts resulting from pedestrian use of the primary park road;
- Provide a firm and stable trail surface year-round;
- Improve trail accessibility conditions; and
- Provide enhanced public access to the coast.

Project Description

The proposed project includes improvements to the existing Lace Lichen Trail and construction of new trail segments to provide a continuous 0.75 mile trail from the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve entrance area to the Sea Lion Point parking lot. Presently, Lace Lichen Trail is a natural surface trail, generally three to four feet wide, which extends approximately 2,200 linear feet from Rat Hill Road westward to the intersection with Whalers Knoll Trail. The existing trail alignment parallels the park entrance road along the south side, approximately 50 to 75 feet from the roadway. The new trail extensions would be constructed at the west and east ends of the existing Lace Lichen Trail.

Proposed improvements to the existing Lace Lichen Trail include construction of a double turnpike trail on the existing trail alignment (See example of turnpike trail construction in Appendix B – Photo 7). The improved Lace Lichen Trail would be a maximum of six feet wide, with a compacted aggregate base contained by four inch by six inch redwood headers. The drain rock/crush base would be capped with "Felton Gold" path base or fines. Due to the relatively level terrain of the project area

and entrenched trail condition, the turnpike trail construction is needed to provide an elevated base to allow for drainage off of the trailbed. Vertical ground disturbance for the double turnpike construction would vary between two to four inches depending upon the site specific conditions, with organic material removed to reach mineral soil.

New trail extensions would be constructed at the west and east ends of the existing Lace Lichen Trail. The eastern extension would begin at the intersection with the South Plateau Trail, situated on the south side of the park road just beyond the Reserve entrance station. The eastern extension would continue approximately 600 linear feet to connect with the existing Lace Lichen Trail at Rat Hill Road. This new trail extension would be located within Monterey pine forest.

At the west end, the existing Lace Lichen Trail segment which veers to the north to provide a connection to the Whalers Knoll Trail would remain. A new trail extension would begin in the vicinity of the existing trail terminus and continue westward approximately 1,200 linear feet along the south side of the one-way park road to the Sea Lion Point parking lot area. A short spur trail may also be constructed to provide a convenient connection to the north toward the main parking lot. This trail extension would primarily be located within Monterey pine forest, with the westernmost segment located within coastal scrub.

Puncheons would be installed along the trail route as needed in low lying locations with poor drainage. A total of five to ten puncheons would be installed, as site conditions require. The puncheons would primarily be installed on the new trail segments. Puncheons are wood structures, with no handrails, that provide a raised trail surface. (See example of a puncheon in Appendix B – Photo 8). Each puncheon would be approximately ten to twelve feet in length, with a maximum width of five feet. Ground disturbance for puncheon construction would vary between four to eight inches.

Crosswalks would be painted on all road crossings, including Rat Hill Road, the main entrance road, and through the Sea Lion Parking lot area. A crosswalk would also be painted on the main entrance road just to the east of the entrance station to provide a pedestrian connection between the Carmelo Meadow Trail and the Lace Lichen Trail extension. Wood trail markers and directional signage would be installed to clearly demarcate the trail route and encourage pedestrians to use the new trail route rather than park entrance road.

Project Implementation

The Lace Lichen Trail Extension and Improvement Project would be conducted by DPR Trail Crews from the Statewide Trails Program, Monterey District DPR personnel, and California Conservation Corps crews. The majority of the work would

be completed with hand tools, handheld power tools, and small-scale mechanized equipment for trail building that may include toters, vibraplates, and mini-excavators. In all trailside areas, vegetation will be trimmed back (brushed) to facilitate construction. Areas disturbed by construction would be decompacted, covered with forest duff collected from adjacent areas, and replanted with native plants as needed.

Small construction staging areas would be located along the existing Lace Lichen Trail, the proposed trail extensions, and the Sea Lion Point parking lot. These staging areas would be located within previously disturbed areas along the existing roadway. The staging areas would be utilized for material delivery and support. DPR will implement standard project requirements for staging areas (see next section Project Requirements). Construction is anticipated to require between three to four months and is anticipated to occur in 2014-2015.

Project Requirements

The following Project Requirements will be incorporated into the project.

Air Quality Standard Project Requirements:

All trucks hauling aggregate base materials, or other loose materials, will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet freeboard (the distance from the top of the loose materials to the top of the trailer compartment). All equipment engines will be maintained in good condition, in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.

Cultural Resources Standard Project Requirements:

In the event human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and project manager/site supervisor will notify the State's representative and other appropriate DPR personnel. The DPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner in accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the Coroner determines the remains represent a Native American interment and so notifies the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento, the Commission will identify the Most Likely Descendants, who will make recommendations for appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is agreed upon, per Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98.

Hydrology and Water Quality Specific Project Requirement:

The DPR project manager for the proposed project shall carefully evaluate the drainage paths in the vicinity of the entrance kiosk to assure runoff is not

rerouted. The project manager shall confer with DPR Monterey District Engineer as needed.

Construction Staging Area Standard Project Requirement:

Construction staging areas shall be clearly demarcated by DPR through use of Best Management Practices. The surface of the staging areas shall also be protected to minimize site disturbance. The staging area boundaries will be demarcated by straw waddles, silt fencing, or plastic mesh fencing as most appropriate for the site conditions. Woven fabric will be installed on the ground surface of all staging areas.

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CHAPTER II ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

1. **Project Title:** Lace Lichen Trail Extension and Improvement Project
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Monterey District
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**
John Hiles, Monterey District Roads and Trails Supervisor, (831) 236-0556
4. **Project Location:** Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**
California Department of Parks and Recreation (Monterey District)
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940
6. **General Plan Designation:**
Point Lobos State Reserve General Plan dated May 1979
Monterey County General Plan and Local Coastal Program Land Use Designations – Resource Conservation (Forest and Upland Habitat)
7. **Zoning:** Monterey County Zoning Designation – RC(CZ), Resource Conservation (Coastal Zone)
8. **Description of Project:** The proposed project includes improvements to the existing Lace Lichen Trail and construction of new trail segments to provide a continuous 0.75 mile trail from the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve entrance area to the Sea Lion Point parking lot. Currently many park visitors walk on the park road. The improved and extended trail would provide enhanced pedestrian access to the coast and a firm and stable trail surface year-round.

The existing Lace Lichen Trail extends from Rat Hill Road westward to the intersection with Whalers Knoll Trail. The new trail extensions, totaling approximately 1,800 linear feet, would be constructed at the east and west ends of the existing Lace Lichen Trail. Proposed improvements to the existing natural surface trail include construction of a double turnpike trail, maximum six feet in width, on the existing trail alignment. This type of trail construction

includes compacted aggregate capped with fines and contained with redwood headers. Puncheons (wood structures with no handrails) would be installed along the trail route, primarily on the new trail segments, in low lying locations with poor drainage. Crosswalks would be painted on all road crossings. Wood trail markers and directional signage would be installed to clearly demarcate the trail route.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The project site is located within a natural setting on the central portion of the Point Lobos headland within the Reserve. The project site features Monterey pine forest and coastal scrub. State Highway 1 is located to the east of the project site.

10. Other agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

- Monterey County (Coastal Development Permit)

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology, Soils, and Seismicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology & Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use & Land Use Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population & Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities & Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

Determination: On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

For

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I. AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Point Lobos SNR encompasses 1,325 acres of open space, featuring scenic coves, coastal cliffs, Monterey cypress groves, Monterey pine forest, meadows, and coastal scrub. The Reserve was primarily acquired to preserve its scenic beauty and natural landscape.

The existing Lace Lichen Trail and proposed trail extension segments are located primarily within Monterey pine forest, adjacent to the main park entrance road. The westernmost portion of the project site features coastal scrub. The existing and proposed trail segments are not located along the coastal bluffs; at the closest point the trail is approximately 350 feet from the coastline.

Impact Discussion

- a) The existing Lace Lichen Trail and proposed trail extension segments are not visible from a scenic vista. Most of the project area is located within Monterey pine forest, which screens the existing trail from roadways and vista points within the Reserve. The westernmost section of the proposed trail is located within coastal scrub, which also screens the trail surface from the roadways and vista points. The proposed west trail extension is located inland of the Sea Lion parking lot and would not be visible from scenic vistas of the coastline. No impact would occur.
- b) The project area is not visible from State Highway 1, a scenic State highway. There are no rock outcroppings or historic structures within the project area.

- c) Improvements to the existing Lace Lichen Trail and construction of the trail extension segments would require removal of vegetation and ground disturbance. Trail construction would include removal of three smaller diameter Monterey pines within the pine forest. Removal and thinning of forest understory and coastal scrub would be required along the new trail segments, totaling approximately 1,200 linear feet. All areas disturbed during construction would be decompacted and covered with duff collected from adjacent areas. Native plants will be replanted as needed. The trail will be constructed with materials which will blend with the natural setting. The six-foot wide trail surface would be covered with “Felton Gold” path base or fines. The trail design and materials utilized would ensure the proposed project does not substantially degrade the existing visual quality of the setting. The effects would have no long-term or permanent adverse effects on the existing visual quality of the project site and natural setting. The effects on visual quality would be less-than-significant.
- d) The proposed project does not include any lighting and would not produce glare. No impact would occur.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to a non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project area is entirely situated within Point Lobos SNR, which is located within Monterey County. The existing zoning for the project area is Resource Conservation (Coastal Zone). Historically, the Point Lobos area was grazed as part of dairy operations. Grazing or agricultural use no longer occurs within the Reserve.

Impact Discussion

- a) The project area is presently not used for agriculture. The project includes improvements to the existing trail system and would not involve converting the land to a non-agricultural use. No impact to prime or unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance, would occur.
- b) The Monterey County zoning is Resource Conservation (RC) within the Coastal Zone (CZ). The purpose of this zoning district is to protect, preserve, enhance and restore sensitive resource areas within Monterey County. The project would not conflict with the zoning or preclude any future agricultural use within the project area. The project area is not subject to a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no conflicts or impacts to agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts would occur as a result of the proposed project.
- c) Timberland harvesting is not identified as a principal use within the Resource Conservation District. The proposed project would not conflict with the existing zoning nor would it result in a change in zoning which would affect forest land. No impact would occur.
- d) The vegetation type within the project site is predominantly Monterey pine forest, which is a “special plant community” because of its rarity and its decline throughout its natural range. The proposed project would result in the removal of seven small diameter Monterey pine trees (see Section IV. Biological Resources). The project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion to non-forest use. No impact would occur.
- e) The project includes improvements to an existing pedestrian trail. No farmland is present within the project site. The project site is located within Monterey pine forest but would not result in the loss of forest land. The project would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

III. AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project site is located in Monterey County, which lies within the North Central Coast Air Basin. This Basin is under the jurisdiction of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IX. The MBUAPCD is responsible for air monitoring, permitting, enforcement and long-range air quality planning for Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties. The EPA is the federal agency responsible for establishing standards and emission limits for sources of air pollutants. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the State Agency responsible for coordinating the State and federal air pollution programs within California.

CARB has established State ambient air quality standards for criteria pollutants, including ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), suspended particulate matter (PM₁₀), and fine suspended particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The State Area Designation Maps for Ambient Air Quality Standards 2012 show that Monterey County is in attainment (air quality as good as, or better than, the California ambient air quality standards) for

PM_{2.5} and CO, and in non-attainment (not meeting California ambient air quality standards) for ozone (moderate) and PM₁₀. The National Area Designation Maps for Ambient Air Quality Standards 2010 show that Monterey County is in attainment for ozone and PM₁₀, and in unclassified/attainment for PM_{2.5} and CO. Unclassified refers to areas that do not have monitoring data but are assumed to achieve national ambient air quality standards due to the generally low emission sources.

Prevailing ocean winds and the lack of industrial uses within the vicinity of Point Lobos SNR result in relatively clean air levels. The closest air monitoring station to the project site within Monterey County Carmel Valley –Ford Road site.

Impact Discussion

- a) The project includes trail improvements within an existing State Park unit. The project would not be population inducing and would not contribute to an increase in the population forecasts for the Air Quality Management Plan. The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality management plan for the MBUAPCD or Monterey County. No impact would occur.
- b) The project, in and of itself, would not result in any criteria air pollutant emissions at a level that would violate any local, state, or federal ambient air quality standards or contribute substantially to any air quality violations. However, the project would require the temporary use of equipment for construction and transport of materials that would emit ozone precursors. As standard practice, DPR will comply with the following Project Requirements:

Standard Project Requirements:

All trucks hauling aggregate aggregate base materials, or other loose materials, will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet freeboard (the distance from the top of the loose materials to the top of the trailer compartment). All equipment engines will be maintained in good condition, in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.

