

7.0 ALTERNATIVES

This section identifies, analyses, and compares the environmental impacts of alternatives to the project proposed. Alternatives include no project, use of fenced dog park areas, and alternative sites. A comparative analysis of the relative environmental impact of the different alternatives is presented, and the environmentally preferred alternative is identified.

With the exception of the off-leash dog use component, the Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan (DFPMP) is proposed specifically for the existing Douglas Family Preserve (DFP), and it would not be appropriate to propose it for another location, nor are there other comparable locations to consider. The DFPMP itself does not result in any unavoidable adverse impact. Therefore, no alternative site is considered for the DFPMP policies except for dog use issues, which are addressed in the discussion below.

7.1 INTRODUCTION

CEQA requires that an EIR include an analysis of alternatives. CEQA Guidelines Section 21002 requires that a project only be considered as proposed if there are no feasible alternatives or mitigation measures available to reduce impacts that are significant to less than significant levels. Alternatives selected are to focus on alternatives to a project or its location, which are capable of substantially meeting project objectives, but avoiding or substantially reducing project impacts. Proposed project impacts are identified as unavoidable in the area of public safety (See section 4.4 SAFETY) and significant and mitigable in the areas of air quality, biology, and water resources. For traffic, potential impacts are too speculative to make a definitive statement. Additionally, the City may deem providing additional enforcement of off-leash and dog-waste removal laws and dog related maintenance activities as infeasible due to funding shortfalls. If this occurs, several impacts in the area of air quality, biology, and water quality at the Shoreline Beach Area (SBA), Hale Park and the Douglas Family Preserve (DFP) would become unavoidable since no feasible mitigation measures would be available. Therefore, the selection of alternatives focuses on those that would address air quality, biology, public safety, and water quality impacts while still achieving key project objectives of providing off-leash dog use recreation opportunities. Note that if it is not feasible to increase enforcement and maintenance for the proposed project, it is assumed that it is not feasible to increase enforcement and maintenance at the alternative sites. Geological mitigation would not be affected by a change in enforcement.

7.2 GENERAL ISSUES

The number of sites that are approved for off-leash dog use is relevant to the issue of level of impacts at any one particular site. The more sites that allow for off-leash dog use, the less any particular site is expected to have a substantial increase in off-leash dog use

because the overall number of users would remain similar and the greater number of locations available would distribute the number of users at the different locations. Smaller increases in dog use at several sites would generally result in less dog related impacts at each site than would concentrated off-leash dog use at a particular site.

Dog related safety, water quality, biological, and air quality issues would be more likely to result in environmental impacts at more locations where off-leash dog use is allowed but at a lower level. Also, the authorization of off-leash dog use at several sites, not concentrated in a single area, would tend to reduce traffic at any one site because the same number of users would be distributed to different locations.

Allowing off-leash dog use in a fenced area devoted to dog use would in all cases reduce dog safety, water quality, air quality and biological impacts because the off-leash dogs would be physically separated from persons recreating without dogs, it would be easier to remove dog-related waste because the used area may be more limited, the dog-use area would be clearly defined and open to view, and dogs would not be able to chase or otherwise harass wildlife in the area since they would be on-leash outside the fenced area and restricted within it.

Traffic may increase in areas where off-leash dog use that was not previously authorized is allowed, and decrease in areas where dog owners reduce their visits accordingly. However, the number of people recreating without dogs would likely increase in this circumstance. So, there would probably be no overall change in the public use of the sites and overall traffic.

Conversely, approving off-leash dog use at only one location would concentrate off-leash dog use at that location, resulting in more intense impacts where the use is allowed. Recreational users who are not comfortable with off-leash dogs may choose to recreate at other locations, shifting the non-dog related recreational uses to other sites. While this represents an inconvenience to the person, this would not rise to the level of a significant impact on recreation because there are ample other recreational opportunities at other parks in the City. Douglas Family Preserve may be considered a unique site because there is no other park with the same combination of attributes. However, there are other beach areas and neighborhood parks. There are other possible locations for a 1-2 acre fenced off-leash dog park that could be considered, but these are not evaluated because they do not meet the basic project objectives.

7.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED FURTHER

As discussed below, there are a range of alternatives that are considered and analyzed in detail that identify a range of intensity of off-leash use and on-leash dog use on the three project sites, namely DFP, Hale Park and Shoreline Beach Area. No additional intensity of dog use alternatives are considered because the entire range of alternatives, from dogs off-leash all the time to dogs on-leash all the time, have already been considered as a part of the proposed project in Section 4.0 of this EIR.

