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Steve Nissen
ACTING DIRECTOR

Notice of Preparation

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DEC 15 2000

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING DIVISION

December 7, 2000

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Off-Leash Dog Park Location Study
SCH# 2000121014

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Off-Leash Dog Park Location Study draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

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

Please direct your comments to:

Janice M. Hubbell
City of Santa Barbara
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

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

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

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Project Analyst, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2000121014
Project Title Off-Leash Dog Park Location Study
Lead Agency Santa Barbara, City of

Type NOP Notice of Preparation
Description A proposal by the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department to consider allowing dogs off-leash in up to three different locations around the City. Based on the review of these locations, the City may select none, one, two or all three locations to allow dogs off-leash. Neither Hale Park nor the beach area includes any specific proposals related to time limitations or use of the facilities by owners and their off-leash dogs.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Janice M. Hubbell
Agency City of Santa Barbara
Phone 805-564-5470 **Fax**
email
Address 630 Garden Street
City Santa Barbara **State** CA **Zip** 93102-1990

Project Location

County Santa Barbara
City Santa Barbara
Region
Cross Streets
Parcel No. Douglas Family Preserve: 047-140-001, 002, 003, and 005; Shoreline Beach: The area below high ti
Township **Range** **Section** **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways 225, U.S. 101
Airports none
Railways UPRR
Waterways Arroyo Burro Creek
Schools Monroe Elementary School
Land Use Douglas Family Preserve: Land Use- Park/Open Space; General Plan-residential, 3 and 5 units/acre, proposed park, open space, creek/buffer, vista, bikeway; zoning: Park and recreation and Coastal overlay zones; P-R, S-D-3
Beach Area: Land Use - beach; General Plan - beach; Zoning -P-R, S-D-3; E-1, PUD, S-D-3; E-3, S-D-3
Hale Park: Land Use-park/open space; General Plan - open space; proposed park; Zoning - Single Residential, A-2 Zone

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Coastal Zone; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; California Coastal Commission; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission; Caltrans, District 5; California Highway Patrol; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 3

Date Received 12/06/2000 **Start of Review** 12/06/2000 **End of Review** 01/04/2001

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
Community Development Department
Planning Division

Revised Initial Study/Environmental Checklist Mst2000-00699
Project Title: Off-Leash Dog Park Locations Study

This Initial Study has been completed for the project described below because the project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and was determined not to be exempt from the requirement for the preparation of an environmental document. The information, analysis and conclusions contained in this Initial Study are the basis for deciding whether a Negative Declaration (ND) is to be prepared or if preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to further analyze impacts. Additionally, if preparation of an EIR is required, the Initial Study is used to focus the EIR on the effects determined to be potentially significant.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (See Vicinity Map, Exhibit 1)

The City is considering allowing dogs off-leash in up to three different locations around the City. The three locations were chosen based on the criteria that the entire selected park should be able to accommodate off-leash dog use. These locations are the Douglas Family Preserve (Mesa-top), the beach below the bluffs between the Shoreline Park stairs and ~~Arroyo Burro Creek~~the westerly City limits, and Hale Park (between Eucalyptus Hill Road and Camino Viejo along the northeasterly City limits). Based on the review of these locations, the City may select none, one, two or all three locations to allow dogs off-leash. ~~Neither Hale Park nor the beach area includes any specific proposals related to time limitations or use of the facilities by owners and their off-leash dogs.~~

Douglas Family Preserve (DFP):

~~Several proposals are under consideration for allowing dogs off-leash at the mesa-top portion of the DFP. The initial recommendations from the various reviewers are outlined below, and are each reviewed for environmental impacts in this document.~~

~~DFP Management Plan: Dogs would be on-leash between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM, seven days a week. The remaining hours, early morning and late afternoon, dogs would be allowed off-leash. Dogs would be prohibited at all times from the identified sensitive areas, which include the riparian/estuarine, oak woodland and coastal bluff scrub management units. Dogs would be allowed on-leash on the oak woodland trail.~~

~~DFP Advisory Committee: Prohibit dogs from the Preserve two days a week — Sunday and Wednesday. Dogs would be prohibited at all times from the sensitive areas identified above (except the oak woodland trail).~~

~~Parks and Recreation Department Staff: Dogs remain on-leash at all times on the Preserve, except for an off-leash fenced area on the Mesa top, consisting of three to five acres. Dogs would be prohibited at all times from the sensitive areas identified above (except the sensitive areas identified above).~~

~~Parks and Recreation Commission: The Commission supported the Parks and Recreation staff proposal, as long as other sites are evaluated for off-leash dog use and the fence is unobtrusive.~~

~~The City Council directed staff to study the following alternative scenarios for off-leash dog use at each of the three parks. They are:~~

- A. Dogs off-leash all the time.
- B. Dogs on-leash all the time.
- C. Dogs on-leash every day from 10 AM to 3 PM, seven days a week and otherwise off-leash.
- D. Dogs prohibited on the Preserve two days a week, including one weekend day; dogs would be allowed off-leash at all other times.
- City Council: While Council has not made a final decision, Council requested that, at a minimum, the Plan provide: (1) opportunities for dog-averse people to use the site comfortably; (2) that dogs on site shall be on-leash two days per week, including one weekend day, and (3) that dogs would be allowed on site at all times. Dogs (and humans) would be prohibited at all times from the sensitive areas identified above (except the oak woodland trail). However, Council directed that the full range of off-leash alternatives such as dogs off-leash at all times, dogs off-leash at particular times, days, etc., and dogs on-leash at all times should be considered in a comparative alternatives analysis.

~~comparative alternatives analysis.~~

Hale Park:

~~All of the options discussed above for the DFP would be considered for Hale Park, except for the creation of a fenced off-leash dog area. The fenced area would not be considered due to the slope of the property.~~

Beach Between Shoreline Park Stairs and Arroyo Burro Creek:

- ~~Because of this area's relative inaccessibility, only the all-on-leash or all-off-leash options would be considered. This is also partially due to the greater enforcement challenges presented by this location. Dogs allowed off-leash on odd days of the month; otherwise they would be required to be on-leash.~~

APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER NAME AND ADDRESS

Allyson Biskner, Associate Parks Planner
 Agent for the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Dept.
 630 Laguna St.
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION (See Vicinity Map, Exhibit 1)

Alternative Off-leash Dog Park Alternative Locations:

Douglas Family Preserve – 2551 Medcliff Road
 Hale Park – Between Eucalyptus Hill Road and Camino Viejo
 Beach from Shoreline Park Stairs to Arroyo Burro Beach

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Douglas Family Preserve: This nearly 70-acre site is bordered on the north and west sides by a steep slope vegetated with southern oak woodland and on the south by a coastal bluff vegetated with coastal scrub. Arroyo Burro Creek is along the west and part of the north sides at the base of the bluff. Between the bluff and Cliff Drive on the northerly side there is an unnamed tributary of Arroyo Burro Creek, creating a small riparian area intermixed with southern oak woodland. To the east of the property is the Mesa neighborhood with single-family homes on lots that are generally 7,500 square feet in area. Borton Drive, Mesa School Lane and Medcliff Drive all provide entry to the property from the west. A narrow roadway that remains from the days

of the property's use as a nursery leads up the northerly bluff from the intersection of Cliff Drive and Las Positas Road to the mesa portion of the site. This road is used by pedestrians and, to a lesser extent, bicyclists to access the site. The mesa top portion of the site is relatively flat with a number of existing dirt and/or paved paths. The mesa top is composed of a mixture of Coastal Sage Scrub, Annual Grasslands and a variety of exotic vegetation. The mesa includes a variety of significant trees, including coastal live oaks, Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and some fruit trees. A small narrow parcel (1.46 ac.) along Cliff Drive, while owned by the City, is actually in unincorporated Santa Barbara County jurisdiction. Annexation of this parcel to the City has been initiated as part of the Elings Park (former Jesuit property) annexation. The County is a responsible agency.