As a result of the temporary short term nature of the construction emissions and compliance with these Standard Project Requirements, the potential adverse air quality impacts would be less-than-significant.

- c) The proposed project, in and of itself, would not result in a significant increase in the emission of any criteria pollutant. The project site, however, is located within a region of non-attainment for State Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and

PM₁₀. DPR's compliance with measures listed above would result in a less-than-significant impact.

- d) The proposed project includes trail improvements to less than one-mile of trail. The majority of the work would involve use of hand tools, handheld power tools and small-scale mechanized trail building equipment. The dust and equipment exhaust emissions during construction would be minimal. Thus, Reserve visitors would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations and the impact would be less-than-significant.
- e) The project would not result in the long-term generation of odors. Construction related emissions could result in short-term generation of odors; however, only small mechanized equipment would be utilized to transport materials within the project area. The work would primarily be completed using hand tools. The project would have minimal objectionable odor impacts to a substantial number of people. The impact would be less-than-significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Two plant community types were documented within the project area: Monterey pine forest and coastal scrub. The majority of the project area features Monterey pine forest. The existing Lace Lichen Trail and most of the proposed trail extension are located within Monterey pine forest. The westernmost segment of the proposed trail extension in the vicinity of Sea Lion Parking lot is located within coastal scrub. Each vegetation type, its California code, and state ranking (rarity) are listed in the following Table 1.

Site visits were conducted on June 19 and August 23, 2013, by Biotic Resources Group and Dana Bland & Associates. Study methodology included field

reconnaissance surveys, literature review, and accessing electronic databases. Literature and data base searches included the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) “Rare Find” (2013) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Electronic Inventory (2013) for the Monterey quadrangle and surrounding quadrangles.

Prior to conducting the field survey, a potential list of special status or sensitive plant species was prepared for the project area, utilizing species recognized by California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and CNPS. The field survey was conducted to document the biological resources within the expected project work area. The *Jepson Manual* (2012) and *An Illustrated Field Key to the Flowering Plants of Monterey County* (Matthews, 1997) were the principal taxonomic references. A survey to determine the presence/absence of special status plant species was conducted in June 2013, which corresponded to the blooming period for special status plant species with potential to occur within the project area. Classification of vegetation types is according to the California Natural Community Codes as developed by CDFG (CDFG, 2010).

Table 1 - Vegetation Types within the Lace Lichen Trail Project Area, Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

CaCode	Vegetation Type	Plant Association	State Ranking ¹
87.110.04	Monterey Pine Forest	Monterey Pine – Coast Live Oak/ Poison Oak – California Blackberry	S1
32.060.00	Coastal Scrub	Coyote Brush–Poison Oak – Sticky Monkey Flower	S4

1- State Rankings: S1-S3 vegetation types and associations considered to be highly imperiled and considered of special concern by CDFG. S4 vegetation types are common and are not considered of special concern by CDFG (CDFG, 2010).

Monterey Pine Forest

The majority of the trail project is located within a forest habitat dominated by native Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*). This pine forest is mapped as occurrence #3 by the CNDDDB; this stand extends from the Carmel River mouth south to Malpas Creek (Carmel Highlands), occupying approximately 2,600 acres (CNDDDB, 2013). The pine forest type has a State ranking of S1, indicating it is imperiled within the State and is considered sensitive in the CNDDDB.

While the pines are the dominant tree species, the forest also supports scattered coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). The forest understory is comprised of a diverse array of shrubs and herbaceous plant species. Shrubs and subshrubs observed in the project area include sticky monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), coffee berry (*Frangula californica*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Grasses and forbs

are present within the understory. Species observed within the project area include blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), hedgenettle (*Stachys sp.*), wild cucumber (*Marah fabaceus*), cut-leaved fireweed (*Erechtites glomerata*), foothill sedge (*Carex tumulicola*), and lesser amounts of spreading rush (*Juncus patens*) and an occasional pretty face (*Triteleia ixioides*).

The Monterey pine forest habitat type provides cover, foraging, and nesting opportunities for native wildlife, with the natural cavities in the trees providing nest sites for several species of cavity nesting birds. The wildlife value of pine forest varies with the degree of canopy cover and the density and diversity of understory plants. Acorns from the oaks and berries from the poison oak and coffeeberry shrubs in the understory provide an important food resource for some wildlife species.

Common wildlife species expected to occur in this Monterey pine forest along the project area include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), and deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*).

Northern Coastal Scrub

A portion of the proposed new trail extension near the Sea Lion Point parking lot is located within coastal scrub. Coastal scrub is characterized by the dense growth of shrubs and herbs. Within the project area, the scrub is dominated by a dense growth of poison oak and coyote brush. Other plant species within the scrub include sticky monkey flower, California blackberry, bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), common California aster (*Symphotrichum chilense*), blue wild rye, and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). The road edge also supports rattlesnake grass (*Briza maxima*), fescue (*Festuca myuros*), velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*), coastal gum plant (*Grindelia stricta* var. *platyphylla*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), and coast coyote thistle (*Eryngium armatum*). The scrub habitat was found to support occurrences of invasive, non-native plant species; the most prominent species observed is poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

The berries of shrubs and the seeds of herbaceous plants in the coastal scrub habitat provide important forage for wildlife. Wildlife may perch on the outer perimeter of mixed scrub to take advantage of hunting opportunities in adjacent openings, and take cover in the denser shrub patches as needed. The dense shrub patches also provide nesting habitat for birds.

Common wildlife species observed in the coastal scrub within the project area include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), and white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*).

Sensitive Biological Resources

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is a trustee agency that has jurisdiction under Section 1600 et seq. of the CDFG Code. Under Sections 1600-1603 of the California Fish and Game Code, CDFW regulates all diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel or bank of any river, stream or lake which supports fish or wildlife. Along watercourses, CDFW jurisdictional limits typically extend to the top of bank or to the edge of riparian habitat if such habitat extends beyond top of bank (outer drip line), whichever is greater. The project area does not support any drainages or creeks subject to CDFW jurisdiction. Two roadside drainage culverts cross the park road, however, these features are man-made drainage features and there are no channels within the trail project area.

Water quality in California is governed by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and certification authority under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as administered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Section 401 water quality certification program allows the State to ensure that activities requiring a Federal permit or license comply with State water quality standards. Water quality certification must be based on a finding that the proposed discharge will comply with water quality standards which are in the regional board's basin plans. The Porter-Cologne Act requires any person discharging waste or proposing to discharge waste in any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the state to file a report of waste discharge. The RWQCB issues a permit or waiver that includes implementing water quality control plans that take into account the beneficial uses to be protected. Waters of the State subject to RWQCB regulation extend to the top of bank, as well as isolated water/wetland features and saline waters. There are no drainages subject to RWQCB jurisdiction within the trail project area.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates activities within waters of the United States pursuant to congressional acts: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1977, as amended). Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires a permit for any work in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States. Navigable waters are defined as those waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide to the Mean High Water mark (tidal areas) or below the Ordinary High Water mark (freshwater areas). There are no water or wetland features subject to USACE jurisdiction within the trail project area.

Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats are defined by local, State, or Federal agencies as those habitats that support special status species, provide important habitat values for wildlife, represent areas of unusual or regionally restricted habitat types, and/or provide high biological diversity. CDFG classifies and ranks the State's natural communities to assist in the determining the level of rarity and imperilment. Vegetation types are ranked between S1 and S5. For vegetation types with ranks of S1-S3, all associations within the type are considered to be highly imperiled. If a vegetation alliance is ranked as S4 or S5, these alliances are generally considered common enough to not be of concern; however, it does not mean that certain associations contained within them are not rare (CDFG, 2007 and 2010). The project area was observed to support one vegetation type with an imperiled status; Monterey pine forest (ranked S1). It is deemed a "special plant community" because of its rarity and its decline throughout its natural range.

According to the State Park Vegetation Management Statement (February 2010), the Monterey pine forest at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and the adjoining Point Lobos ranch property covers approximately 865 acres and forms a unique natural assemblage of native plant species and associated wildlife. This plant community is gradually expanding into adjacent plant communities, including coastal scrub, coastal prairie, and other formerly disturbed open areas. Past disturbance regimes, including grazing and prescribed fire, limited the expansion of the pine forest.

Monterey pines are highly susceptible to the recently introduced pine pitch canker disease, which is caused by the fungus *Fusarium circinatum*. Bark beetles that attack Monterey pines are the primary vector of pitch canker. When the trees are stressed or weakened from drought, damage to their roots, or changes in their surrounding environment (micro climate changes), they are attacked by bark beetles, which can weaken the trees and increase mortality from pitch canker. Current management of the pine forest within State Park property includes both mechanical and chemical treatment of a variety of exotic species including French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), and jubata grass (*Cortaderia jubata*). The Vegetation Management Statement has identified a goal to maintain natural processes, allowing the Monterey pine forest to expand into formerly disturbed areas, while preserving other special plant communities. The Statement also identifies the need to minimize disturbance and maintain the health of the existing forest using best management practices.

The Monterey County General Plan also identifies sensitive or significant vegetation. Monterey County's *Carmel Land Use Plan and Local Coastal Program* (LUP/LCP) identifies policies for acceptable activities within environmentally sensitive habitats areas (ESHA). Protection of these natural resources is the primary objective with

definite precedence over land use development. Under the LUP/LCP, ESHAs are areas in which plant or animal life or their habitats are rare or particularly valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem. Within the Lace Lichen Trail Project area the Monterey Pine forest is considered ESHA.

The California Coastal Act limits uses within ESHA to those which are dependent on such resources; examples include nature education and research, hunting, fishing, and aquaculture. The Act states that development, including vegetation removal, excavation, grading, filling, and the construction of roads and structures, would not be permitted in ESHA areas if it results in any potential disruption of habitat value. To approve development within any of these habitats the County must find that disruption of a habitat caused by the development is not significant. Public access in ESHA areas would be limited to low-intensity recreational, scientific, or educational uses. Access would generally be controlled and confined to the designated trails. No access would be approved which results in significant disruption of the habitat. The proposed project is consistent with policies contained in the County's LUP/LCP in that the project would not cause significant disruption of ESHA habitat. DPR's adherence to construction measures would limit disturbances to Monterey pine forest habitat.

Special Status Plant Species

The assessment focused on special status plant species that are officially listed by the State, /or Federal government, and/or on CNPS List 1B (CDFG, 2013). Several special status plant species were evaluated for the potential to occur in the project vicinity (see Table 2). The only special status species observed within the project area during the field survey was Monterey pine (CNPS List 1B). The Monterey pine is designated as a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B.1 plant species; this ranking indicates is rarity within the state. Although the reserve is known to support other special status species (i.e., Gowan cypress, Monterey cypress, Yadon's piperia, Hooker's manzanita, sandmat manzanita, and Monterey paintbrush) none of these species have been recorded, nor were observed within the Lace Lichen Trail project area.

The June and August field visits were conducted during the blooming season for several of the special status species with potential to occur within the project area. No special status plant species were detected during the survey. In addition, based on the habitat conditions encountered in the project area (dense forest cover and pine duff) coupled with a lack microhabitats required for some species, the potential presence of special status plant species is considered low. A discussion of plant species searched for and their occurrence in the project area is provided in Table 2.