The issue of a fenced off-leash dog area is an alternative evaluated further in this EIR. This analysis assumes that a three to four acre grassy, relatively flat area would be fenced and used for off-leash dog use. Alternative sites are reviewed to see if they can accommodate the 3-4 acre fenced area. None of the sites considered for the alternatives analysis had a sufficiently large space to safely allow for an off-leash dog area that is not fenced, considering the potential incompatibility among different recreational uses.

Hilda Ray Park is 1.5 acres in extent, and therefore does not have sufficient area available to accommodate a 3 to 4 acre fenced area. As such, it will not be considered further as an alternative for a fenced off-leash dog park.

There are a number of alternative sites proposed in scoping comments that were considered but not analyzed further in the EIR. Establishing off-leash dog use on a dog park within parks that are large but that are substantially native and unimproved would all result in significant biological impacts, generally contain unsuitable steep terrain, and would be in less accessible areas, which could raise access, parking, and traffic issues.

For example, Parma Park is a large open space park that is largely unimproved but is relatively difficult to access, due to its undeveloped nature, contains undisturbed habitat that is not currently subject to substantial off-leash dog use, and is on steep hillsides. Traffic, biology, and water quality concerns would be raised at this park. Parma Park contains native grass considered to be a sensitive biological resource, and is traversed by tributaries of Sycamore and Coyote Creeks, which would need to be protected from animal wastes. Parma Park is therefore not analyzed further in this EIR.

Orpet Park was considered for off-leash dog use and a fenced off-leash dog use area. This park contains steep terrain, and is not considered suitable for off-leash dog use because it does not include a relatively flat grassy area with three to four acres. Substantial biological and erosion concerns may be raised at this site because the steep terrain would need to be graded to create a suitable flatter off-leash dog area and previously undisturbed vegetation would be removed to accommodate the proposed use.

A series of alternatives could reduce the impacts for public safety by prohibiting non-dog related recreation while off-leash dog use occurs at the DFP, Hale Park, and the SBA, or a combination of these parks, under Alternatives A and C-F considered in Section 4.0 of this EIR. These alternatives (except Hale Park) are not considered further because this would reduce recreation opportunities along the coast and reduce access to the coast. This would not be consistent with the Local Coastal Program. For Hale Park and the other alternatives this would not be favorable, since it would constitute a major change in the use of a neighborhood park at which off-leash dogs are not presently permitted. Therefore, these series of alternatives will not be considered further in this EIR.

7.4 PERMUTATIONS AT THE SITES

The following paragraphs explore the potential impacts from various combinations of the DFP, Hale Park, and SBA being made available for off-leash dog use. Various permutations of the decisions that could be implemented at the DFP, Hale Park and Shoreline Beach Area locations are evaluated. The decision-makers could approve off-leash dog use at all three sites and could approve any of the alternatives A and C through F at each of the park locations, as well as Alternative B (dogs on-leash at all times). The discussion below evaluates the various combinations and identifies the environmentally preferred alternative at the end of this section. There are eight permutations or "alternative" combinations of elements of the proposed project. These combinations are referred to as "scenarios" or "alternatives" because they represent choices that decision-makers may select.

As with the individual alternatives, the discussion of potential increases in traffic trips and parking demand from these various combinations of scenarios is speculative. It is not possible to accurately forecast and quantify the number of users that would utilize each site under various conditions, and the resulting traffic trips and parking demand generated, as well as impacts on circulation patterns. The following discussion is based on a general qualitative assessment, which offers some indication of whether the impacts may be significant. Nonetheless, the discussion of impacts is too speculative so that a determination of level of significance cannot definitively be made. Similarly, determining cumulative transportation and circulation impacts from the project, beyond these three sites, would be too speculative.

When each of the DFP, Hale Park, and Shoreline Beach Area (SBA) sites are considered individually (i.e., independent of the possible designations at the other sites), less than significant impacts to traffic trips and parking demand are likely, as no overall change in the amount of use is anticipated. Likewise, if the three sites were designated all off-leash (any of the off-leash alternatives A, C-F) or all on-leash (Alternative B), traffic trip and parking impacts would probably still be not significant for the same reason. This is not always the case when various combinations of off-leash (Alternatives A and C-F) and on-leash designations (Alternative B) are applied to the three sites, as described below. In these cases, the overall amount of public usage may change.

Note that the scenarios are generally compared to the existing condition unless otherwise stated. The existing condition is equivalent to the no project alternative for the purposes of these comparisons. Unless otherwise noted, alternatives A and C-F are considered to have impacts that are at similar levels of significance and are referred to generally as "off-leash". Lastly, since geology and erosion impacts are only applicable to the DFPMP, they are not described below.