Hale Park: This 13-acre site is in the Eucalyptus Hill Neighborhood. It is bordered on the northwest by Eucalyptus Hill Road and on the southeast by Camino Viejo. The site is near the campus of Brooks Institute. It is generally surrounded by residential lots ranging from 10,000 square feet to three acres in size, with occasional lots that are even larger. The property is nearly flat at Camino Viejo, where the mouth of a small valley opens up. This area is has an open grove of eucalyptus. The valley rises to the west and northwest. The slopes on the southerly side of the property are covered with coast live oak, with more oaks along a small stream that borders the property on the northeast and a small tributary that joins the stream near the upper end of the property. The steepest part of the slope rises up to Eucalyptus Hill Road and is open grassland with occasional shrubs. There are a couple of informal parking spaces along Camino Viejo. The Parks and Recreation Department has installed one "mutt mitt" station (a dispenser for plastic mitts that are used to pick up dog feces for deposit in trash cans) in this area as well. A trail wanders through the eucalyptus grove and then northwest up the hill parallel to the stream, but about 50 to 75 feet from its banks. The path branches near the upper end of the property, one trail crossing the tributary to go up the open slope to a wall along Eucalyptus Hill Road and the second bending southwest around the hill. The second trail also ends at Eucalyptus Hill Road.

Beach Between Shoreline Park Stairs and ~~Arroyo Burro Creek~~ Westerly City Limits: This approximately 164,000 foot long beach area is at the base of the mesa bluffs and consists mostly of sandy beach, interrupted occasionally by tidepools and exposed rocks. Some of this area is inaccessible at high tide. Access to the beach exists at ~~four~~ five points: Shoreline Park Stairs, Thousand Steps, Mesa Lane Stairs, ~~and~~ Arroyo Burro Beach County Park, and from the west along the beach via Hope Ranch or More Mesa. No mutt mitt stations exist on the beach or at the various access points (except for one station at Arroyo Burro Beach County Park), nor are any proposed.

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

Douglas Family Preserve

Assessor's Parcel Number:	047-140-001, 002, 003 and 005	General Plan Designation:	Residential, 3 and 5 units/acre; Proposed Park; Open Space (north facing bluff and creek); Creek/Buffer (Arroyo Burro Creek); Vista (eastern point); Bikeway
Zoning:	Park and Recreation and Coastal Overlay Zones; P-R, S-D-3	Parcel Size:	69.81ac
Existing Land Use:	Open Space/Park	Proposed Land Use:	Open Space/Park
Slope:	By Parcels: 47-140-01 – 4%; -02 –7%; -03 – 47%; -05 – 24%; By entire property: 24%		
Surrounding Land Uses:			
North:	Cliff Drive, Elings Park		
South:	Ocean		
East:	Arroyo Burro Beach County Park		
West:	Single Family Residential		

BEACH AREA

<p>Assessor's Parcel Number:</p> <p>The area below high tide line, adjacent to the following parcels: 041-330-12, -14, -24, -25, -36, -37, -39; 041-350-01, -02, -03, -04, -07, -10, -14, -15, -16, -17, -18, -24; 041-362-04, -05, -06, -15, -16; 045-100-22, -23, -24, -25, -27, -47, -65, -66, -67, -68, -69, -78, -83, -85, -86; 045-110-12; 045-173-16, -18, -22, -25, -28, -31, -32, -33, -35, -37, -38, -39, -40, -41, -42; 045-182-02, -04, -06, -08, -12, -14; 045-185-03, -05, -06, -11, -18; and the beach portions of the following parcels above and below high tide line: 047-140-03 and 045-240-04; 047-082-003, -004, -005, -006, -007, -009, -012, -014, -015, -016, -018, -020, -021, -022, -023, -026, -027, -028, -029, and -031; 047-092-001, -003, -011, -012, -013, -014, -016, and -018.</p>	<p>General Plan Designation: Beach</p>
<p>Zoning: P-R, S-D-3 (below Shoreline and La Mesa Parks and at Arroyo Burro Beach County Park); E-1, PUD, S-D-3 (below Douglas Family Preserve); E-3, S-D-3 (below remaining residential area east of Arroyo Burro Beach County Park) and A-1, S-D-3 (below residential areas west of Arroyo Burro Beach County Park)</p>	<p>Size: Approximately 12,300 linear feet</p>
<p>Existing Land Use: Beach</p>	<p>Proposed Land Use: Beach</p>
<p>Slope: Varies, generally 5% or less</p>	
<p>Surrounding Land Uses:</p>	
<p>North: Single Family Residential and park</p>	
<p>South: Ocean</p>	
<p>East: Beach</p>	
<p>West: Arroyo Burro County Beach Park Beach (in the County)</p>	

HALE PARK

Assessor's Parcel Number:	015-050-002	General Plan Designation:	Open Space; Proposed Park
Zoning:	Single Residential, A-2 Zone	Parcel Size:	13.04 ac.
Existing Land Use:	Open Space/Park	Proposed Land Use:	Open Space/Park
Slope:	19%		
Surrounding Land Uses:			
North:	Single Family Residential, City Limits		
South:	Single Family Residential		
East:	Camino Viejo, Brooks Institute		
West:	Eucalyptus Hill Road; Single Family Residential		

PLANS AND POLICY DISCUSSION

The Douglas Family Preserve has General Plan and Local Coastal Plan designations of Residential, 3 and 5 units per acre, Open Space (north facing bluff and the creek area), Creek/Buffer (Arroyo Burro Creek), Vista and Bikeway. The site is zoned P-R, S-D-3, Park and Recreation and Coastal Overlay Zones. The site is in the Coastal Commission's appealable jurisdiction. The required discretionary action is approval of an ordinance amendment to allow off-leash dog use.

The beach between Shoreline Park and ~~Arroyo Burro Beach~~[the westerly City limits](#) County Park has a General Plan and Local Coastal Plan designation of Beach and is in a variety of zones, depending on the use of property to the mean high tide line. The beach is in the Coastal Commission's permanent jurisdiction. The required discretionary action is approval of an ordinance amendment to allow off-leash dog use.

Hale Park has a General Plan designation of Open Space and Proposed Park. The park is zoned A-2, Single Residential Zone. The required discretionary action is approval of an ordinance amendment to allow off-leash dog use.

The policies from the City General Plan and Local Coastal Plan, and the California Coastal Act that may be applicable to off-leash dog use are included in Exhibit 2. Policies related to protection of biological resources, and water quality, as well as policies intended to protect the public from bluff erosion, raise questions about the proposal's consistency or inconsistency related to these policies. These will be evaluated further based on impact analysis included in the EIR.

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)

A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program will be prepared for the subject project in compliance with Public Resources Code §21081.6, as part of the EIR. The MMRP will include mitigation measures from both the Initial Study and the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The following checklist contains questions concerning potential changes to the environment that may result if this project is implemented. If no impact would occur, **NO** should be checked. If the project might result in an impact, check **YES** indicating the potential level of significance as follows:

Known Significant: Known significant environmental impacts. Further review needed to determine if there are feasible mitigation measures and/or alternatives to reduce the impact.

Potentially Significant: Unknown, potentially significant impacts, which need further review to determine significance level.

Significant, avoidable: Potentially significant impacts that can be mitigated to less than significant levels.

Less Than Significant: Impacts that are not considered significant.