Table 2 - List of Special Status Plant Species Evaluated for Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Lace Lichen Trail Project Area at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Monterey County, August 2013

Species	Status	Habitat Type Plant Characteristics	Closest Known Occurrence(s) Observed on Site?
Monterey Quadrangle			
Hickman's onion (<i>Allium hickmanii</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Openings in forest, woodlands, or chaparral, grassland Sandy damp ground and vernal swales; blooms April - May	Slopes N of Carmel Valley Road, E side Hwy 1 at Carpenter Road, W of Huckleberry Hill. Not observed within project area.
Hooker's manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos hookeri</i> ssp. <i>hookeri</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Sandy soils, maritime chaparral/oak woodland mosaic Evergreen shrub	Lobos Ridge E of Carmel Highlands; E side of Hwy 1 near Gibson Creek. Not observed within project area.
Sandmat manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos pumila</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Closed cone forest, sandy soils, maritime chaparral, dunes Evergreen shrub	Gibson Canyon, N of Carmel Highlands. Not observed within project area.
Coastal dunes milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>titi</i>)	List 1B.1 State: E Fed: E	Coastal bluff scrub, moist sandy depressions on bluffs or dunes; blooms April - May	Along 17-mile Drive near Ocean Road. Not observed within project area.
Gowen cypress (<i>Hesperocyparis goveniana</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: T	Closed cone pine forest; coast terraces, usually in sandy soil Evergreen tree	Pt. Lobos along N side of Gibson Creek, E of Hwy 1. Not observed within project area.
Monterey cypress (<i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Closed cone pine forest; coast terraces, usually on granitic soils Evergreen tree	Northern portion of Pt. Lobos State Reserve. Not observed within project area, yet nearby at Seal Point Parking Lot.
Pink Johnny nip paintbrush (<i>Castilleja ambigua</i> ssp. <i>insalutata</i>)	List 1B.1 State: None Fed: None	Coastal bluff scrub Blooms May - August	Point Lobos, S Base of Vierras Knoll Not observed in project area; no suitable habitat present.
Monterey paintbrush (<i>Castilleja latifolia</i>)	List 4.3 State: None Fed: None	Coastal bluff scrub Perennial; blooms Feb - September	Not recorded in CNDDB. Not observed in project area.
Monterey spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>pungens</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: T	Sandy soils, maritime chaparral Annual; blooms May - August	Ft. Ord, Cypress Point, Pt. Pinos. Not observed within project area; no suitable habitat present.
Jolon clarkia (<i>Clarkia jolonensis</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Dry grasslands Annual; blooms April - July	Pt. Lobos overlooking China Cove (1963). Not observed within project area.
San Francisco collinsia (<i>Collinsia multicolor</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Close cone pine forest, coastal scrub on decomposed shale/mudstone Annual; blooms March - May	Pacific Grove (1903). Not observed within project area.
Seaside birds-beak (<i>Cordylanthus rigidus</i> ssp. <i>littoralis</i>)	List 1B.1 State: E Fed: None	Dry slopes, grasslands, closed cone forests; coastal scrub Annual; blooms May - September	Hwy 1, 1.2 miles N of Monterey (1940); Monterey Airport, Seaside, Ft. Ord. Not observed within project area.
Hutchinson's larkspur (<i>Delphinium hutchinsoniae</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Broadleaf upland forest, coastal prairie coastal scrub; usually moist slopes Annual; blooms April - May	E of Pt. Lobos along N side of San Jose Creek and W of Palo Corona Trail crossing. Not observed within project area.

Table 2 - List of Special Status Plant Species Evaluated for Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Lace Lichen Trail Project Area at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Monterey County, August 2013

Species	Status	Habitat Type Plant Characteristics	Closest Known Occurrence(s) Observed on Site?
Eastwoods goldenbush (<i>Ericameria fasciculata</i>)	List 1B.1 State: None Fed: None	Sandy openings in maritime chaparral, pine forests, coastal scrub Perennial shrub; blooms Jul – Oct.	Carmel (1913); Morse Reserve in Del Monte Forest. Not observed within project area.
Menzies wallflower (<i>Erysimum menziesii</i> ssp. <i>Menziesii</i>)	List 1B.1 State: E Fed: E	Sandy soils, coastal dunes Biennial, blooms May - June	Pt. Pinos; 17-mile Drive; Spanish Bay Not observed within project area.
Fragrant fritillary (<i>Fritillaria liliacea</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Coastal scrub, grasslands near coast Perennial bulb; blooms February - April	Pebble Beach area (1931). Not observed within project area.
Sand gilia (<i>Gilia tenuiflora</i> ssp. <i>arenaria</i>)	List 1B.2 State: T Fed: E	Coastal dunes, coastal chaparral Annual herb; blooms April – June	Moss Beach, Del Monte Dunes, Sand City, Ft. Ord, Marina Dunes, Asilomar Not observed within project area.
Kellogg's horkelia (<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> ssp. <i>sericea</i>)	List 1B.1 State: None Fed: None	Closed cone forest, coastal scrub, chaparral Perennial; blooms April - June	Carmel Mission, Asilomar, Del Monte area Not observed within project area.
Beach layia (<i>Layia carnosa</i>)	List 1B.1 State: E Fed: E	Coastal dunes Annual herb; blooms April – June	Pt. Pinos, Asilomar, Spyglass Hill Dunes Not observed within project area.
Tidestrom's lupine (<i>Lupinus tidestromii</i>)	List 1B.1 State: E Fed: E	Coastal dunes Annual herb; blooms April – May	Pt. Pinos, Asilomar. 17-mile Drive; Spanish Bay Dunes Not observed within project area.
Carmel Valley bush-mallow (<i>Malacothrix palmeri</i> var. <i>involutus</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Chaparral on rock outcrops or steep rocky road cuts, talus Perennial; blooms June - December	Carmel Valley, 2 miles from Hwy 1. Not observed within project area.
Santa Lucia bush mallow (<i>Malacothamnus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Chaparral, dry talus slopes Deciduous shrub; blooms May - Oct	Carmel (1985) Not observed within project area
Marsh microseris (<i>Microseris paludosa</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Closed cone pine forest, scrub, woodland, grassland Annual, blooms May - June	Pt. Lobos State Reserve (1978), Del Monte Forest, Veterans Memorial Park Not observed within project area
Woodland woollythreads (<i>Monolopia gracilis</i>)	List 1B.1 State: None Fed: None	Chaparral, valley and foothill grasslands (serpentine), cismontane woodland, broadleafed upland forests Blooms April - June	Monterey (1897) Not observed in project area
Monterey pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>)	List 1B.1 State: None Fed: None	Closed cone pine forest Evergreen tree	Pt. Lobos State Reserve Dense forest of individuals within project area
Yadon's rein orchid (<i>Piperia yadonii</i>)	List 1B.1 State: None Fed: E	Closed cone pine forest, scrub, coastal bluff scrub Annual, blooms May - June	Pt. Lobos Ranch, E of Hwy 1 in Gibson Creek area; near summit of Lobos Ridge E of Pt. Lobos State Reserve Not observed within project area

Table 2 - List of Special Status Plant Species Evaluated for Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Lace Lichen Trail Project Area at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Monterey County, August 2013

Species	Status	Habitat Type Plant Characteristics	Closest Known Occurrence(s) Observed on Site?
Hickman's cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla hickmanii</i>)	List 1B.1 State: E Fed: E	Closed cone pine forest, scrub, meadows and seeps, streams Annual, blooms April - August	17-mile Drive, S of Bird Rock parking lot; Pacific Grove on road to Cypress Point. Not observed within project area
Pine rose (<i>Rosa pinetorum</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Closed cone pine forest Perennial, blooms May - June	Pt. Lobos Ranch, E of Hwy 1; Lobos Ridge of Point Lobos State Reserve, Gibson Creek Not observed within project area
Maple-leaved checkerbloom (<i>Sidalcea malachroides</i>)	List 4.2 State: None Fed: None	Coastal canyons Perennial, blooms May - June	Near Pacific Grove (1881) Not observed within project area
Pacific Grove clover (<i>Trifolium polyodon</i>)	List 1B.1 State: R Fed: None	Closed cone pine forest Annual, blooms May - June	Pebble Beach riding stables, 17-Mile Drive near Ocean Road; S of Seal Rock Creek Not observed within project area
Monterey clover (<i>Trifolium trichocalyx</i>)	List 1B.1 State: E Fed: E	Closed cone pine forest Annual, blooms April - June	Morse Botanical Reserve; Huckleberry Hill Not observed within project area
Surrounding Quadrangles (Mount Carmel, Soberanes Point, Seaside, Marina)			
Little Sur manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i>)	CNPS: List 1B.2 State: None Federal: None	Coastal bluff scrub, sandy terraces Evergreen shrub	Record from 1.2 mi S of Little Sur River Bridge south of Pfeiffer Point. Not observed in project area
Toro manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos montereyensis</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Sandy soils, maritime chaparral/oak woodland mosaic Evergreen shrub	Monterey Airport; Ft. Ord Not observed within project area.
Congdon's tarplant (<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>Congdonii</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Moist grasslands, alkaline depressions Annual; blooms July - October	Laguna Seca Area. Not observed within project area.
Branching beach aster (<i>Corethrogyne leucophylla</i>)	CNPS: List 3.2 State: None Federal: None	Coastal dunes, closed cone pine forests	Not observed in project area
Umbrella larkspur (<i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i>)	CNPS: List 1B.3 State: None Federal: None	Broadleaf upland forest, mesic sites on clay	Record from Bonafacio Hill, S of Bixby Creek Not observed in project area
Sand-loving wallflower (<i>Erysimum ammophilum</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Sandy soils, maritime chaparral; coastal dunes; scrub Biennial, blooms May - June	Ft. Ord; Naval Postgraduate School; Pt. Pinos; Seaside; Asilomar; 17-mile Drive Not observed within project area.
Yadon's wallflower (<i>Erysimum menziesii</i> ssp. <i>Menziesii</i>)	List 1B.1 State: E Fed: E	Sandy soils, coastal dunes Biennial, blooms May - September	Marina dunes Not observed within project area.
Santa Lucia bedstraw (<i>Galium clementis</i>)	List 1B.3 State: None Fed: None	Shady rocky patches in forests, granite or serpentine Perennial herb; blooms March – Sept.	Known from Ventana Cones, Los Padres Forest; Chews Ridge area near Tassajara Creek. Not observed within project area.
San Francisco gumplant (<i>Grindelia hirsutula</i> var. <i>maritime</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Coastal scrub Perennial herb; blooms March – Sept.	Not observed within project area; the common coastal gumplant was observed near Rat Trail Road

Table 2 - List of Special Status Plant Species Evaluated for Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Lace Lichen Trail Project Area at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Monterey County, August 2013

Species	Status	Habitat Type Plant Characteristics	Closest Known Occurrence(s) Observed on Site?
Carmel Valley malacothrix (<i>Malacothrix saxatilis</i> var. <i>arachnoidea</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Chaparral, rocky areas Deciduous shrub; blooms May - Oct	Carmel Valley Road. Not observed within project area.
Hooked popcorn flower (<i>Plagiobothrys uncinatus</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Chaparral, woodlands and grasslands on sandstone outcroppings, often burned areas Annual; blooms April – May	Recorded from Hastings Reserve in Carmel Valley. Not observed within project area.
Santa Lucia gooseberry (<i>Ribes sericeum</i>)	CNPS: List 4.3 State: None Federal: None	Chaparral	Not observed in project area
Santa Cruz microseris (<i>Stebbinsoseris decipiens</i>)	List 1B.2 State: None Fed: None	Coastal scrub, chaparral, prairie near coast; loose disturbed soils Annual; blooms April - May	Known from Laureles Grade, Highway 68 Not observed during surveys

CNPS Status:

List 1B: These plants (predominately endemic) are rare through their range and are currently vulnerable or have a high potential for vulnerability due to limited or threatened habitat, few individuals per population, or a limited number of populations. List 1B plants meet the definitions of Section 1901, Chapter 10 of the CDFG Code.

Federal and State Status:

T: Designated as a threatened species by the federal government or the California Fish and Game Commission

E: Designated as an endangered species by the federal government or the California Fish and Game Commission

Special Status Wildlife Species

Special status wildlife species known from the general project vicinity were evaluated for their potential to occur within the project site. Special status wildlife species include those listed, proposed or candidate species by the Federal or the State resource agencies, as well as those identified as State species of special concern. In addition, all raptor nests are protected by Fish and Game Code, and all migratory bird nests are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Special status wildlife species were evaluated for their potential presence in the project area as described in Table 3. Coastal scrub supports seaciff buckwheat which can be habitat for the Smith's blue butterfly. Site visits of the project area by Biotic Resources Group found no buckwheat to be present. Smith's blue butterflies are not expected to occur within the project area. Monarch butterflies are formerly known from native pine groves within Point Lobos SNR, though there are no current records. Monarch butterflies may use pines within the vicinity of the project area as autumnal roosts. Although no Monterey dusky-footed woodrat were observed along the project area, they could occur in both pine forests and coastal scrub. No suitable habitat was found within the project site for all other special status wildlife species listed in Table 3.