Hale Park and Shoreline Beach Area (SBA) on-leash only, with DFP off-leash: This scenario would be status quo for the SBA, except that the beach area below the DFP would be changed to on-leash, and this scenario would be status quo for Hale Park. It should be noted, though, that off-leash dogs have been observed in the on-leash only areas at both of these facilities. Alternative A (dogs off-leash at all times) would be status quo at the DFP. Alternatives C-F (dogs off-leash with some restrictions on days and

times of use) provide varying degrees of dog use. Even with the most restrictive dog off-leash option (Alternative F off-leash dogs allowed on odd days), no substantial changes in overall public use are expected. Therefore, there would be less than significant impacts to traffic trips and parking demand. Air quality impacts would be the same as existing for Hale Park, slightly decreased for the Shoreline Beach Area, and substantially increased for the DFP. Biological resource impacts would be increased but less than significant for the DFP, would be the same as existing for Hale Park, and would be decreased for the SBA. Safety impacts would be similar to existing for Hale Park and the SBA, and increased and potentially significant for the DFP because more off-leash dog use would be expected. Water quality impacts would be similar to existing for Hale and the SBA, and increased for the DFP, when compared to the existing condition.

Hale Park/DFP on-leash only, with SBA off-leash: This would be status quo for Hale Park. There would likely be a substantial increase in dog use at the beach, since it would be the only facility in the City, and some owners of dogs that currently use the DFP may shift to this site. It is expected that current beach users not comfortable with dogs off-leash, combined with owners of dogs off-leash that may not desire to recreate at the beach for various reasons, could offset some of this increase in demand. However, it is likely that there would still be a substantial increase in the use of the SBA over what currently occurs, given that demand for off-leash dog use would no longer be met by the DFP under this scenario. This could lead to a substantial increase in traffic trips to and from the SBA, as well as on the demand for parking. Traffic and parking conditions at Hale Park and the DFP would probably remain similar to existing, since overall use is not expected to change under Alternative B.

The effects of these traffic trips on area circulation and on the demand for parking may depend on the particular alternative selected (A and C-F), since certain days and times would be established for dogs off-leash. Because Alternative A would allow dogs off-leash at all times, it is more likely that traffic trips and the need for parking spaces would be spread over a week and throughout the day. Alternatives C-F, with their restrictions on certain days and times of use for dogs off-leash, may result in a concentration of users during certain periods. These factors could influence area traffic and parking impacts. There is some capacity available in the parking areas to accommodate some increase in parking needs, but it cannot be determined whether this parking would be sufficient.

Air quality impacts at the DFP would decrease slightly, and impacts would be similar to the existing condition at Hale Park. Shoreline Beach Area air quality impacts would be increased compared to the existing condition and would be significant. Biological resource impacts at the SBA would be increased (and potentially significant) when compared to the existing condition due to a substantial increase in dog use anticipated if only this site were approved for off-leash dog use. Safety impacts would be decreased at the DFP, similar to existing at Hale Park, and increased (and significant) at the SBA when compared to the existing condition. Water impacts would be decreased at Hale Park and the DFP, and increased at the SBA (and potentially significant but mitigable) when compared to the existing condition.

Shoreline Beach Area/DFP on-leash only, with Hale Park off-leash: This would be status quo for a small portion of the SBA. Hale Park's designation as the only dog park in the City would result in a large number of owners with dogs desiring an off-leash park to shift to Hale Park, even though they reside outside of the immediate area. This would result in a substantial amount of new vehicle trips into the Hale Park area, and a consequent need for more vehicle parking.

Hale Park is a relatively small, neighborhood recreational facility that is not heavily used, and many of its current visitors are neighbors that walk to the site. The roadways in the relatively remote residential area may not have sufficient capacity to accommodate an influx of people from outside the local area traveling by car. Moreover, parking is limited around the site, although available capacity does exist. Individuals may carpool with their dogs and/or be dropped off/picked up by a vehicle. This condition may serve to limit the amount of people and dogs traveling by car to the site, but it could also result in circulation and parking problems.