1. AESTHETICS. Could the project:	NO	YES
		Level of Significance
a) Affect a public scenic vista or designated scenic highway or highway/roadway eligible for designation as a scenic highway? a) <u>Affect a public scenic vista or designated scenic highway or highway/roadway eligible for designation as a scenic highway?</u>	✓	<u>Potentially Significant</u>
b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect in that it is inconsistent with Architectural Board of Review or Historic Landmarks Guidelines or guidelines/criteria adopted as part of the Local Coastal Program?		<u>Less Than Significant</u>
b) <u>Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect in that it is inconsistent with Architectural Board of Review or Historic Landmarks Guidelines or guidelines/criteria adopted as part of the Local Coastal Program?</u>		<u>Significant avoidable</u>
c) Create light or glare?	✓	

Discussion:

Douglas Family Preserve:

Existing Setting. The DFP property, formerly known as the “Wilcox Property,” is recognized by the community and in the policies of the General Plan and Local Coastal Plan (LCP) as an important visual resource. It forms a prominent headland that is visible along the shore and from the ocean. Its oak woodland is very visible as people travel south through Las Positas Valley, as well as from the foothills beyond. The oak

woodland and creek areas have been designated as Open Space in the General Plan. A vista point has been designated under the LCP at the westerly end of the mesa. The property is visually pleasing, with its windrows of Monterey Pine and Monterey Cypress, groves of Coast Live Oak and eucalyptus, open meadow areas and views. The “windrow trees” that were originally planted to provide windbreaks for the nursery have become important skyline trees that are visible throughout the neighborhood and the surrounding area, including from the ocean and from Las Positas Valley. Trails wander through the various areas of the mesa and through the oak woodland to Cliff Drive, offering different views around every corner. These views range from intimate views to large sweeping views of the ocean, Campanil Hills and/or Las Positas Valley.

1.a ~~The Parks and Recreation Department recommendation for allowing off-leash dogs on the Preserve would call for fencing an area of the mesa. Within the fenced area, dogs would be allowed off-leash. Outside of this area, dogs would be required to be on-leash. The fenced area would be about three to five acres in size and would be inside the middle loop trail, abutting the southern side of the loop (see Exhibit 3). The perimeter fencing would be rustic in design and materials. The vegetation in the area under consideration is mostly coastal sage with patches of ornamental vegetation on the edges and oak woodland in the middle. It is likely that there would be a loss of natural character due to the construction of the fence. Major public views to and from the preserve would not be disrupted. However, views within the preserve would be affected, resulting in an unknown, but **potentially significant** public view impact. Major public views to, from within the DFP, Hale Park and Shoreline Beach would not be disrupted because no new improvements or changes in vegetation would be required. No visual impacts on views would be anticipated.~~

1.b As discussed under Cultural Resources, it will be necessary to install ~~a fence dense, thorny, native vegetation~~ along the lower part of the oak grove trail in order to minimize access and damage to an archaeological site that is located between the base of the bluffs and Arroyo Burro Creek. ~~A fence required to create a fenced area for off-leash dogs has the potential to create visual impact. This fence could result in adverse effects on aesthetics and the natural appearance of the area. In order to assure that this area remains as natural and as aesthetically pleasing as possible, consistent with City design guidelines, it is recommended that the fence be reviewed by the Architectural Board of Review and be designed to be as unobtrusive and natural appearing as feasible (see recommended mitigation measure Aes-3 below). This same provision would also apply to a fenced off-leash dog area if that is the alternative selected for dog use.~~ Other off-leash dog alternatives do not include significant structural components and would have no adverse visual impacts.

Dogs on the property leave fecal ~~and urine~~ deposits, which are odorous. This may result in a potential source of localized short-term odor nuisances, an aesthetic problem. This issue is discussed in more detail under Air Quality.

1.c. The project will not create light or glare because no lighting is proposed as part of this project.

Beach from Shoreline to Arroyo Burro:

This beach area is below the Mesa bluffs. Because of high tides that limit full-time access to much of the area and to the need to either walk in from the end or use stairs to reach the beach, it is not as heavily used as other beach areas in Santa Barbara. However, it provides dramatic views to and along the ocean, as well as the sound of the surf and the clamor of shorebirds and other birds that inhabit this beach area.

1.a It is not expected that off-leash dog activity would have a negative effect on a public scenic vista at the beach. Currently, the beach has on-site dog use; however, there is a mixture of on-leash and off-leash

activity. The difference between being on-leash or off-leash would not substantially change the scenic character of the site.

- 1.b No new structures are proposed at the beach. Therefore, no inconsistencies with City design guidelines are expected to occur.

Dogs on the property leave fecal [and urine](#) deposits, which are odorous. This may result in a potential source of localized short-term odor nuisances, an aesthetic problem. This issue is discussed in more detail under Air Quality.

- 1.c The project will not create light or glare because no lighting is proposed as part of this project.

Hale Park:

Hale Park is an inland environment, unlike the DFP or the beach. The lower part, near Camino Viejo, consists of an open grove of eucalyptus trees. The upper part, along Eucalyptus Hill Road, is open grassland. There are sweeping views to the ocean from this upper part of Hale Park. There is also a small drainage that crosses the site, with riparian oak woodland in a corridor along the watercourse. Finally, along the north-facing slope on the southerly side of the park, there is an oak woodland.

- 1.a It is not expected that off-leash dog activity would have a negative effect on a public scenic vista at Hale Park. Currently, the park has on-site dog use; however, there is a mixture of on-leash and off-leash activity. The difference between being on-leash or off-leash will not make any change in the scenic character of the site.

- 1.b No new structures are proposed at Hale Park. Therefore, no inconsistencies with City design guidelines are expected to occur.

Dogs on the property leave fecal deposits, which are odorous. This may result in a potential source of localized short-term odor nuisances, an aesthetic problem. This issue is discussed in more detail under Air Quality.

- 1.c The project will not create light or glare because no lighting is proposed as part of this project.

Recommended Mitigation Measures:

~~Aes-1 Douglas Family Preserve: The fence required to be installed at the base of the oak grove trail shall be subject to review and approval by the Architectural Board of Review. It shall be designed to be as unobtrusive and natural appearing as possible, including but not limited to the use of vegetation to disguise its appearance. This same provision shall apply to the fenced off-leash dog area if that is the alternative selected for off-leash dog use.~~

Mitigation measures will be determined in an EIR.

Residual Impact: For Shoreline - Arroyo Burro Beach and Hale Park, there will be no significant aesthetic impacts. Impacts resulting from the fenced off-leash dog area alternative at the Preserve would be determined as part of an EIR.

2. AIR QUALITY. Could the project:	NO	YES
		Level of Significance
a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	✓	
b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?	✓	
e) Create objectionable odors?	✓	
c) Create objectionable odors?		<u>Less than significant</u>
Is the project consistent with the County of Santa Barbara Air Quality Attainment Plan? Yes		

Discussion:

2a. The Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970 established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six "criteria pollutants." These include photochemical ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and lead. The California Clean Air Act of 1977 created stricter California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for the state. Additionally, the California Air Resources Board has designated areas of the state that are in attainment or nonattainment of the CAAQS. An area is in nonattainment for a pollutant if the applicable CAAQS for that pollutant has been exceeded more than once in three years.

For environmental review purposes, the City of Santa Barbara utilizes CAAQS, as these standards are more stringent than the NAAQS. Presently, the County of Santa Barbara is in nonattainment with CAAQS for ozone (O₃) and particulate matter (PM₁₀). There are also heavily congested intersections within the City that may approach the California 1-hour standard of 20 parts per million for carbon monoxide (CO) during peak traffic hours.