Table 3 - Special Status Wildlife Species and Potential Occurrence Along the Lace Lichen Trail Project Area in Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Monterey, CA, August 2013

SPECIES	STATUS ¹	HABITAT	POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE ON SITE
Invertebrates			
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	*	Eucalyptus, acacia and pine trees groves provide winter habitat when they have adequate protection from wind and nearby source of water and nectar	Formerly known from native pine groves at Pt. Lobos State Reserve (west side of Highway 1), but no current records. May use pines as autumnal roosts.
Smith's blue butterfly <i>Euphilotes enoptes smithi</i>	FE	Coastal dunes and sage scrub with host plant of buckwheat present	Closest known occurrences are just west of the trail terminus at Sea Lion Point in Pt. Lobos State Park. No buckwheat present in project area. Not expected to occur there.
Fish			
Steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	FT, CSC	Perennial creeks and rivers with gravels for spawning.	None, no suitable habitat on site.
Amphibians			
California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT, ST	Ponds, vernal pools for breeding, grasslands with burrows for upland habitat	No suitable habitat on site.
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT, CSC	Riparian, marshes, estuaries and ponds with still water at least into June.	Closest known occurrence 1.0 mile to northeast along San Jose Creek. No suitable habitat on site.
Reptiles			
Western pond turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	CSC	Creeks and ponds with water of sufficient depth for escape cover, and structure for basking; grasslands or bare areas for nesting.	No suitable habitat on site.
Black legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra nigra</i>	CSC	Sand dunes with native vegetation	None, no suitable habitat on site.
Birds			
California brown pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	FP	Nests on coastal islands, winter coastal visitor along Central coast	None, no suitable habitat on site.
Western snowy plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	FT, CSC	Nests on sandy beach, shores of salt ponds	None, no suitable habitat on site.
Western burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia hypugea</i>	CSC	Grasslands with short grass and burrows.	No suitable habitat on site.
Black swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i>	CSC	Nests in small colonies on cliffs behind or adjacent to waterfalls and along sea bluffs	Known from sea bluffs at Pt. Lobos State Park. No suitable habitat on this site.
Mammals			
Monterey dusky-footed woodrat <i>Neotoma fuscipes luciana</i>	CSC	Forests and scrub lands	None observed along the project area, but could occur in both pine forests and coastal scrub.

¹ Key to status:

FE	=	Federally listed as endangered species
FT	=	Federally listed as threatened species
ST	=	State listed as threatened species
CSC	=	California species of special concern
FP	=	Fully protected species under CDFG Code
*	=	Protected under County Local Coastal Plan

Impact Discussion

- a) Special Status Plant Species: The only special status species observed within the project area during the botanical field surveys was Monterey pine (CNPS List 1B). No large, mature Monterey pines would be removed; only small saplings (approximately four to six inches in diameter) would be removed as needed during trail construction. Potential impacts to the Monterey pine forest habitat are discussed under item b. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (see item b) would reduce potential impacts to Monterey pine to a less-than-significant level.

Special Status Animal Species: Although there are no current records of monarch butterflies within the project area, they may use the pine forests surrounding the trail project area as autumnal roosts. Monterey dusky-footed woodrat were not observed during the site visits, however, they could occur in the habitats found along the project site. Limbing of trees may impact monarch butterflies if any are present within the project work area. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would reduce impacts to monarch butterflies to a less-than-significant level.

Impact BIO-1: Limbing of trees, noise and dust from construction have the potential to disturb or crush roosting monarch butterflies, if any are present. Generally, monarch butterflies arrive in Monterey County in October and remain through February.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: To avoid impacts to monarch butterflies, DPR will implement the following measures:

- Schedule construction to occur in spring, summer or early fall (i.e., March through September), which is outside the monarch butterfly roosting season. If these schedule limitations are not possible, DPR will have a qualified biologist survey the trees for monarch butterflies along the project work corridor within one week prior to commencement of vegetation removal. If monarch butterflies are present, a buffer of at least 50 feet will be established around the roost tree(s) and construction postponed in that area until the biologist has determined that the monarch butterflies have left.

Impact BIO-2: Trail construction has the potential to crush or remove Monterey dusky-footed woodrat nests, if any are present in the work area.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: To avoid impacts to Monterey dusky footed woodrats, DPR will implement the following measures:

- DPR will have a qualified biologist survey the trail alignment within two weeks of commencement of work. If any woodrat nests are observed within the work area, DPR will realign the trail to avoid the woodrat

nest. If this is not possible, DPR will prepare and implement a plan to replace or move the woodrat nest, with the approval of California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- b) The project area does not support any riparian habitat, drainages or creeks subject to California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdiction. No regulated habitats would be affected by the proposed project; however, the project would involve trail construction within Monterey pine forest, a State-recognized sensitive resource and one designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) by Monterey County.

Approximately 1,050 linear feet of new trail would be constructed within Monterey pine forest. Assuming a permanent disturbance width of eight feet, approximately 8,000 square feet (0.18 acre) of forest area would be affected by new trail construction. In addition, approximately 2,200 linear feet of existing trail would be improved to a maximum width of six feet. As the majority of the existing trail corridor cleared of vegetation is approximately six feet to eight feet in width, no significant amount of additional forest habitat would be affected by improvements to the existing trail segment. The trail project would involve removal of forest understory, as well as seven (7) small diameter (less than 6 inches) Monterey pine trees.

In addition, trail construction would occur within the drip line of large, mature pine trees that are located adjacent to the trail. All large, mature pine trees will be retained. The project would require removal of branches of some mature pine trees to accommodate the trail construction and trail clearances. Excavation for the trail bed and placement of base rock for the trail bed would occur within the drip line of numerous Monterey pine trees. DPR created the proposed new trail alignment such that impacts to Monterey Pine forest would be minimized, however, impacts to the Monterey pine forest could occur during construction.

Impact BIO-3: Construction of the trail extension and improvements could result in adverse effects to the Monterey pine forest through tree removal, root disturbance and spread of fungal diseases.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: To minimize and avoid impacts to Monterey pine forest during construction, DPR will implement the following measures:

- Trees to be removed will be limited to small saplings, averaging four to six inches in diameter.
- Within the drip line of trees, excavation shall be limited to hand digging the best arboriculture management practices will be followed. These practices include hand-cutting of any roots encountered during excavation/trail construction.

- The most current arboricultural guidelines will be followed during the cutting and removal of small diameter Monterey pine trees to prevent the spread of fungal diseases (i.e., cleaning equipment prior and after use). DPR will minimize the possibility that removing and pruning pine tree limbs would cause infested trees to release bark- and wood-boring insects and attack other nearby trees. Infested trees will be pruned outside the adult beetles' flight season; infested trees will not be pruned between February and mid-October. Unseasoned, freshly cut wood shall not be piled near woody landscape plants if the freshly cut wood and trees are dying or have recently died (from beetle infestations); this will reduce the possibility of the cut material providing an abundant breeding source for some wood-boring beetles.
- c) The project area does not include any water or wetland features subject to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board or US Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. No impacts to protected wetlands would occur.
- d) Migratory birds may nest in some of the trees within the project work area. Limbing of trees and removal of the small diameter pine trees (with cavities) has the potential to impact nesting birds if any are present during construction. Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would reduce impacts to nesting birds to a less-than-significant level.

Impact BIO-4: Removal of pines and coastal scrub, and limbing of trees has the potential to kill bird eggs or chicks if any are present. Noise and dust from construction has the potential to cause adult birds to abandon their eggs or chicks if any are nesting nearby.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: To avoid impacts nesting of migratory birds, DPR will implement the following measures:

- Schedule construction to take place between August 15 and February 1 of any given year, which is outside the nesting season for the central coast of California.
- If schedule limitations are not possible, DPR will have a qualified biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds no more than two weeks prior to the start of construction. If any bird nests are observed within the project work area, a buffer of 50 feet for migratory birds and 200 feet for raptors will be established where no construction will take place until the biologist has determined that all young have fledged the nest.

- e) The project would not conflict with area plans or policies. Measures are outlined to minimize impacts to native trees, including Monterey pine, which is consistent with local plans. No impact would occur.
- f) The project area is not within the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other habitat conservation plan. No impact would occur.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project area is situated within Point Lobos SNR, located to the west of State Highway 1. Point Lobos SNR features significant archeological and historic resources. Many of the archeological sites are located along the coastal bluffs. Sites are also located along San Jose Creek, to the north outside of the Reserve, and Gibson Creek, along the southern boundary within the Reserve. Historic resources include Whalers Cove, featuring the Whalers Cabin and other features associated with mining and abalone processing. Rock formations which occur within the Reserve, including the Carmelo formation, contain plant and animal fossils.

The project area, approximately eight feet in width, extends approximately 0.75 miles from the entrance kiosk area to the Sea Lion Point parking lot. Monterey pine forest with understory growth in the predominant vegetation type, with an area of coastal scrub toward the coastline. With the exception of the existing Lace Lichen trail alignment, totaling approximately 2,200 linear feet in length, the project area is generally undisturbed. At the closest point, the project area is over 350 feet from the edge of the coastal bluff. As discussed in this section, the project area does not feature any known archaeological, historic, or paleontological sites.

Native American Setting. The coastal area of the Central Coast region was inhabited by Native Americans known as the Costanoan (Ohlone) Indians. Point Lobos SNR is within the territory of the Rumsen tribelet. The Rumsen established seasonal village sites near the mouth of San Jose Creek and along Gibson Creek. The seasonal village site along San Jose Creek, located outside of the Reserve, was

first occupied approximately 2,500 to 3,000 years ago. The Rumsen people gathered a wide variety of plant food and shellfish, fished, and hunted mammals and birds.

The entire Point Lobos SNR has a very high archeological sensitivity. Over 30 archaeological sites have been recorded with the Reserve. These sites include shellfish processing sites (middens) along coastal bluffs, portable and bedrock grinding stones, evidence of campsite fires, and projectile points. No archeological sites have been located or recorded with the project area based on prior surveys of the Reserve. One isolated find, a portable grinding stone (mano), was previously found adjacent to the existing Lace Lichen Trail.

Historic Setting. During the period from the late 1700s to early 1830s, Point Lobos was likely used as grazing land for Mission San Carlos Borromeo. After the mission was secularized, the property was transferred as part of a land grant. The land was subsequently sold and transferred several times over the following years and divided into parcels. In 1898, Alexander M. Allen purchased parcels comprising Point Lobos. After Mr. Allan's death, his heirs sold the property to the State of California in 1933.

Beginning in the 1850s, Whalers Cove attracted groups of Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese, and Americans due to its natural resources and protected setting from storms and winds. Over the many decades, Whalers Cove has been a base for fishing, whaling, granite quarrying, loading of sand and coal onto ships, abalone harvesting and processing. In the early 1850s, a group of Chinese fishermen and their families first built residences along the west shore of Whalers Cove. One of the residences still stands and is now known as Whalers Cabin; the cabin is used as a small museum and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Operation of a granite quarry began at the mouth of Whalers Cove in the late 1850s. Portuguese whalers built residences along the south side of the cove in the early 1860s. After coal was discovered at nearby Mal Paso Canyon in early 1870s, coal was hauled by wagon teams to be loaded on ships at Coal Chute Point, on the east shore of Whalers Cove. A. M. Allan, a civil engineer, arrived to manage the coal mine and began purchasing land at Point Lobos. Mr. Allan laid narrow gauge railroad tracks from Monastery Point (located north of the Reserve) to Coal Chute Point to transport sand to ships in Whalers Cove. He also entered in a business agreement with Gennosuke Kodani, a local Japanese pioneer, to start the Point Lobos Canning Company to harvest and process abalone at Whalers Cove.

While Point Lobos SNR features historic structures and sites, these historic resources are primarily located along the shores of Whalers Cove. The existing Lace Lichen Trail and the proposed trail extension are located approximately 1,000 feet

from the shoreline of Whalers Cove at the closest point. No historic sites or structures have been identified within the project area.

Previous Cultural Resource Investigations. Point Lobos SNR has been thoroughly surveyed on two previous occasions (Wedel 1936, Kelly et al. 1976). Approximately 30 archaeological sites were recorded. An isolated find of a portable grinding stone (Lace Lichen mano) was identified in 2013 (Schwaderer 2013). These previous cultural resource investigations did not identify any recorded sites within the project area. The DPR Monterey District Archaeologist prepared a Project Evaluation Archaeological Review in May 2013. Due to the vegetation cover, it was not feasible to conduct a surface archaeological survey of the proposed alignment of the trail extension at that time.