Those uncomfortable with dogs would probably not continue to visit the park, but the number of people desiring a dog off-leash facility could be substantial, given that the demand for off-leash dog use would no longer be satisfied by the DFP, and likely more than those that might stop visiting the site. Along with the substantial increase in use at Hale Park would be a substantial increase in vehicle trips to the site and demand for parking. The effect of these trips on traffic circulation and parking cannot be determined at this time since the magnitude of the traffic increases is unknown and cannot be reliably calculated. Because Alternative A would allow off-leash dogs at all times, it is more likely that traffic trips and the need for parking would be spread over the week and throughout the day. Alternatives C-F, with their restrictions on certain days and times of use for dogs, may result in a concentration of users during certain periods. These factors could influence area traffic and parking impacts. The hours could be adjusted so that Hale Park traffic trips are not generated during the morning and evening peak hour.

When compared to the existing condition, air quality impacts would be decreased at the SBA and the DFP, and increased (and potentially significant) at Hale Park. Biological impacts would be increased (and potentially significant) at Hale Park and decreased at the DFP and the SBA. Safety impacts would increase at Hale Park and be potentially significant, and decrease at the SBA and DFP, when compared to the existing condition. Water quality impacts would increase (and be potentially significant) at Hale Park and decrease at DFP and the SBA.

Hale Park/Shoreline Beach Area off-leash, with DFP on-leash: Dog use would shift to Hale Park and the SBA. It is conceivable that there would be a substantial increase in vehicle trips and parking demand at these two sites under this scenario. The SBA would provide a large site for dog use to compensate for the change in designation at the DFP. Those individuals not desiring a beach environment would have Hale Park as an option. Even though some existing Hale Park and SBA users uncomfortable with dogs may discontinue visiting these sites, there would probably still be a net increase in users, given the demand for off-leash dog use would no longer be met by the DFP. The greater amount of trips and need for parking would derive from an increased use of Hale Park

(refer to discussion above for SBA/DFP on-leash only, with Hale Park off-leash), and an increased use of the beach. Some capacity at the beach and Hale parking areas is available to accommodate some of the increased demand. The size of the increase in vehicles and effects on circulation could vary depending on the particular dog alternative selected, as described above.

When compared to the existing condition, air quality impacts would be decreased for the DFP, and increased and potentially significant for the other two sites. Biological impacts would be decreased for the DFP, and increased and potentially significant for Hale Park and the SBA. Safety impacts would increase (and be potentially significant) for the SBA and Hale Park, and decrease for the DFP. Water quality impacts would be increased and potentially significant for Hale Park and the SBA, and decreased for the DFP.

Hale Park/DFP off-leash only, with SBA on-leash: This scenario would be the status quo for the SBA (with the exception of the area below the DFP). With the availability of the DFP to accommodate a large number of dogs and their owners, even considering the day and time restrictions identified in the various dog-use alternatives, the demand on Hale Park would be minor. There is not expected to be a substantial change in the amount of overall public use of the sites, so impacts to traffic generation and parking demand is expected to be similar to the existing condition.

Compared to the existing condition, air quality impacts at the DFP and Hale Park would increase (and be potentially significant) and would be reduced at the SBA. Biological impacts would be decreased at the SBA and would increase and be potentially significant at the DFP and Hale Park, compared to the existing condition. Safety impacts would be increased and potentially significant at the Hale Park and the DFP, and decreased at the SBA. Water quality impacts would be increased and potentially significant at the DFP and Hale Park, and decreased at the SBA.

Shoreline Beach Area/DFP off-leash only, with Hale Park on-leash: This would be status quo for Hale Park, and for the portion of the SBA beneath the DFP only. The DFP would continue to serve as an off-leash dog park. The SBA would provide another large facility to accommodate the demand for dog use. The overall extent of public use of the sites is not expected to substantially change under this scenario. Therefore, impacts to vehicle trips and parking demand would be expected to be less than significant.

When compared to the existing condition, air quality impacts would increase at the SBA and the DFP and be similar to existing at Hale Park. Biological resource impacts would increase at the SBA and the DFP (potentially significant), and be similar to the existing condition at Hale Park. Safety impacts would be increased and potentially significant at the SBA and the DFP, and similar to the existing condition at Hale Park. Water quality impacts compared to the existing condition would be increased and potentially significant at the SBA and the DFP, and similar to existing at Hale Park.

Shoreline Beach Area/DFP/ Hale Park off-leash only: This would result in an increase in dog-use for Hale Park. The DFP would continue to serve as an off-leash dog park. The

SBA would provide another large facility to accommodate the demand for dog use. The overall extent of public use of the sites is not expected to substantially change under this scenario. Therefore, impacts to vehicle trips and parking demand would be expected to be less than significant. Compared to the existing condition, air quality, biological, water quality and safety impacts would increase and be potentially significant at all sites.