The City of Santa Barbara uses the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) thresholds of significance for air quality impacts. The APCD has determined that a proposed project will not have significant air quality impact on the environment, if operation of the project will:

- emit (from all project sources, both stationary and mobile) less than 240 pounds per day for ROC and NO_x (ozone is formed in the atmosphere through a series of photochemical reactions involving oxides of nitrogen [NO_x] and reactive organic compounds [ROC], referred to as ozone precursors, and sunlight occurring over a period of several hours), 80 pounds per day for PM₁₀ (sources of PM₁₀ include mineral quarries, grading, demolition, agricultural tilling, road dust, and vehicle exhaust). For CO, the significance threshold may be triggered if the project contributes more than 800 peak hour trips to an individual intersection; and
- emit less than 25 pounds per day of ROC or NO_x from motor vehicle trips only; and
- not cause or contribute to a violation of any California or National Ambient Air Quality Standard (except ozone); and

- not exceed the APCD health risks, public notification thresholds adopted by the APCD Board; and
- be consistent with the adopted federal and state air quality plans for Santa Barbara.

Short-Term (Construction) Impacts: The project does not involve short-term grading, construction or stationary source emissions.

Long-Term (Operational Emissions) Impacts: No significant long-term operational impacts are expected from maintenance activities generated from this proposal at any of the three locations. For the long-term maintenance of the DFP, the only traffic generation would be periodic maintenance, usually involving one vehicle per day to transport hand tools, remove trash, etc. Hale Park’s current maintenance schedule is periodic, usually once per week or as needed involving one vehicle. The Shoreline-Arroyo Burro Beach Area site maintenance only occurs as needed. Operational impacts of vehicles would most likely increase to the same level as the DFP – one vehicle per day to remove dog disposal containers and to restock mutt mitts stations.

As far as site use increases, it is expected that the only site that would have notable increased use would be Hale Park. Hale Park is not well known to most residents other than those who live in the immediate area. If it were advertised by the dog owner community as a site for off-leash dog walking, usage may rise substantially. The DFP is already in use for off-leash dog walking, as is the Shoreline-Arroyo Burro Beach Area. However, if increases in usage of these two sites and Hale Park do occur due to off-leash dog use, it is not expected to result in a significant air quality impact.

- 2.b. Sensitive receptors are defined as children, elderly, or ill people that can be more adversely affected by air quality problems. Types of land uses typically associated with sensitive receptors include schools, parks and open space, playgrounds, childcare centers, retirement homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, and clinics. Stationary sources are of concern to sensitive receptors.

Individuals that may be defined as sensitive receptors frequent the DFP, Hale Park and the Shoreline-Arroyo Burro Beach site. As stated above under 2.a., the proposed project does not contain any stationary sources, nor would it result in significant short or long-term vehicle emission impacts. Therefore, it is expected the project will not cause an increased exposure of sensitive receptors to pollutants.

- 2.c. The proposed project does not contain any features with the potential to emit odorous emissions from sources such as cooking equipment, combustion or evaporation of fuels, sewer systems, or solvents and surface coatings.

Dogs on the various properties leave fecal [and urine](#) deposits, which are odorous. This may result in a potential source of localized short-term odor nuisances. The Management Plan for the DFP includes installation of “mutt mitt” stations where dog owners are encouraged to use plastic mitts to scope up and properly dispose of fecal matter. Proposed DFP rules would require dog owners to pick up their dog’s feces and deposit them into a disposal container provided for on-site. This is the current policy as well as being identified in the DFP Plan. Violators would be cited. If dogs are on leash, it would be relatively easy for owners to locate and pick up such deposits. If dogs are off-leash, dogs may leave such deposits where it is more difficult for owners to retrieve. Finally, Policy DM-6 of the Management Plan would establish a regular schedule for emptying pet waste containers and would include a complaint log so that the collection schedule could be adjusted in response to complaints. Also, if there

are sufficient complaints about fecal deposits not being picked up by dog walkers, additional enforcement could be arranged.

For the Shoreline ~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach site, the proposal does not include installation of mutt mitt stations either on the beach or at the various access points. Such stations and trash receptacles should be included at each of the access points. Arroyo Burro Beach County Park does have a mutt mitt station. The other stations could be placed near the tops of the stairs.

For the Hale Park site, a mutt mitt station already exists at the Camino Viejo entrance and the trash receptacle is routinely emptied.

As fecal deposits dry, odors disappear and long-term significant odors are unlikely to result in an air quality impact.

[Project impacts would be less than significant. Comments received during the scoping process raised the issue of dog odors and this issue area will be discussed in an EIR.](#)

Consistency with the Clean Air Plan: Consistency with land use and population forecasts in local and regional plans, including the Clean Air Plan (CAP), is required under CEQA for all projects. Proposed projects subject to 1998 CAP consistency determinations include a wide range of activities such as commercial, industrial, residential, and transportation projects. By definition, consistency with the CAP means that direct and indirect emissions associated with the project are accounted for in the CAP's emissions growth assumptions and the project is consistent with policies adopted in the CAP. The CAP relies primarily on the land use and population projections provided by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments and Air Resources Board on-road emissions forecast as a basis for vehicle emission forecasting. The proposed project would not generate population growth in excess of the CAP growth assumptions or emission forecasts. Therefore, the project would be consistent with the CAP.

Recommended Mitigation Measure(s):

AQ-1 Dog owners shall be required to pick up their dog's feces and deposit into a disposal container provided for on-site. Violators at all sites shall be cited. Mutt mitt stations and trash receptacles shall be added at the tops of the staircases for the Shoreline ~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach ~~Site~~. [Site and at the entrances to parks where off-lease dog use is allowed.](#)

Residual Impact:

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would further minimize the adverse effects of noxious odors from dog waste.

3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.	NO	YES
Could the project result in impacts to:		Level of Significance
a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)?		Potentially significant
b) Locally designated historic, Landmark or specimen trees?	✓	
c) Natural communities (e.g. oak woodland, coastal habitat, etc.).		Potentially significant
d) Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian, and vernal pool)?		Potentially significant
e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors?		Potentially significant

Discussion:

Douglas Family Preserve - Existing Setting

The biological setting for the Douglas Family Preserve (DFP) is described in some detail here. A more complete discussion can be found in the [Management Plan-Biological Resources Technical Reports for each site appended to the Draft EIR.](#)

Habitats. The Douglas Family Preserve supports a variety of habitats, as discussed below.

Estuarine – Estuarine habitat extends from the mouth of Arroyo Burro Creek to the bridge across Cliff Drive. The estuary changes through the seasons based on whether the mouth of the creek is open to direct tidal influence or is closed, so that only minimal seepage from the ocean occurs. Estuaries occur where fresh water from streams mixes with water from the ocean. Large variations in salinity and water levels occur within the estuary due to the indirect influence of the tides and seasonal changes in freshwater runoff from Arroyo Burro Creek and its tributaries. Several fish species occur in this estuary, along with the birds that feed on them. In addition, various shorebirds are found in and around the estuary, feeding on the rich mix of vegetation commonly found in estuaries. Among other species, the tidewater goby, listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act, inhabits the Arroyo Burro Creek estuary. In addition, Arroyo Burro Creek, including its estuary, has been designated a Critical Habitat for the Steelhead trout, another species listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (see additional discussion of these species below).