Impact Discussion

- a) No historic sites or structures have been identified, based on prior background studies and investigations, within the project area. The nearest historic sites or structures to the project area are located in the vicinity of Whalers Cove, approximately 1,000 feet from the project area at its closest point. No historic sites or structures are anticipated to exist within the project area. No impact would occur.
- b) Over 30 archaeological sites have been identified within Point Lobos SNR. Although no archaeological sites have been previously identified within the proposed trail alignment area, an isolated find (Lace Lichen mano) was previously found adjacent to the existing Lace Lichen Trail. The DPR Monterey District Archaeologist conducted a preliminary review of the project area in 2013; however, due to existing vegetation cover it was not feasible to conduct a surface survey at that time. Vegetation clearing along the trail alignment and ground disturbance for trail construction, varying between six inches and one foot in depth, may reveal as yet undiscovered archaeological resources which could presently be buried under dense vegetation or underground. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-1 would reduce the potential impact to any previously undiscovered archaeological sites to a less-than significant level.

Impact CULT-1: Disturbance of the project area during trail construction could result in disturbance to previously undiscovered archaeological sites.

Mitigation Measure CULT-1: To avoid impacts to any previously undiscovered archaeological sites which may exist within the project area, the following measures will be implemented.

- The DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, will conduct a survey of the proposed trail

alignment after the area has been cleared of vegetation. The survey shall occur prior to ground disturbance for trail construction. In the event that a potentially significant cultural deposit is identified during the survey, the DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, will evaluate the find. The Archaeologist will determine the appropriate avoidance, preservation or recovery measures required, in compliance with DPR directives and CEQA prior to ground disturbance and trail construction activities at the location of the find.

- A qualified archaeological monitor will remain on site during trail construction to ensure that if any archaeological resources are exposed they will be avoided or otherwise preserved. In the event that a potentially significant cultural deposit is identified during the pre-construction survey or uncovered during trail construction, all work will be stopped at the specific location of the find until the DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, can evaluate it. Prior to work resuming at the location, the Archaeologist will determine the appropriate avoidance, preservation or recovery measures required, in compliance with DPR directives and CEQA. Work will not resume at the location until the appropriate measures have been implemented as determined by the Archaeologist.
- c) The project area is located approximately 350 feet from the closest shoreline and exposed rock formations. Trail construction would result in disturbance of approximately six inches to one foot of soil. No unique paleontological or geologic features have been identified within the project area nor are they anticipated to occur. No impact would occur.
- d) No human remains or burial sites have been documented or are expected to be found in the project area. However, the possibility always exists that human remains may be encountered. Discovery and disturbance of any human remains requires special treatment, per State codes. Incorporation of the following Standard Project Requirement would ensure the potential impacts to human remains would remain less-than-significant.

Standard Project Requirement:

In the event human remains are discovered, work would cease immediately in the area of the find and project manager/site supervisor would notify the State's representative and other appropriate DPR personnel. The DPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) would notify the County Coroner in accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the Coroner determines the remains represent a Native American interment and so notifies the Native American Heritage

Commission in Sacramento, the Commission will identify the Most Likely Descendants, who will make recommendations for appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is agreed upon, per Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a 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? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Point Lobos SNR features a rocky promontory of land, with Carmel Bay to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south. From Highway 1, the land gradually slopes toward the ocean with small hills rising from the generally level terrain of the marine terraces. The relief of the land within the Reserve is relatively gentle with the exception of the steep coastal cliffs, rocky promontories, and Gibson Canyon at the southern boundary of the Reserve.

The project area transects the promontory east-west from the entrance kiosk area to the Sea Lion Point parking lot. This area is mapped as geologically stable to moderately unstable in the 1979 Point Lobos SNR General Plan. The terrain along the trail alignment is generally level.

Point Lobos SNR is located within an area of high seismic activity. The Carmel coast area is bordered by two major fault zones, the Palo Colorado-San Gregorio and the San Andreas. Strong seismic ground shaking or seismic-related ground failure could be expected from a seismic event. The major known fault within the Carmel area is the Cypress Point Fault. The Reserve's 1979 General Plan also states that seismic hazards include potentially active faults offshore of Point Lobos.

Impact Discussion

- a) The project area is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone as designated by the California Geographic Survey. The project area could be subjected to strong seismic ground shaking as result of seismic activity at major fault zones or known faults in the vicinity of the project area. The trailbed would be a raised turnpike construction to minimize wet conditions on the trail during the rainy season. Wood puncheons, low wood structures with no hand rails, would be installed as needed in areas with poor drainage. Each puncheon would be approximately ten to twelve feet in length. No bridges or other structures are proposed as part of the project. Thus, the project would not substantially increase loss nor would the project substantially increase the exposure of the public to injury or death should a seismic event occur. The terrain is generally level and there are no landslide hazards within the project area. The improvement of the existing Lace Lichen Trail segments and trail extension would not result in the exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse impacts involving rupture of an earthquake fault, strong seismic shaking, seismic related ground failure, or landslides. No impact would occur as a result of the project.
- b) The project includes improvements to an existing natural surface trail (approximately 2,200 linear feet) and construction of new trail segments (totaling approximately 1,800 linear feet). The proposed new trail surface would feature compacted aggregate capped within fines and contained by redwood headers. Wood puncheons would also be installed as needed. Soil disturbance would vary between two and eight inches in depth. The existing trail and proposed new trail segments are located on generally level terrain, which is not prone to loss of top soil. The turnpike construction will alleviate potential saturated soil conditions during the rainy season. The existing trail improvements and extension would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of top soil. No impact would occur as a result of the project.

- c) The project area is situated on a generally level marine terrace. The project area is not prone to landslides or liquefaction. The proposed project does not include any new structures. No impact would occur as a result of the project.
- d) The proposed project does not include construction of a structure on expansive soils that would create substantial risks to life or property. No impact would occur.
- e) The proposed project does not include septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. No impact would occur.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The proposed project would include trail improvements totaling approximately 0.75 miles within an existing State Park unit. The majority of the work would be completed using hand tools, handheld power tools, and small-scale mechanized equipment that may include gas-powered tote carriers, vibraplates, and mini-excavators. The proposed project does not involve any new sources of stationary or mobile greenhouse gas emissions. Temporary construction activities include delivery of materials from supply sources to the project area and use of small mechanized trail building equipment.

Impact Discussion

- a) Construction of the proposed trail improvements would not generate any greenhouse gas emissions except for very minimal, temporary emissions during delivery of construction materials to the project area and during some construction activities. Much of the work would be completed by crews with hand tools, hand held power tools and small scale trail building equipment. Trucks would be used to deliver construction materials to the Point Lobos SNR project area. Construction activities would occur over a three to four month period. No impact to greenhouse gas emissions would result from the temporary short-term construction activities.
- b) The proposed project does not conflict with any plans, policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. No impact would occur as a result of the project.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) 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, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project site is located within a natural area of Point Lobos SNR. No evidence of past development was observed within the project area with the exception of the existing natural surface Lace Lichen Trail. Although this wildland area is not adjacent

to an urbanized area, there are residential areas to the north and south of the Reserve boundaries.

Impact Discussion

- a) The proposed project does not include the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Project construction requires the use of certain hazardous materials such as fuels and oils; however, any refueling would be very minimal and would occur at the construction staging areas during the temporary short-term construction period. No impact would occur as a result of the project.
- b) During refueling of equipment, there could be an accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Any refueling would be minimal due to the limited use of motorized equipment (material toters). There are no streams or wetlands within the project area. Standard DPR practices to inspect equipment for leaks and promptly respond to any minor spill of fuel or oil on land would avoid release of hazardous materials into the environment. No impact would occur as a result of the project.
- c) No schools are located within one-quarter mile of the project site. The project would not result in hazardous emissions or waste impacts on an existing or proposed school. No impact would occur.
- d) The project area is not included on the California Department of Toxic Substance Control and State Water Resources Control Board list of hazardous materials sites. The project would not create a significant hazard to the public, therefore no impact would occur.
- e) The project is not located within two miles of a public airport. No impact would occur.
- f) The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impact would occur.
- g) Project construction would be short-term and would not impact any emergency evacuation routes or plans. No impact would occur.
- h) Construction of the proposed project would require the use of mechanized equipment which could potentially result in a source of ignition for a wildland fire within a forested area. The project would not require the use of large heavy equipment; only small scale trail building equipment would be used. The project construction impacts would be a less-than-significant risk for wildland fire.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) 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 which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
j) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Gibson Creek traverses the southernmost portion of Point Lobos SNR, emptying into the federally protected waters of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. San Jose Creek is located to north, outside of the Reserve boundary. The project area is situated on the promontory of land, to the west of Highway 1, within the central portion of the Reserve which does not feature any rivers or streams. The USGS Monterey Quadrangle map does not depict any streams within the project area.

The existing Lace Lichen Trail and the proposed extension are located on generally level terrain. The soils within the project area are at times saturated during the rainy season; however, there are no jurisdictional wetlands within the project area. Two roadside drainage culverts cross the park road; these features are man-made drainage features and there are no channels within the project area. A field investigation conducted by Biotic Resources Group (2013) concluded that the project area does not support drainages, creeks or wetlands subject to California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board or US Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction.

Point Lobos SNR lies within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB). The Regional Water Board regulates wastewater discharge to surface waters and ground water, storm water discharges from construction, and several other practices that could degrade water quality. The proposed project would result in minimal grading of less than one acre and thus would not require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Impact Discussion

- a) The proposed project involves improvements to an existing trail system. The project requires minimal excavation and soil disturbance. The project area is not located adjacent to any streams. Staging areas for equipment and delivery/storage of aggregate base would not be located adjacent to any streams. The project would not involve any waste discharges. No impacts would occur.

- b) The proposed project would not utilize any groundwater supplies. The semi-permeable trail surface would not interfere with groundwater recharge. No impact would occur.
- c) The proposed project includes trail improvements, compacted aggregate base capped with fines contained in a double turnpike construction, totaling less than one mile in length. The existing trail and proposed extension are located on generally stable terrain that is not prone to substantial erosion. Natural surface conditions are wet at times during the rainy season, thus the need for the raised turnpike construction to provide a more stable and dry surface throughout the year. There are no streams within the project area. The improvements to the existing trail and the proposed extension would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the project area resulting in substantial erosion or siltation. No impact would occur.
- d) There are no streams within the project area. The proposed trail improvements on generally level terrain would not result in flooding on or off-site. No impact would occur.
- e) The proposed project would not result in any additional sources of polluted runoff. Storm water drainage features presently exist within the vicinity of the project area. Two man-made drainage culverts cross the park road. The proposed trail extension near the entrance kiosk is within an area with a history of storm water runoff issues. The proposed trail extension is not anticipated to create substantial additional runoff in this vicinity; however, the new alignment could affect existing stormwater drainage systems if the existing drainage is rerouted as a result of trail construction. To assure runoff is not rerouted in the vicinity of the entrance kiosk, DPR will comply with the following Project Requirement:

Specific Project Requirement:

The DPR project manager for the proposed project shall carefully evaluate the drainage paths in the vicinity of the entrance kiosk to assure runoff is not rerouted. The project manager shall confer with DPR Monterey District Engineer as needed.

Compliance with this Specific Project Requirement would ensure the potential impacts to the existing stormwater drainage system would be less-than-significant.

- f) The project does not introduce any sources of pollutants that would degrade water quality. Trail improvements would require minimal excavation and soil

disturbance during construction. The project would not otherwise substantially degrade water quality. No impact would occur.

- g) The project involves trail improvements and is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area. No impact would occur.
- h) The project area is not located within a flood hazard area. No impact would occur.
- i) The project area does not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death from a mudflow or seiche (a wave that oscillates in lakes, bays, or gulfs as a result of seismic or atmospheric disturbances). The project area is not located within a tsunami inundation zone. No impact would occur.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Point Lobos SNR is a park unit within the California State Park system. A Park Unit General Plan directs the long-range development and management of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. The *Point Lobos State Reserve General Plan* was adopted in 1979. The current General Plan document includes plans for both Point Lobos State Reserve and the adjacent Carmel River State Beach (SB).

Since 1979, DPR has acquired two additional properties in the vicinity of Point Lobos SNR and Carmel River SB. These properties, Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon, are both located to the east of Highway 1. A General Plan, titled *Carmel Area State Parks General Plan*, is presently being prepared for all four properties. Completion of the plan and environmental review is anticipated to be completed later in 2014.