Shoreline Beach Area/DFP/ Hale Park on-leash only: Under this scenario, off-leash dog use would decline at the DFP and the SBA. Hale Park usage levels would remain the same. Non-dog related recreation would be expected to increase at the DFP and the SBA. This alternative is similar to the no-project alternative only for Hale Park, since there will no longer be off-leash dog-use at the DFP, and a small segment of the SBA under the DFP bluffs.

Air quality, biology, safety, transportation, and water quality impacts at Hale Park would be similar to the existing condition, and somewhat decreased for the SBA, especially in the small portion beneath the DFP bluffs, and decreased for the DFP.

7.5 OTHER OFF-LEASH DOG FACILITIES

Elings Park is a privately run park, north of the DFP, where private individuals may pay a fee to allow their dogs to run off-leash in an enclosure. Off-leash dog membership is currently limited to 500 dogs. Use of this site tends to reduce demand for off-leash dog use in the DFP area and beyond.

Santa Barbara County is currently considering allowing off-leash dog use at eight County Parks in Southern Santa Barbara County. Approval of off-leash dog use at one or several of these parks would reduce the demand for off-leash dog facilities in the City of Santa Barbara. Residents of the County would have more options and some of them would be likely to use the newly approved off-leash dog use parks in the County, thus reducing the use of City parks for this purpose. Alternative sites outside the City are not analyzed further because the City does not have the authority to approve an off-leash dog use facility outside City limits. The County may, however, approve these facilities on its own.

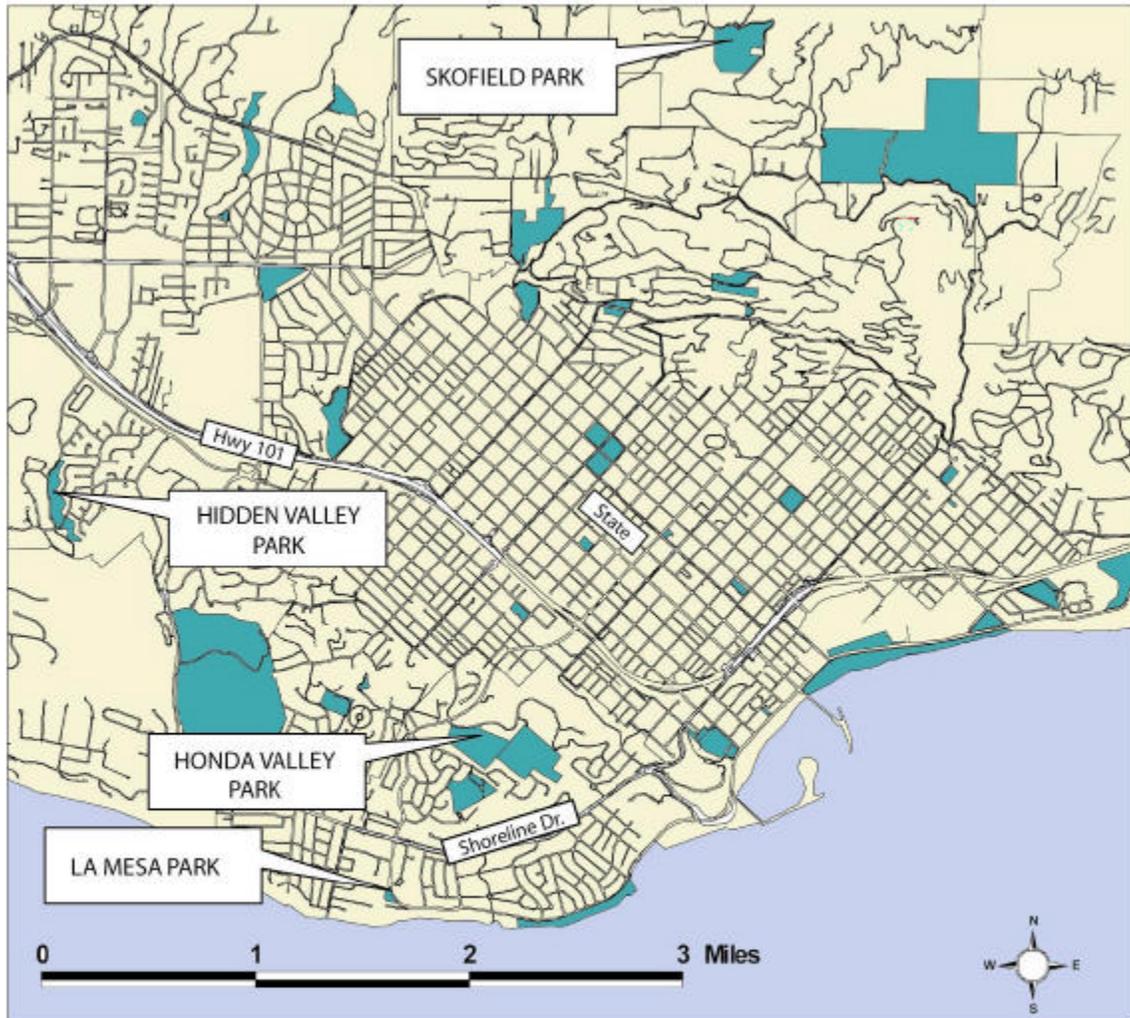
There are private or quasi-private properties that could accommodate off-leash dog use. Examples include Santa Barbara Junior High School, Santa Barbara High School, and Earl Warren Show Grounds. The City does not own these properties, and is not able to authorize off-leash dog use at these locations. The Earl Warren Show Grounds does not have much in the way of open grassy areas that can accommodate off-leash dog use, and is outside City jurisdiction because it is located in Santa Barbara County and owned and operated by the State of California. Nevertheless, some of these locations do currently accommodate off-leash dog use and serve to reduce the number of off-leash dog users at City parks.