Riparian Forest – This habitat is primarily located along the creek tributary that extends from Arroyo Burro Creek up the small valley between Cliff Drive and the oak woodland. Additional habitat is adjacent to the easterly side of Arroyo Burro Creek below the Cliff Drive bridge. This is a moist environment along the banks of creeks and streams. Riparian forests include a variety of plants and animals. Individual coast live oak trees, willow and bulrush are found at the DFP, along with a variety of amphibians and small mammals that adapt to more urban locations, including raccoons, opossums

and skunks. Because of the size of the site, there may be mule deer as well. Predators, such as coyote and gray fox, are also likely to be present. There is also a large variety of bird life associated with riparian forest habitats.

Willow Scrub – Willow scrub communities consist of scrubby, somewhat low growing thickets of various willow species. They occur in a variety of locations adjacent to flowing stream channels or seasonally flooded arroyos. They may also occur in depressions located close to ground water. They often qualify as wetland. At the DFP, they are found in small scattered patches in the eastern and southeastern portion of the mesa. It is likely that groundwater levels are high or that the soils are low in permeability. These isolated areas of willow scrub provide some cover and nesting opportunities for a variety of songbirds.

Coastal Bluff Scrub – Coastal bluff scrub is located on the ocean-facing bluff of the Preserve. This habitat is exposed to nearly constant coastal breezes. Most of the flora consists of shrubby and herbaceous vegetation. Numerous birds live on or forage in the coastal bluff, including various raptors. Various small mammals (mice and rabbits) and reptiles also live on the bluff.

Coastal Sage Scrub – Coastal sage scrub appears in scattered locations throughout the Preserve, especially in the eastern and southeastern part of the site, and consists primarily of shrubs and herbaceous plants. There is also a narrow strip of coastal sage scrub between the oak woodland and the riparian habitat at the base of the north-facing slope. This habitat forms a mosaic with other habitat types including annual grassland, oak woodland, willow scrub, windrows and ornamental vegetation. Unfortunately, much of this habitat on site also includes a high percentage of invasive exotic plants, such as fennel, mustard and European annual grasses. Although this habitat is somewhat degraded, it does support an abundance of small species that, in turn, provide food for several predator species, including gopher snakes, raccoons, gray fox and coyotes, as well as various raptors. The white-tailed kite, a protected and sensitive species, forages in coastal sage scrub, as well as nearby grasslands. There are also a large variety of resident and migratory song birds that use this habitat.

Annual Grassland – Like the willow scrub and coastal sage scrub, annual habitat is part of the mosaic of habitats that occur on the mesa. This habitat consists of both native and non-native grasses and other herbaceous plants and weeds. However, many locations also include ornamental plants that remain from the site's former use as a nursery. Raptors use grasslands for foraging and there are a variety of ground-nesting birds, such as meadowlarks. The variety of mammals and reptiles is similar to those found in coastal sage scrub.

Coast Live Oak Woodland – This habitat is found primarily on the north-facing slopes and the northern mesa area of the Preserve. The Coastal Commission and the City Local Coastal Plan consider this habitat to be an environmentally sensitive habitat. On the slopes, this habitat forms a nearly continuous canopy which opens up as the woodland spreads onto the mesa. The overstory of this habitat is dominated by coast live oak, but also includes a variety of shrubby and herbaceous plants. A substantial amount of non-native invasive plants also occur in the oak woodland, including nasturtium and German ivy. Both species, but most especially nasturtium, have a detrimental effect on the habitat due to aggressive growth and competition with native plants. The oak woodland supports a diversity of wildlife.

Windrows – There are several rows of trees on the Preserve, originally planted as part of the nursery to establish windbreaks to protect planted areas on the mesa. Where eucalyptus trees grow, primarily along the bluff and in the southeastern portion of the property, native plants are almost entirely absent

due to the acidity of the leaves. There are also windrows of Monterey pine and Monterey cypress, both native to California, but not to this area. All of these trees are frequently used for nesting and roosting by a variety of raptors (red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks, barn and great horned owls). The dense stands of eucalyptus are also used as roosting sites for overwintering monarch butterflies. Finally, fallen trees, snags and related woody debris provide cover and nesting opportunities for a number of smaller birds.

Ornamental and Invasive Exotics – These are plant species that are not native to this area. Many of them are ornamental species left from the property’s previous use as a nursery. Some plants have stayed in the areas where they were originally planted and have not spread elsewhere on the mesa. In some cases, they may contribute to the native habitats in which they are found. Others are highly invasive and have impacted the natural habitats because they have little food value and compete with the native vegetation. While these plants are intermixed with most of the habitats, they are particularly concentrated in clusters in the central portion of the mesa and near the southeasterly border. There is also a mix of oak woodland and ornamental plantings along the easterly border. Finally, there are a significant amount of giant reed (*arundo donax*) and several stands of pampas grass in the Arroyo Burro Creek drainage and that of its unnamed tributary.

Ruderal – Ruderal vegetation, or disturbed habitat, includes areas that have been significantly disturbed by agriculture, construction and other land clearing activities. Plant species commonly found in such areas include non-native wild mustards and radishes, sweet fennel (also non-native) and a variety of non-native grasses. Ruderal habitats have established themselves adjacent to trails and along Cliff Drive. They have intermixed with annual grassland and coastal sage scrub in these areas. Ruderal habitats provide very little habitat value. However, when intermixed with other habitats, they do provide cover and food for small mammals and birds.

Endangered, Threatened and Other Sensitive Species. Based on habitat types found at this site, there are several sensitive species that could be supported [by habitat](#) in the Preserve, as outlined in Table 2 of the Draft Management Plan. However, further review has shown that many of these species have not actually been observed in the Preserve. The table on the following page outlines those species which have been recorded in the Preserve or have designated Critical Habitats within the Preserve.

More detail on those species observed in the Preserve (or with designated critical habitat) is included below.

Plummer’s baccharis is considered a plant species of local concern and is listed on the California Native Plant Society’s List 4, which catalogs plants of limited distribution. It is a small evergreen shrub with inconspicuous yellowish flowers. Plummer’s baccharis is a local coastal endemic known to grow in coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, riparian and chaparral habitats. It is known to be located on the northernmost portion of the site, within the coast live oak habitat, within the fringe of the riparian corridor of the unnamed tributary, and alongside the existing trail from Cliff Drive to the mesa area beneath the oak woodland canopy. Because it is commonly found there, it may also be located elsewhere within the oak woodland habitat on the north slope. However, a survey for its presence has not been completed due to the steep slopes and heavy undergrowth. It is not found near the oak grove trail and would not be impacted by any proposed activities along the trail.

The Tidewater goby, a federally-listed endangered species of fish, is known to inhabit the estuarine habitat of the Arroyo Burro Creek. It is a small fish that is endemic to coastal lagoons in California, where water ranges from brackish to fresh.

The Steelhead trout, recently listed as federal endangered, and as a California species of special concern, historically used the Arroyo Burro Creek watershed. However, there are no records of its presence in Arroyo Burro Creek. All south coastal watersheds, including Arroyo Burro Creek, have been defined as critical habitat for steelhead, meaning that they are either suitable for steelhead or could be made suitable.

The Southwestern pond turtle, a California species of special concern, lives in riparian and estuarine habitats. Arroyo Burro Creek and the unnamed tributary could provide year-round habitat for the turtle. However, its presence has not been recorded within the preserve.