Point Lobos SNR is located within the unincorporated area of Monterey County. The project area lies within the Coastal Zone, which is subject to the California Coastal Act, Monterey County's *Carmel Area Land Use Plan and Local Coastal Program*, and the *Monterey County Coastal Implementation Plan (Part 4) (Regulations for Development in the Carmel Area Land Use Plan)*.

The *Carmel Area Land Use Plan and Local Coastal Program* includes resource management policies for various resources, including Scenic Resources, Environmentally Sensitive Habitats, and Archaeological Resources. The LCP also describes the kinds, locations, and intensities of land uses recommended for Carmel Area. The *Monterey County Coastal Implementation Plan (Part 4) (Regulations for*

Development in the Carmel Area Land Use Plan) establishes regulations, standards, and procedures to fully implement the policies of the *Carmel Area Land Use Plan and Local Coastal Program*. The California Coastal Act (Public Resources Code Division 20) includes coastal resources planning and management policies for public access, recreation and other issues.

The land use for Point Lobos SNR is designated as Resource Conservation (Forest and Upland Habitat) in the Monterey County's *Carmel Area Land Use Plan/Local Coastal Program*. Protection of sensitive resources, plant communities and animal habitats is emphasized within Resource Conservation land use areas. Carefully controlled low-intensity day use recreation is an appropriate use. The Monterey County Zoning Designation for the project area is Resource Conservation (Coastal Zone). The purpose of this zoning district is to protect, preserve, enhance, and restore sensitive resource areas in Monterey County.

Impact Discussion

- a) The project is located within an undeveloped area, entirely within the boundaries of Point Lobos SNR. No impact to an established community would occur as a result of the project.
- b) The proposed project includes improvements to an existing trail and construction of new trail segments to enhance coastal access and avoid pedestrian/motor vehicle conflicts. The trail would remain pedestrian only, a low intensity recreational use. The project does not propose any new land uses. The proposed project is consistent with the 1979 *Point Lobos State Reserve General Plan*. The project would not conflict with the draft *Carmel Area State Parks Plan*, currently in progress.

Monterey County's *Carmel Area Land Use Plan and Local Coastal Program* (LUP/LCP) includes general and specific Public Access policies. The proposed project, which focuses on improving an existing trail system, is consistent with the public access policies for the Carmel Area Land Use Plan. The project is also consistent with LUP/LCP policies regarding Scenic Resources, Environmentally Sensitive Habitats, and Archaeological Resources.

The *Monterey County Coastal Implementation Plan (Part 4)* includes regulations and development standards for the Carmel Area. The project would not conflict with the development standards for Visual Resources (Section 20.146.030), Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (Section 20.146.040), or Archaeological Resources (Section 20.146.90), and Public Access (Section 20.146.130). An analysis of visual impacts is discussed under Aesthetics in this Initial Study. Potential impacts to environmentally sensitive habitats (Monterey pine forest and

coastal scrub) and mitigation measures to reduce impacts are discussed under Biotic Resources. Archaeological impacts and mitigation measures are presented in the Cultural Resources section. The project is also consistent with the California Coastal Act. The project provides enhanced public access and improved accessibility. Public access within the environmentally sensitive habitats will be limited to pedestrian use, a low-intensity recreational use. The proposed trail improvements would not result in significant disruption of the habitat (See Section IV. Biological Resources). The project would require a Coastal Development Permit from Monterey County.

Thus, the project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of Monterey County, the California Coastal Commission, or the California Department of Parks and Recreation. No impact would occur.

- c) There are presently no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans for the project area. No impact would occur.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

No mineral resources of value to the region and State have been specifically identified within the project site, which is located within the central portion of the Point Lobos headland. The project site has not been identified as a locally important mineral resource recovery site by Monterey County.

Impact Discussion

- a) The project includes improvements and extension of an existing trail within a State Natural Reserve. The project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. No impact would occur.
- b) The project site does not feature a locally-important mineral resource recovery site. No impact would occur.

XII. NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 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, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project area is located in a natural setting to the west of State Highway 1, within the unincorporated area of Monterey County. To the east of the project site, the area is generally undeveloped. Residential properties are located to the north and south of the project boundaries. Ambient noise levels within the Point Lobos SNR are primarily affected by traffic on State Highway 1. There are no airports or private airstrips within the vicinity of the project site.

Impact Discussion

- a) Project construction would require the limited use of motorized equipment within the Point Lobos SNR boundaries. The equipment would be limited to hand tools and small motorized trail construction equipment. Construction activities would generally be limited to daylight hours, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday

through Friday. The equipment may result in a disturbance to other Reserve users during periods of equipment use. The exposure of park visitors to noise impacts would be less-than-significant.

- b) Construction of the project would not require the use of explosives, pile driving, or other equipment which would generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. No impact would occur.
- c) Trail use would not result in a permanent increase in ambient noise levels. No impact would occur.
- d) The duration of construction activities requiring the use of noise generating equipment would result in a less-than-significant temporary increase in ambient noise levels.
- e) The project is not located within an area covered by an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. No impact would occur.
- f) The project is not located in the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impact would occur.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

The project site is located within a natural area of Point Lobos SNR. There is no housing within the SNR boundaries.

Impact Discussion

- a) The project includes trail improvements. The project does not include new homes, businesses, extension of roads, or other infrastructure. No growth inducing impacts would occur as a result of the project. No impact would occur.
- b) Four employee housing units exist within Point Lobos SNR. The proposed project would not impact the employee housing. No impact would occur.
- c) The project would not displace any population. No impact would occur.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a) 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

State Park Peace Officers primarily provide emergency and law enforcement services within Point Lobos SNR. Additional fire protection services are provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The closest CAL FIRE station to the project site is located in Carmel Highlands. Supplemental emergency response services are provided by Monterey County as needed.

Impact Discussion

- a) The project includes improvements and extension of an existing trail. The project would not increase use within the Reserve or result in any new use. No impact to public services would occur.

Temporary construction activities could result in a potential increase in the risk of ignition for a wildland fire. This potential wildland fire risk would result in a less-than-significant impact on fire protection services.

The project would not result in the need for additional law enforcement services. No impact would occur.

The project does not impact existing schools or require additional schools or personnel. No impact would occur.

The project would improve the existing trail system within Point Lobos SNR by providing a continuous trail connection from the entrance area to the Sea Lion Point parking area and by providing an accessible, more stable trail surfaces. No adverse impacts to parks would occur as a result of the project. No impact would occur.

The project would not impact any other public facilities. No impact would occur.

XV. RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
RECREATION. Would the project:				
a) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Point Lobos SNR is well known for its outstanding opportunities for sightseeing, nature study, photography, and painting. The Reserve features hiking trails, picnic areas, the Whalers Cabin museum, interpretive kiosks and displays. Whalers Cove is also a popular access point for scuba divers. Restroom facilities are provided at several locations throughout the Reserve.

The 1979 Point Lobos State Reserve General Plan identifies the project site as an area with low to moderate resource sensitivity, and thus appropriate for moderate to high use intensities. The project site currently features Lace Lichen Trail, a natural surface trail. The areas proposed for extensions of the Lace Lichen Trail are natural settings and do not presently feature any recreational facilities.

Impact Discussion

- a) The project includes improvements and extension of the Lace Lichen Trail, totaling 0.75 mile in length. A primary objective of the project is to discourage pedestrians from using the park road. The proposed continuous trail from the Reserve entrance area to the Sea Lion Point parking lot would result in higher use of the existing Lace Lichen Trail. The existing trail would be improved to provide a firm and stable surface year round that could accommodate a higher level of trail use. The project area is appropriate for moderate to high intensity visitor uses, thus an improved pedestrian trail would be an appropriate recreational use. Restroom facilities are located at both the entrance area and the Sea Lion Point parking lot. No additional visitor support facilities would be needed for the trail improvement and extension project. The project would not increase the use of the Reserve, but would instead provide enhanced visitor access from the entrance area to the Sea Lion Park Point parking lot. Physical deterioration of Lace Lichen Trail or the Reserve would not result from the project. No impact would occur.

- b) The proposed Lace Lichen Trail improvement and extension project may have an adverse impact on biological resources (Monarch butterflies, Dusky-footed woodrats, migratory birds, and Monterey pine forest). The project may also have an adverse impact on previously undiscovered archaeological sites. DPR's implementation of Mitigation Measures for Biological Resources and Cultural Resources would reduce the adverse impacts to a less-than-significant level. DPR's implementation of Specific and Standard Project Requirements for Air Quality and Hydrology and Water Quality would ensure potential impacts to these resources remain less-than-significant.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Point Lobos SNR is accessed from State Highway 1. Narrow paved roads provide motor vehicle and bicycle access to various areas within the Reserve. The number of motor vehicles permitted to enter the Reserve is limited. Fees are charged for motor vehicle access, though pedestrians may walk into the Reserve without paying a fee. The primary entrance road and accessory roads are approximately 15 feet in width or less, with no marked lanes or designated shoulders. Two-way traffic is allowed on most of the roads; some sections are designated as one-way only. Pedestrians often walk on the roadways, including on the primary road between the entrance kiosk and the Sea Lion Point parking lot. Parking is provided in small parking lots and pull-outs located throughout the Reserve.

Impact Discussion

- a) The proposed project is limited to improvements and extension of the Lace Lichen Trail. The project does not include any parking improvements. The project would benefit the performance of the circulation system by encouraging pedestrians to walk on the improved Lace Lichen Trail rather than the roadway. The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable transportation/traffic plan, ordinance or policy. No adverse impact would occur.
- b) The proposed project would not result in an increase in vehicle trips other than minimal traffic effects during construction, which would occur over a short-term period. The additional vehicle trips required for the trail crew and delivery of materials would not substantially increase congestion or lower standards of service during the temporary construction period. The proposed project would not result in a substantial increase in traffic congestion. No impact to traffic or congestion plans would occur.
- c) The proposed project would not result in any change in air traffic patterns. No impact would occur.
- d) The proposed project would not affect the design features of the existing roadways or introduce permanent incompatible uses to the road network accessing the project area. There would be a minimal increase in truck traffic for construction material deliveries for a short-term period. The project would reduce potential vehicle and pedestrian conflicts by decreasing the number of visitors walking on the narrow roadway between the entrance and Sea Lion Point parking lot. Crosswalks would be demarcated at all trail crossings of roadways. No adverse impacts would occur.
- e) The proposed project would have no impact on emergency access. No impact would occur.
- f) The proposed project would not conflict with any alternative transportation policies, plans, or programs. No impact would occur.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Setting

Point Lobos SNR has existing potable and wastewater service. Restroom facilities are located near the entrance; at Sea Lion Point, Whalers Cove, and the south end of the Reserve. Potable water is also available at these locations. Trash receptacles are provided within the Reserve. Stormwater drainage facilities are located within the vicinity of the project area; however, the trail alignment does not feature any existing stormwater facilities. Restroom facilities, waste receptacles, and stormwater drainage facilities are maintained by DPR.

Impact Discussion

- a) The proposed project does not include any new wastewater services or facilities. No conflicts or impacts to wastewater treatment requirements would occur.
- b) Existing restrooms and potable water are available near both ends of the proposed trail project. The project does not require construction of new water or wastewater facilities. The existing facilities are sufficient to meet the needs of trail users. No impact would occur.
- c) No new stormwater facilities would be required for the proposed project. Two man-made culverts cross the park road in the vicinity of the project site; however these man-made drainages dissipate before entering the trail alignment. The proposed trail extension near the entrance kiosk is within an area with a history of storm water runoff issues. To assure runoff is not rerouted in the vicinity of the entrance kiosk as a result of trail construction, DPR will carefully evaluate the drainage paths. See Specific Project Requirement in Section IX. Hydrology and Water Quality, item e). Compliance with the Specific Project Requirement would ensure the potential impacts to stormwater drainage facilities would be less than significant.
- d) Potable water is available within Point Lobos SNR. The proposed project would not require additional water supplies. No impact would occur.
- e-g) The proposed project would not increase visitor use. The project would not generate demand for wastewater or solid waste services. No impact would occur.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion

- a) The proposed project was evaluated for the potential effects on the quality of the environment, fish and wildlife species, plant communities, and historic and pre-historic resources. As discussed under the Biological Resources section, the project would have the potential to affect the habitat and/or reduce the population of Monarch butterfly, dusky-footed woodrat, migratory birds, and Monterey pine forest. As discussed under the Cultural Resources section, the project would have the potential to disturb previously undiscovered archaeological sites which provide examples of California pre-history. Full implementation of all mitigation measures incorporated into this project would reduce the level of these potential significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.
- b) The proposed project would have less-than-significant impacts on aesthetics, air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, public services, recreation, and utilities and service systems. DPR's Standard and Specific Project Requirements for Air Quality and Hydrology and Water Quality would ensure potential impacts to these resources remain less-than-significant. These individually limited impacts of the project would not be cumulatively considerable.