7.6 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND ANALYZED

Three alternative sites for off-leash dog use are already identified and considered in Section 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, since these are part of the proposed project. Section 4.0 provided a comparative analysis of the impacts of off-leash dog use at DFP, Hale Park and the Shoreline Beach Area, and additional discussion of the various combinations is provided above.

For purposes of this EIR, the following alternatives were identified for further analysis (See Figure 7.0-1):

- No Project
- Alternative Site -Honda Valley Park Off-leash dog use (48 Acres).
- Fenced off-leash dog use area/alternative sites (minimum three to four acres required) at Skofield Park (30 Acres), La Mesa Park (8 acres), and/or Hidden Valley Park (10 acres)



Source: City of Santa Barbara

Figure 7.0-1
City of Santa Barbara
Off Leash Dog Use
Alternate Site Location

Honda Valley Park

Honda Valley Park is on the north side of the Mesa. Carrillo Street provides access to the area via Miramonte Drive and Highland Drive. La Corinilla Drive also provides access to the area via Harbor Hills Lane. Access to the park from Highland Drive is provided at the end of a cul-de-sac, which leads to a wide dirt trail. The trail meanders through a series of meadows towards and along a drainage. A trail from a cul-de-sac on Harbor Hills Lane also accesses the area but is currently closed due to severe erosion that has occurred in the area. The dog park would consist of the area at the head of the trail on Highland Drive and from Harbor Hills Drive. The meadow areas and the trail itself would be used for off-leash dog use. Honda Valley Park is drained by Arroyo Honda Creek. No State and/or Federally-listed candidate plant species were identified on the site and none were known to occur during a survey of the site (Tierney, December 1999). However, at least 8 sensitive wildlife species are expected to use the native habitats at Honda Valley Park. Sensitive habitats at Honda Valley Park include oak forest, riparian adjacent to the creek, and pristine coastal sage scrub.

Skofield Park

Skofield Park is located in the northeastern portion of the City along Los Canoas Road. The area is relatively remote in relation to the City core, and is accessed by a narrow, winding and sometimes steep road that generally does not have a shoulder or area to park on the street except in the area of Rattlesnake Canyon. Much of the site is steep and heavily vegetated with little open area that is grassy except for the parking overflow area near the entrance and the group camp area. At the entrance to this park is a parking lot with 16 spaces including one handicapped space. This alternative would include a fenced area on the grassy overflow parking area near the park entrance. This area would be less than 3 acres and does not have much expansion potential to due to the park configuration, since Los Canoas Road and the parking lot/entryway enclose the area.

La Mesa Park

La Mesa Park is a seven-acre site, located on the west side of Miags Road on the Mesa. It contains 23 improved parking spaces, including one handicapped space. There is a grassy area that could be expanded into a memorial grove of trees, and an area where Eucalyptus trees and associated litter are located to achieve approximately 3 acres of fenced off-leash dog area. Lighthouse Creek drains La Mesa Park at the bottom of the slope at the park. An improved children's playground is located within a portion of the grassy area. The fenced area at La Mesa Park would encompass the existing grassy area, and would be expanded into the memorial grove of trees and the area of the Eucalyptus trees, but not where the site becomes steep towards the creek.