Special Status Plants and Animals with Potential to Occur in the Vicinity of the Douglas Family Preserve		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status
Plants		
<i>Baccharis plummerae, ssp. Plummerae</i>	Plummer's baccharis	CNPS List 4
Animals		
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch Butterfly	*
<i>Eucyclobius newberryi</i>	Tidewater goby	FE
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead – Southern California ESU	FE, CSC
<i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	Southwestern pond turtle	CSC
<i>Ictera virens</i>	Yellow-breasted chat (song bird)	CSC
<i>Elanus leucurus (nesting)</i>	White-tailed kite	*
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	CSC
<i>Accipter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned hawk	CSC
Status Codes: Plants: California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 4 = plants of limited distribution; a watch list	Wildlife: SE – State-listed endangered ST – State-listed threatened CSC – California Species of Special Concern FE – Federal-listed endangered FT – Federal-listed threatened SSC – Federal Species of Special Concern	* Species that are biologically rare, restricted in distribution, declining throughout their range, or closely associated with a habitat that is declining throughout California

Shoreline ~~Stairs-Arroyo Burro~~ Beach – Existing Setting

The Shoreline Stairs to ~~Arroyo Burro Beach~~ westerly City limits Beach area is a narrow sandy beach at the base of the Mesa bluffs east of Arroyo Burro Beach. This area also includes some exposed rocks and tidepools. West of Arroyo Burro Beach, the Beach, although at the base of the bluffs below Braemar Ranch, is generally wider than oit is to the east. IT is predominantly sandy to the City limits This area may be particularly important to evaluate as potential habitat for the Western snowy plover, recently listed as federally threatened. The Western snowy plover is a small, pale colored shorebird with dark patches on either side of the upper breast. The Pacific Coast population ranges from Washington to Mexico. One of many factors in the decline of the plover population has been disturbance by humans and their unleashed pets (Federal Register, 5/2/95, p. 11768). The plovers forage for small crustaceans and worms along the surf line and adjacent moist sand; they nest in the soft cups of sand higher up the beach in dry sand areas. Therefore, the nests and eggs are extremely susceptible to trampling. Several beach areas known to be used by plovers, such as “Surf” in North County, are fenced during their critical use time. The sandspit area of the harbor is used by Western snowy plovers for winter habitation and foraging from August 1 through March 15. The plover also forages and loafs on portions of East and West Beach. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated the sandspit and West and East beaches

above the mean low water line as critical habitat in December 1999. The Western snowy plover is not known to breed or nest in the City. It is reported that the plover may also use the beach area of the DFP, and it is possible that they might use other areas of Shoreline —~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach as well.

The City's MEA noted that two of the most abundant areas of tidepool resources are along portions of the DFP and along Shoreline Park. The MEA further states "Generally intertidal resources in the City's coastal zone exhibit less species diversity than other areas in the County which makes the City's resources particularly vulnerable to destruction. Tidepool resources are, however, protected from casual collection by the State Fish and Game Code.

Hale Park – Existing Setting

The natural plant communities existing on site include southern oak woodland, riparian, California annual grassland, and fragmented coastal sage scrub. These habitats are described under the DFP Existing Setting discussion above. The site also contains an open grove of eucalyptus. The stream contained in the riparian area appears to be a small tributary of Sycamore Creek that eventually reaches the Andree Clark Bird Refuge. The riparian/wetland area is perennial and currently is considered poorly functioning and low quality habitat.

No biological studies have been performed at this site; however, it is not anticipated that any other listed species, except the Plummer's baccharis (*Baccharis plummerae ssp plummerae*), will be found on the site. Information on Plummer's baccharis is included under the Existing Setting for the DFP, above.

It is also anticipated that several species of raptors use this site, but it would not be expected that any listed species would be found.

3a, c, d, e. In general, unrestricted off-leash dog activities could have **potentially significant** impacts to the riparian, estuarine, tidepool, beach, oak woodland and coastal sage scrub habitats, including sensitive species, and potential impacts to native fauna, as discussed in more detail below.

Off-leash dog activities such as running up and down on steep slopes, and small trails on the steep slopes created by dog or human activity may cause increased erosion hazard and sedimentation to water bodies existing on the sites. On sites with steep slopes, such as the DFP and Hale Park, increased erosion can accelerate slope failure processes by removing vegetation cover, which destabilizes steep slopes. Unrestricted activity can also inadvertently cause trampling of sensitive plant species, and dogs digging holes after rodents may increase erosion and cliff failure potential. Additionally, it is unknown if unrestricted activity by off-leash dogs may impact native fauna using the sites, including harassment, wildlife dispersal or migration corridors.

If excessive trampling and/or other damage occurs to existing native plant species and contributes to loss of vegetative cover, areas can become prone to further invasion of exotic plant species. There are two impacts that can occur due to this type of activity: 1) denuded bare soil is subject to erosion and therefore can contribute to increased sedimentation to riparian and estuarine areas; and 2) denuded bare soil is also susceptible to encroachment by invasive exotic species. Most invasive exotic species are prolific reseeder and populate aggressively in areas of bare soil, crowding out native species.

Sediment loading (generally caused by erosion processes) is a known cause of wetland degradation. Sedimentation causes the filling of wetlands; reduces the depth, size and general configuration of deep pools which are necessary to particular species (i.e. steelhead trout); and carries contaminants to the

water environment. Another negative impact to wetlands, caused by sedimentation, is increased water temperatures. As wetlands are filled, temperatures warm due to shallower depths. The tidewater goby and steelhead trout are especially sensitive to increased water temperatures. The goby's reproduction is dependent on coarse sand bottoms, and sedimentation can change the bed textures. Steelhead trout reproduction is dependent on deep pools, and sedimentation causes reduction of pool depths.

It is unknown if fecal matter and urine left by dogs could affect some plants' ability to grow and propagate, potentially affecting sensitive habitats. Also, especially during the rainy season, such materials could drain or leach into area creeks. This could result in water quality problems in the creeks, potentially affecting sensitive wetland and riparian species and habitats, and public health risks. Fecal matter and urine left on beaches could also result in contamination of the ocean as the tides move in and out, picking up whatever lies on the beach.

Douglas Family Preserve

The tidewater goby, a federal endangered species, is known to inhabit the estuarine habitat of Arroyo Burro Creek, and it is likely that steelhead trout, recently listed as federally endangered and as a California species of special concern, historically used the Arroyo Burro watershed. Additionally, all south coastal watersheds have been designated as critical habitat for steelhead. The riparian and estuarine habitat of Arroyo Burro Creek and the unnamed tributary could provide year-round habitat for the southwestern pond turtle, a state species of special concern. It may also provide seasonal use and/or nesting opportunities for songbirds such as the yellow breasted chat, yellow warbler, the warbling vireo, and Wilson's warbler.

The DFP Management Plan proposes that dogs would be allowed off-leash in the DFP, except for two days each week. Other alternatives include allowing dogs to be off-leash all of the time or on odd-numbered days. Finally, dogs could be required to be on-leash all of the time. Concerns have been raised that off-leash dogs would disturb sensitive habitat and/or sensitive plant and animal species. In addition, fecal matter and urine left by dogs could affect some plants' ability to grow and propagate, potentially affecting sensitive habitats. Also, especially during the rainy season, such materials could drain or leach into Arroyo Burro Creek and/or the unnamed tributary. This could result in water quality problems in the creeks, potentially affecting sensitive wetland and riparian species and habitats.

~~Another alternative for off-leash dog use involves establishing a three to five acre fenced area where dogs could be off-leash. Outside of this area, dogs would be required to be kept on-leash. As discussed under Aesthetics (Section 1 above), most of this proposed area is in coastal sage scrub habitat. There are some areas along the edge that consist of exotic plants. There are also a couple of patches of oak woodland in the middle. While this approach would reduce the effects of dog feces deposits and wildlife harassment for most of the Preserve, it could increase vegetation loss in the fenced area. Dogs would be concentrated in this area and would trample the vegetation since dogs often do not stay on trails. In the fenced area, it may be more likely that dog owners would pick up dog feces because it would be more accessible than in heavily vegetated areas and on the bluffs elsewhere on site.~~

As requested by City Council, all of the dog use alternatives outlined in the Project Description will be analyzed at the same level in the EIR. This approach will provide more factual comparative information on which to base the final decision.