- c) No significant environmental effects have been identified that would have direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings. No impact would occur.

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Personal Communications

John Hiles (Monterey District DPR), Susan Harris (Outdoor Resources Planning).
Personal communication during site visit conducted on January 23, 2014.

Larry Tierney (Monterey District DPR), Susan Harris (Outdoor Resources Planning)
Personal communication January 2014.

Rae Schwaderer (Monterey District DPR), Email communications with Susan Harris (Outdoor Resources Planning) on January 19 and 21, 2014.

REPORT PREPARATION

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared by the following CEQA consultants under the direction of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Monterey District:

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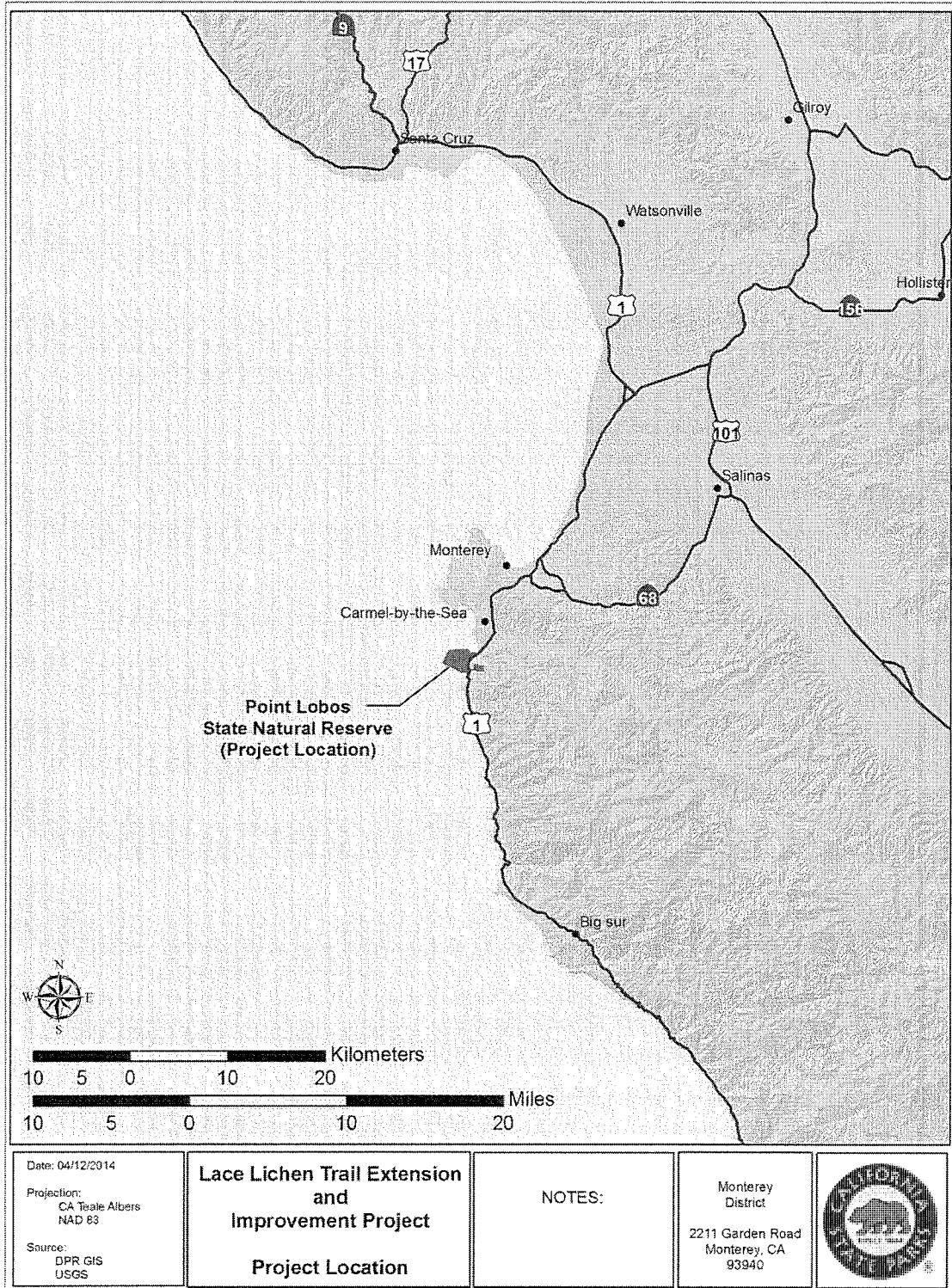
Rae Schwaderer, Monterey District Archaeologist

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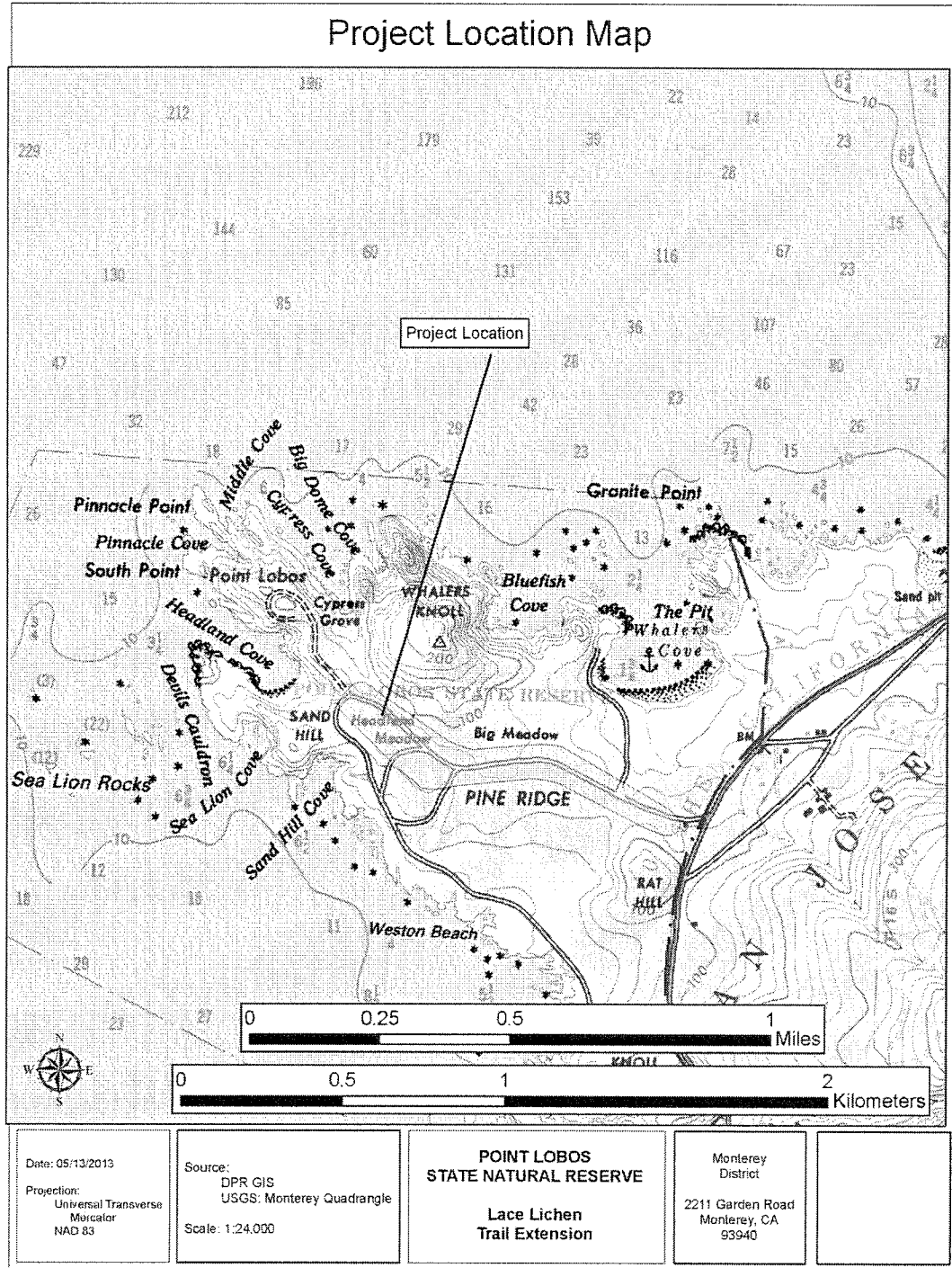
Appendix A
LOCATION AND PROJECT MAPS

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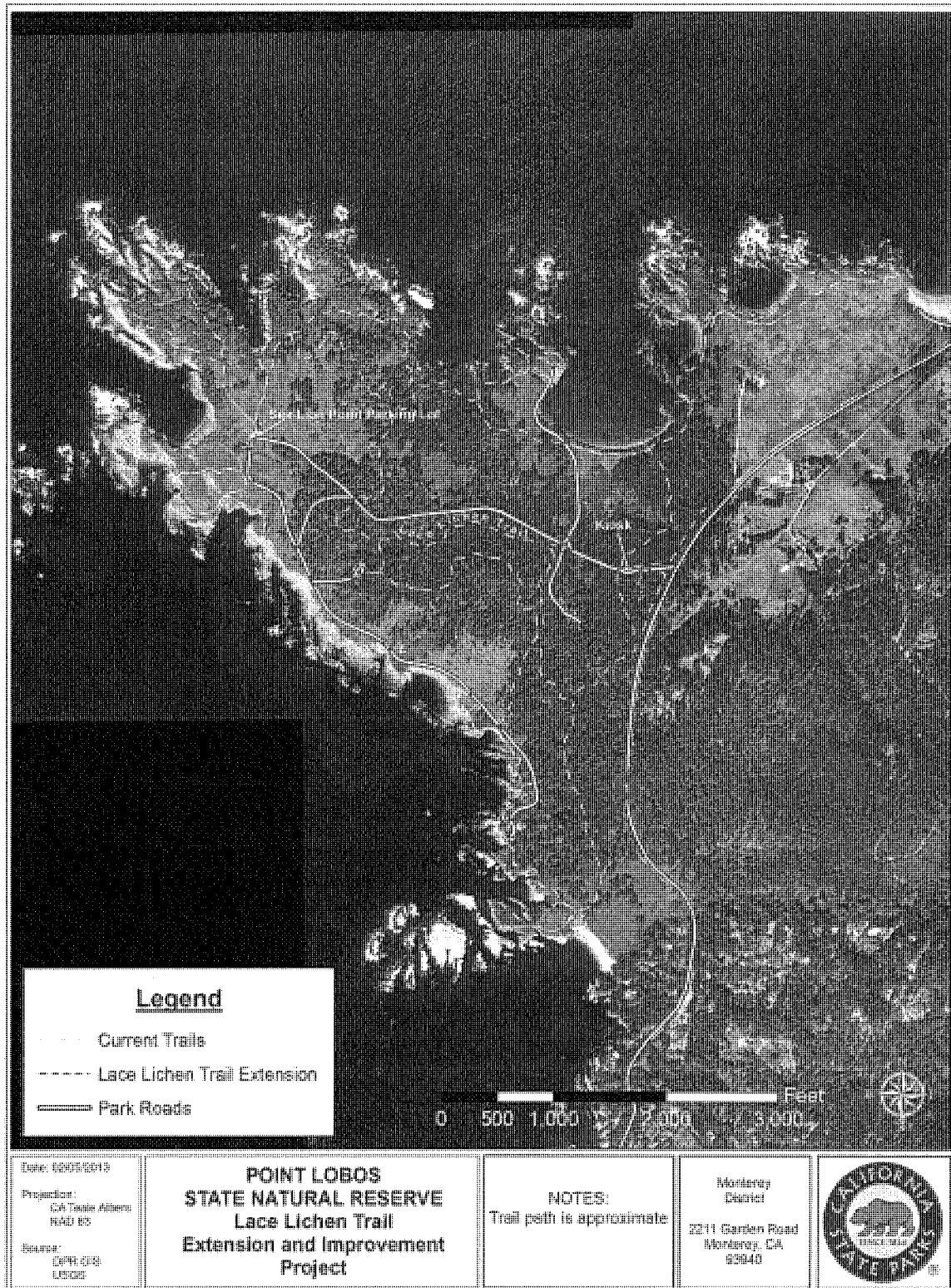
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 POINT LOBOS STATE NATURAL RESERVE
 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