Hidden Valley Park

Hidden Valley Park is located astride Arroyo Burro Creek, and is accessed from Calle De

Los Amigos, south of Highway 101, off Modoc Road. Much of the site is steep and heavily vegetated. A relatively flat grassy area of less than one acre is located at the south end of the park, north of Calle De Los Amigos. An improved children's playground is located prominently in the grassy area. Substantial erosion has threatened this park, and studies to identify appropriate improvements and their potential ramifications have been conducted (Science Applications International Corporation, 2000). High public use of this site has been documented and includes use by dogs. Existing vegetation consists of a mixture of local and introduced species. No tidewater gobies, steelhead, or red-legged frogs were found in Arroyo Burro Creek in Hidden Valley Park (Science Applications International Corporation, 2000). The fenced off-leash dog area in this alternative would be located in the relatively flat grassy area.

7.7 ALTERNATIVES COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

A listing of the DFP, Shoreline Beach Area and Hale Park off-leash dog use impacts are provided below in Table 7.0-1 for purposes of comparison. Table 7.0-1 also identifies the comparative impacts of the alternatives. References to Class I, II and III are explained in the introduction to Section 4.0.

TABLE 7.0-1: Alternatives Comparison

Alternative	Environmental Issue Area/Level of Impact				
<i>Alternative Considered</i>	<i>Air Quality – The project/alternative would introduce substantial feces odor related nuisance</i>	<i>Biology - The project/alternative would destroy sensitive plant and animals and their habitat</i>	<i>Safety - The project/alternative would lead to increased accidents and dog related aggression incidents</i>	<i>Transportation - The project/alternative would have insufficient parking and roadway capacity</i>	<i>Water Quality - The project/alternative would decrease water quality</i>
Off-leash DFP	Class II	Class II	Class II	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Class II
Off-leash Hale Park	Class II	Class II	Class II	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Class II
Off-leash Shoreline Beach Area	Class II	Class II	Class I	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Class II

Alternative	Environmental Issue Area/Level of Impact				
<i>Alternative Considered</i>	<i>Air Quality – The project/alternative would introduce substantial feces odor related nuisance</i>	<i>Biology - The project/alternative would destroy sensitive plant and animals and their habitat</i>	<i>Safety - The project/alternative would lead to increased accidents and dog related aggression incidents</i>	<i>Transportation - The project/alternative would have insufficient parking and roadway capacity</i>	<i>Water Quality - The project/alternative would decrease water quality</i>
On-leash DFP	Class III	Class III	Class III	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Class III
On-leash Hale Park	Class III	Class III	Class III	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Class III
On-Leash SBA	Class III	Class III	Class III	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Class III
Fenced or separated off-leash dog area at DFP	Class II	Class III	Class II	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Class II
No Project	No new impacts. Feces and urine would continue to be a nuisance, mainly at DFP	No new impacts. Biological resources would not be afforded the protection proposed in mitigation measures for the project alternatives	No new impacts, but accidents and aggression would continue at the existing rate	No new traffic or parking issues would be raised	No new impacts. Dogs would continue to deposit feces in water courses, reducing water quality

Alternative	Environmental Issue Area/Level of Impact				
<i>Alternative Considered</i>	<i>Air Quality – The project/alternative would introduce substantial feces odor related nuisance</i>	<i>Biology - The project/alternative would destroy sensitive plant and animals and their habitat</i>	<i>Safety - The project/alternative would lead to increased accidents and dog related aggression incidents</i>	<i>Transportation - The project/alternative would have insufficient parking and roadway capacity</i>	<i>Water Quality - The project/alternative would decrease water quality</i>
Off-leash Honda Valley	Significant impacts could occur as a result of greater dog feces deposits, which can be removed, and existing laws could be enforced to reduce this impact	Significant impacts could occur as a result of vegetation removal to expand the area where a fenced off-leash dog area would be of sufficient size. Mitigation could include revegetation at another location	Significant impacts could occur due to the close proximity and insufficient spatial separation between off-leash dogs and children playing, as well as other users	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Significant impacts. Off-leash dogs could deposit feces directly into Arroyo Honda Creek. Provision of a fenced area and enforcement of feces pick-up requirements could reduce this impact.
Fenced area Skofield Park	Significant impacts could occur as a result of greater dog feces deposits, which can more easily be removed due to off-leash dogs being confined in fenced area, and existing laws could be enforced to reduce the impact	If no expansion of the grassy parking overflow area would occur, then biological impacts would be less than significant since the area contains little native vegetation and no sensitive species are anticipated in the subject portion of the site	Public safety impacts would be less than significant because the fenced area would separate the dog-use area from other non-dog users	Too speculative to analyze reliably. Project would be in a relatively remote portion of the City. Loss of overflow parking area could present a problem for existing users.	Less than significant. Sufficient separation and intervening vegetation between the off-leash fenced area and Las Canoas Creek to reduce contamination of the water, and feces can be removed from a relatively small defined area