Shoreline —~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach Area

The presence or absence of Western snowy plovers along this beach needs to be confirmed. If they are present, there may be **potentially significant** impacts on this bird if dogs are allowed to be off-leash.

According to the Local Coastal Plan:

“Tidepool resources are most abundant west of Arroyo Burro County Beach Park, along portions of the Wilcox Property, and along Shoreline Park. Generally, intertidal resources in the City's coastal zone exhibit less species diversity than other areas in the County which makes the City's resources particularly vulnerable to destruction. Tidepool resources are, however, protected from casual collection by the State Fish and Game Code which prohibits collection of invertebrates without a permit (permits may be issued for scientific, educational and propagation purposes upon the discretion of the Department of Fish and Game). As demand for beach access and recreation increases, the need for protection of tidal resources may become more evident. Proper signing and public education at key locations within beaches and parks may assist in the long-term preservation of these habitats.”

It could be inferred from this description that unrestricted dog and/or related dog owner activities could result in **potentially significant** impacts on tidepool resources.

Hale Park

Unrestricted off-leash dog activities may have **potentially significant** impacts on the native flora and fauna, and rare plants and animals and their habitats. Off-leash dog activities such as running on steep banks of the coastal bluffs, the oak woodland and the riparian area may cause increased erosion hazard and sedimentation, resulting in greater disturbance of the habitats. Small trails on the steep slopes created by dog activity may cause increased run-off to the unnamed drainage and accelerate slope failure processes by removing vegetation cover and destabilizing slopes. Unrestricted activity can also inadvertently cause trampling of sensitive species, and dogs digging holes after rodents may increase erosion and cliff failure potential. Additionally, it is unknown if unrestricted activity by off-leash dogs may impact native fauna using the site, especially nocturnally dependent species. Unleashed dogs could harass area fauna.

Concerns have been raised that off-leash dogs would disturb sensitive habitat and/or sensitive plant and animal species. In addition, fecal matter and urine left by dogs could affect some plants' ability to grow and propagate, potentially affecting sensitive habitats. Also, especially during the rainy season, such materials could drain or leach into the unnamed drainage, ultimately flowing to Sycamore Creek and/or Andree Clark Bird Refuge. This could result in water quality problems in the creeks, potentially affecting sensitive wetland and riparian species and habitats.

- 3.b There are no designated historic or landmark trees in the project areas. However, the windrow trees at the DFP could be considered specimen or “skyline” trees that contribute to the area. The Management Plan policies call for protection of windrows, including replacement of trees with like species as they die. Off-leash dog activities would have no significant impacts on windrow trees.

Mitigation Measure(s): To be determined in the EIR

4. CULTURAL RESOURCES.	NO	YES
Could the project:		Level of Significance
a) Disturb archaeological resources?		Significant, avoidable
b) Affect a historic structure or site designated or eligible for designation as a National, State or City landmark?	✓	
c) Have the potential to cause a physical change, which would affect ethnic cultural values or restrict religious uses in the project area?	✓	

Discussion:

4.a **Douglas Family Preserve**

The Phase I Cultural Resources Study prepared for this property identifies one recorded Chumash site (Sba-575) on the property. In order to avoid impacts resulting from dogs and/or humans that could enter this sensitive area, a mitigation measure has been added requiring that a fence or barrier be constructed on the west side of the oak grove trail between the toe of the bluff and the unnamed tributary of Arroyo Burro Creek. Additional measures related to fence appearance are included in the Aesthetics discussion. [A barrier of dense thorny native vegetation is the preferred approach in order to minimize adverse aesthetic effects.](#)

Shoreline – Arroyo Burro Beach Area

The MEA Cultural Resources Map shows no cultural resources sensitivity along the beach. No significant sites are expected to be found.

Hale Park

The MEA Cultural Resources Map shows no cultural resources sensitivity at this location. No significant sites are expected to be found.

4.b, c. See discussion of DFP above. Otherwise, no historic, ethnic or religious structures or sites are present in the project area.

Mitigation Measure:

CR-1 A [fence-barrier consisting of dense thorny native vegetation](#) shall be constructed on the west side of the oak grove trail between the toe of the bluff and the unnamed tributary of Arroyo Burro Creek.

Residual Impact:

With implementation of the above mitigation measure, impacts on cultural resources would be reduced to less than significant levels.

5. GEOPHYSICAL. Could the project result in or expose people to:	NO	YES
		Level of Significance
a) Seismicity: fault rupture?	✓	Less than significant
b) Seismicity: ground shaking or liquefaction?	✓	Less than significant
c) Seismicity: seiche or tsunami?	✓	Less than significant
d) Landslides or mudslides?	✓	Potentially significant
e) Subsidence of the land?	✓	Less than significant
f) Expansive soils?	✓	Less than significant
g) Excessive grading or permanent changes in the topography?	✓	Less than significant

Discussion:

5a-b.

Douglas Family Preserve

The nearest known potentially active fault is the Lavigia Hill Fault located approximately 0.75 miles north of the site. According to the Master Environmental Assessment (MEA), the project site is within an area that is subject to low level damage to single family and small 2 to 3 story structures; low to moderate level damage to large structures; and moderate damage to old structures. It is also in an area with minimum liquefaction potential; an area where ground water levels are historically below 40 feet and/or soil densities (at critical depth) are above 80% and/or standard penetration resistance is more than 30 blows per foot. No structures are proposed as part of the off-leash dog proposals and the [alternative](#) project would not increase public exposure to geologic hazards; therefore, no significant impacts are expected to occur.

Shoreline —~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach Area

The MEA maps indicate that this area does not fall within any seismic or liquefaction potential areas.

Hale Park

The MEA maps indicate that the Eucalyptus Hill Fault runs in an east/west direction approximately along the northern edge of the property. Further, the MEA states that the property is subject to low level damage to single family and small 2 to 3 story structures; low to moderate level damage to large structures; and moderate damage to old structures. No structures currently exist on the property and none are proposed. It is also located in an area with minimal liquefaction potential, an area where ground water levels are historically below 40 feet and/or soil densities (at critical depth) are above 80% and/or standard penetration resistance is more is more than 30 blows per foot. No seismic impacts are expected to occur.

5.c.

Douglas Family Preserve

The portion of the project site that is within an area susceptible to tsunami run-up includes the base of the ocean-facing bluffs, estuary area, and up a portion of the unnamed tributary on the north side of the property. The project would not change the level of exposure to users as there are no plans to increase human access in these areas. The susceptible areas would continue to be used for informal, casual walks by humans and dogs, except for the area to be fenced off as discussed under Cultural Resources above. No increased tsunami impacts are expected to occur beyond existing tsunami potential with existing park use. Therefore tsunami-related impacts as a result of the project would be less than significant.

Shoreline —~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach Area

All of this area is within a tsunami run-up area. However, the project will result in no change to exposure of people to water related hazards. Currently, people and dogs use this area for walking and running and the project as described will not change that activity.

Hale Park

None of the property is within a tsunami run-up or seiche area.

5.d. -f.

Douglas Family Preserve

This project area is in an area of active soil creep – downslope movement of soil observable by topographic features, leaning trees or damage to trees. The top of the bluffs is located in an area of active erosion – gullying and sedimentation are active during winter months; and the bluffs themselves are located in an area of high erosion potential – steep areas (generally over 50%) that are likely to erode if the vegetation is stripped and not replanted before the rainy months. This includes seacliff areas that undergo periodic erosion. Erosion, storm conditions, etc., can change exposure to the public. The City LCP requires a 75-year setback from the bluff for all structures. No structures are proposed as part of off-leash dog use and the project would not alter existing levels of public exposure to hazards; therefore, no significant effects would result from the project.