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Appendix B
SITE PHOTOS

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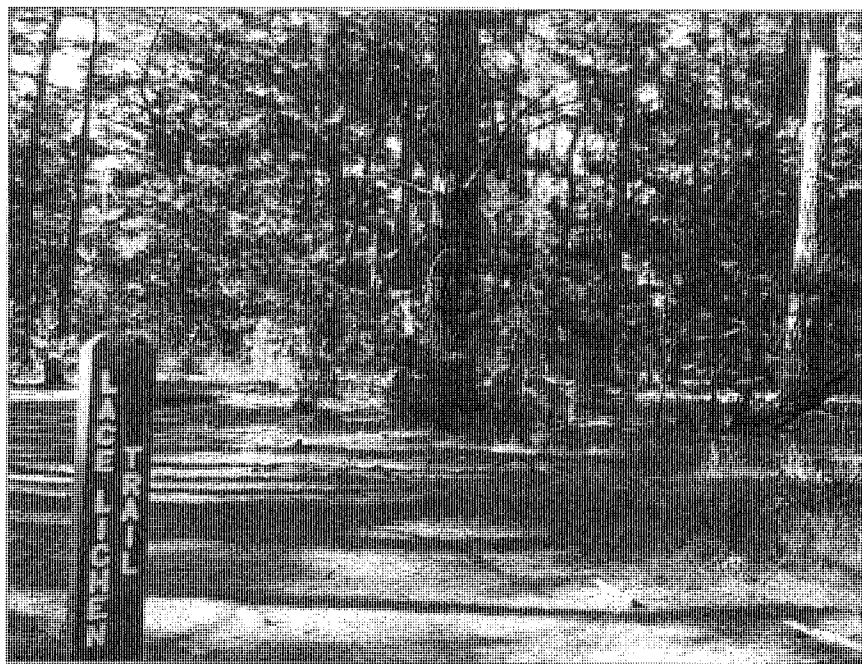


Photo 1 – East entrance to Lace Lichen Trail



Photo 2 – Existing Lace Lichen Trail



Photo 3 – Existing Lace Lichen Trail through Monterey pine forest



Photo 4 – Proposed trail extension alignment through Monterey pine forest



Photo 5 – Proposed trail alignment through coastal scrub at west end

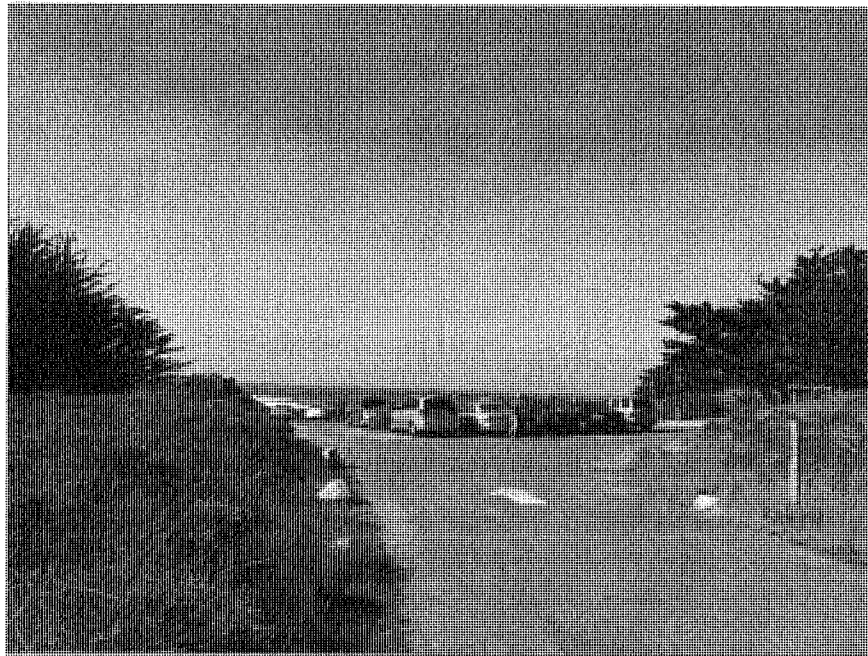


Photo 6 – Sea Lion Point parking lot area



Photo 7 – Example of existing raised double turnpike at Point Lobos SNR

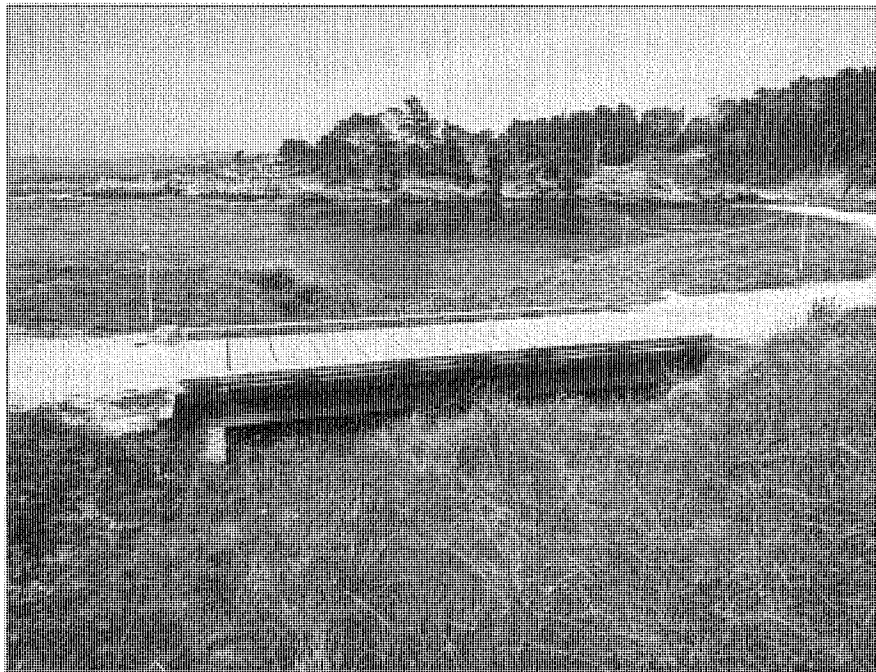


Photo 8 – Example of existing puncheon at Point Lobos SNR

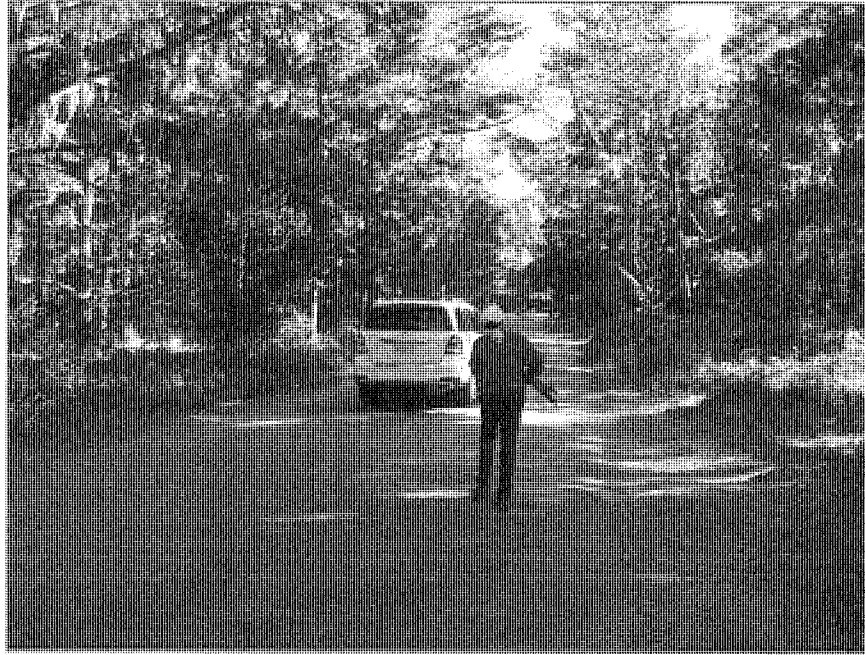


Photo 9 – Point Lobos SNR entrance road

Appendix C

MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

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APPENDIX C
MITIGATION AND MONITORING/REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Timeline	Monitoring Compliance Record (Name/Date)
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
BIO-1: To avoid impacts to monarch butterflies, DPR will implement the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule construction to occur in spring, summer or early fall (i.e., March through September), which is outside the monarch butterfly roosting season. If these schedule limitations are not possible, DPR will have a qualified biologist survey the trees for monarch butterflies along the project work corridor within one week prior to commencement of vegetation removal. If monarch butterflies are present, a buffer of at least 50 feet will be established around the roost tree(s) and construction postponed in that area until the biologist has determined that the monarch butterflies have left. 	California Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DPR)	California Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DPR)	Prior to construction	
BIO-2: To avoid impacts to Monterey dusky footed woodrats, DPR will implement the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	DPR	DPR	Prior to construction	

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Timeline	Monitoring Compliance Record (Name/Date)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPR will have a qualified biologist survey the trail alignment within two weeks of commencement of work. If any woodrat nests are observed within the work area, DPR will realign the trail to avoid the woodrat nest. If this is not possible, DPR will prepare and implement a plan to replace or move the woodrat nest, with the approval of California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 				
<p>BIO-3: To minimize and avoid impacts to Monterey pine forest during construction, DPR will implement the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees to be removed will be limited to small saplings, averaging four to six inches in diameter. Within the drip line of trees, excavation shall be limited to hand digging the best arboriculture management practices will be followed. These practices include hand-cutting of any roots encountered during excavation/trail construction. The most current arboricultural guidelines will be followed during the cutting and removal of small diameter Monterey pine trees to prevent the spread of fungal diseases (i.e., cleaning 	DPR	DPR	During construction	

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Timeline	Monitoring Compliance Record (Name/Date)
equipment prior and after use). DPR will minimize the possibility that removing and pruning pine tree limbs would cause infested trees to release bark- and wood-boring insects and attack other nearby trees. Infested trees will be pruned outside the adult beetles' flight season; infested trees will not be pruned between February and mid-October. Unseasoned, freshly cut wood shall not be piled near woody landscape plants if the freshly cut wood and trees are dying or have recently died (from beetle infestations); this will reduce the possibility of the cut material providing an abundant breeding source for some wood-boring beetles.				
BIO-4: To avoid impacts nesting of migratory birds, DPR will implement the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule construction to take place between August 15 and February 1 of any given year, which is outside the nesting season for the central coast of California. If schedule limitations are not possible, DPR will have a qualified biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds no 	DPR	DPR	Prior to and during construction	

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Timeline	Monitoring Compliance Record (Name/Date)
more than two weeks prior to the start of construction. If any bird nests are observed within the project work area, a buffer of 50 feet for migratory birds and 200 feet for raptors will be established where no construction will take place until the biologist has determined that all young have fledged the nest.				
CULTURAL RESOURCES				
<p>CULT-1: To avoid impacts to any previously undiscovered archaeological sites which may exist within the project area, the following measures will be implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, will conduct a survey of the proposed trail alignment after the area has been cleared of vegetation. The survey shall occur prior to ground disturbance for trail construction. In the event that a potentially significant cultural deposit is identified during the survey, the DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, will evaluate the find. The Archaeologist will determine the appropriate avoidance, preservation or recovery 	DPR	DPR	Prior to and during construction	

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Timeline	Monitoring Compliance Record (Name/Date)
<p>measures required, in compliance with DPR directives and CEQA prior to ground disturbance and trail construction activities at the location of the find.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A qualified archaeological monitor will remain on site during trail construction to ensure that if any archaeological resources are exposed they will be avoided or otherwise preserved. In the event that a potentially significant cultural deposit is identified during the pre-construction survey or uncovered during trail construction, all work will be stopped at the specific location of the find until the DPR District Archaeologist, or other qualified archaeologist/designee, can evaluate it. Prior to work resuming at the location, the Archaeologist will determine the appropriate avoidance, preservation or recovery measures required, in compliance with DPR directives and CEQA. Work will not resume at the location until the appropriate measures have been implemented as determined by the Archaeologist. 				

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