Alternative	Environmental Issue Area/Level of Impact				
<i>Alternative Considered</i>	<i>Air Quality – The project/alternative would introduce substantial feces odor related nuisance</i>	<i>Biology - The project/alternative would destroy sensitive plant and animals and their habitat</i>	<i>Safety - The project/alternative would lead to increased accidents and dog related aggression incidents</i>	<i>Transportation - The project/alternative would have insufficient parking and roadway capacity</i>	<i>Water Quality - The project/alternative would decrease water quality</i>
Fenced area at La Mesa Park	Significant impacts could occur as a result of greater dog feces deposits, which can more easily be removed due to off-leash dogs being confined in fenced area and existing laws could be enforced to reduce the impact	An area where immature trees have been planted and an area where mature Eucalyptus trees exist would be used for a fenced dog park area resulting in less than significant biological impacts	Public safety impacts would be less than significant because the fenced area would separate the dog-use area from other non dog users, but impacts on recreation would be significant because the children’s playground would be in the middle of the off-leash dog area, and would be removed	Too speculative to analyze reliably	A fenced dog park would be more easily maintained, and the distance to the creek would provide filtering and uptake of nutrients in the runoff, so the impact would be less than significant
Fenced Area at Hidden Valley Park	Significant impacts could occur as a result of greater dog feces deposits, which can more easily be removed due to off-leash dogs being confined in fenced area and existing laws could be enforced to reduce the impact	Expansion of the existing grassy area would result in significant impacts related to habitat removal	Public safety impacts would be less than significant because the fenced area would separate the dog-use area from other non dog users	Too speculative to analyze reliably	Significant impacts on water quality due to close proximity of creek and off-leash dog use, but mitigated to a less than significant level through feces pick-up regulations and enforcement.

7.8 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

Generally, the No Project Alternative would result in the least impact of all the projects, because no changes would occur under this alternative. However, the biological and water resources at the SBA, Hale Park, and the DFP would not be afforded the protections provided as a part of the project or recommended or required in the mitigation measures proposed in Section 4.0 of this EIR. Also, with regard to nuisance odor, there would not be a high level of removal of feces left on the ground. The No-Project alternative would meet basic project objectives of providing off-leash dog use recreation opportunities, at the DFP and a small portion of the SBA, as currently exists. Authorizing off-leash dog use at the DFP would be similar to the No Project Alternative, except that proposed mitigation measures would not be adopted with the No-Project Alternative, since the status quo would prevail at DFP where off-leash dog use is already authorized. Where the No-Project Alternative is selected as environmentally superior, CEQA requires identification of another environmentally superior project alternative.

Selecting an environmentally superior alternative is especially difficult in this case because the greater the number of sites that off-leash dog use is allowed, the more that off-leash dog related impacts are distributed over many locations and, in so doing, minimizes project impacts at any single site. If off-leash dog use is authorized at a single location only, then off-leash dog use on a portion of the DFP would be the environmentally superior alternative. Designation of additional sites that could accommodate off-leash dog use would distribute dog-related use and other impacts, and therefore lessen impacts at any given site.

Overall, the environmentally superior alternative would authorize off-leash dog use at more than one site, and would incorporate mitigation proposed in the EIR to reduce impacts of the proposed alternatives. No alternative would reduce all environmental impacts to a less than significant level unless mitigation measures are used to address safety and water quality impacts. Therefore, the environmentally superior alternative would make the DFP and Hale Park available for off-leash dog use. The environmentally superior alternative would authorize off-leash dog use at the DFP in a spatially separated area delineated with signs on the mesa, or in a 3 to 5 acre fenced area on the mesa. The preferred alternative would include a 3 to 5 acre fenced off-leash dog park at Hale Park. These measures would address public safety concerns at Hale Park and the DFP. Again, the issue of enforcement of regulations would be central to the amount of impact that would occur due to unauthorized use. Fenced La Mesa and fenced Skofield parks are similar to Hale Park with regard to environmental impacts. However, fenced La Mesa Park would result in significant impacts to recreation. Skofield Park does not have at least 3 acres that could feasibly be designated as an off-leash dog area.