Shoreline —~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach Area

The Coastal Hazards Map from the Hoover Geologic Study (1978), the basis for the MEA maps, shows a small landslide area on the bluffs at the western edge of Shoreline Park. A much larger landslide area is shown along the bluffs at the eastern end of Camino de la Luz. [Additionally, a landslide area exists along Sea Ledge Lane.](#) All of the bluffs above the beach could be eroded by wave action. The project would not contribute to such erosion or landslides. Most erosion and landslides occur during the rainy season when [sue-use](#) of the beach is low. Significant increases in use of this area if it becomes an off-leash dog use area are not expected. Therefore, exposure to landslides and erosion is not expected to increase substantially. No significant impacts are expected to occur.

Hale Park

The MEA identifies this property as having minimal erosion potential. This location is in an area of moderately high expansive clay soil, expansiveness generally 6% to 12% (at 60 PSF surcharge). There

is a potential for possible damage to unreinforced patios and driveways where soils are thick. Some small portions of this area may contain highly expansive soils. No structures are proposed as part of off-leash dog use. Therefore, no significant effects related to erosion, subsidence or expansive soils are expected to occur.

5g **All Sites** - No grading is proposed related to dog use. Therefore, no impacts are expected.

Residual Impact: No geophysical impacts are expected to occur.

6. HAZARDS. Could the project involve:	NO	YES
	Level of Significance	
a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)?	✓	
b) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazards?		Less Than Significant Potentially Significant
c) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards?	✓	Potentially Significant
d) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees?	✓	

Discussion:

6a-c This project's activities do not have the potential to cause a risk of accidental explosion, release of hazardous materials or fire hazard at any of the proposed locations.

All Sites

Off-leash dog use could result in an increased number of negative people/dog interactions, either through over-exuberant playful behavior or dogs' over-protective instincts or other issues if the dogs are not well-watched by their owners. Owners can be cited if their dogs bite or otherwise cause injuries to people or other dogs. While this is a nuisance and an important concern to those involved, it does not rise to the level of a significant environmental effect. During the EIR scoping hearing, it became apparent that there was substantial public concern about the hazards resulting from the exposure of unleashed dogs to people using park facilities and to each other. Therefore, public safety concerns have been included in the EIR.

Douglas Family Preserve

Dogs have occasionally slid down the bluff and become stuck. Owners have sometimes tried to rescue their pets and have also been stuck, resulting in emergency calls to Police and Fire Departments. The number of such calls appears to have increased since the Preserve became a public space. The Management Plan calls for fallen logs to be placed near the bluff edge in much of the Preserve. This

would likely reduce the numbers of animals and their owners that could be stranded on the bluff. There is a system of citations and misdemeanors which the Police Department can, and does, use to deal with issues as they arise. This system also works to encourage compliance with the law. In addition, the Draft Plan includes Policy DM-7, which would create and maintain a log for dog-related complaints. According to this policy and based on this log, additional site-specific management guidelines could be established to reduce the nuisance. While this is a nuisance and an important concern to those involved, it does not rise to the level of a significant environmental effect.

- 6d. The DFP and Hale Park locations are in designated High Fire Hazard areas. The Parks Department already conforms with the required vegetative fuels management required by the Fire Department. Additional measures specific to the DFP property are included in the Draft DFP Management Plan. No fire hazard issues are expected at the beach site. Off-leash dog use does not have the potential to substantially change fire hazard levels.

See Section 12, Water Environment, for a discussion of water quality issues

Mitigation Measures: To be determined in the EIR.

Residual Impacts: To be determined in the EIR.

7. NOISE. Could the project result in:	NO	YES
		Level of Significance
a) Increases in existing noise levels?	✓	
b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	✓	

Discussion:

- 7a-b. Park use at the Douglas Family Preserve and at Hale Park would have the potential to cause nuisance noise problems to the adjacent residential neighborhoods. Talking people or barking dogs would generate most noise. Closing the Preserve and Hale Park between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise would minimize noise effects. The Preserve would also be checked periodically by the caretaker or ranger and, if necessary, the police could be called. No significant impacts are expected to occur.

8. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Could the project:	NO	YES
		Level of Significance
a) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?	✓	
b) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?	✓	

Discussion:

8a-b This project would have no effects on population growth nor would it affect existing housing.

9. PUBLIC SERVICES. Could the project have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered services in any of the following areas:	NO	YES
		Level of Significance
a) Fire protection?	✗	Less than significant
b) Police protection?	✓	Less than significant
c) Schools?	✓	
d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	✗	Less than significant
e) Other governmental services?	✓	
f) Electrical power or natural gas?	✓	
g) Water treatment or distribution facilities?	✓	
h) Sewer or septic tanks?	✓	
i) Water distribution/demand?	✓	
j) Solid waste disposal?	✗	Less than significant

Discussion:

9a-b. The Fire and Police Departments currently serve ~~The~~the project sites. The project will not result in any need for additional police hires. The Parks and Recreation Department Park Ranger Program will maintain the current level of service to the sites. The DFP is checked at least once daily, as well as when there are calls. Hale Park and the beach site are checked in response to calls received. This level of oversight is not expected to change as a result of off-leash dog use at these sites.

Animal Control, a division of the Police Department, does not expect any change in services from any of

off-leash site options, and recognizes that several of these sites already have off-leash dog activities occurring (pers. comm., Animal Control Supervisor, 10/3/00). However, since two of these sites (Hale Park and Shoreline to Arroyo Burro Beach Area) have not been approved for off-leash sites previously, Animal Control can not say with certainty if increased site visits to these areas will be required upon such designation. However, at worst, they expect that total calls for all three sites would result in no more than one or two calls per day. The impacts are not expected to be significant.

- 9.c. This project would have no effect on the need for increased school capacity.
- 9.d. There may be minor increases to maintenance at the Hale Park and/or Shoreline – Arroyo Burro Beach Area sites specifically related to retrieval and disposal of dog feces. Parks and Recreation Department staff has indicated that no new hires would be necessary. The current level of maintenance for this activity at the DFP is not expected to increase.

Shoreline —~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach Area

This site does not have any mutt mitt stations or park maintenance except at the County Park. This is the one site location that may require a more substantial increase in servicing due to the concerns related to water quality. Dog feces that are not picked up by owners and disposed of in disposal containers could enter the ocean. Dog feces contribute to fecal coliform counts, and it is currently unknown what, if any, pathogens are released and at what concentration levels pathogens impact the open ocean related to public contact concerns.

In any event, the increased service that may or may not be necessary for any of these areas will be determined after the questions related to water quality are answered; however, Parks and Recreation staff has indicated that the increased maintenance can be accommodated with existing staff. (See Section 12, Water Environment, for additional discussion of water quality issues.)

There would be no effect on public roads other than those referenced in the circulation/transportation section of this study. No new public roads would be developed by this project.

Hale Park

Currently, there is one mutt mitt station at Hale Park near the Camino Viejo entrance. It is maintained on a weekly basis. Neighbors assist with this as well. It is likely that a minimal increase in maintenance will be required for the mutt mitt station, site monitoring filling in of holes dug by dogs and/or picking up dog feces if this site becomes an off-leash dog use area. However, discussion with Parks and Recreation Department staff has indicated that existing staff can accommodate this increase.

- 9e-i This project does not propose demolition or construction of any structures, facilities, or infrastructure which could have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered electrical power or natural gas, water treatment or septic or sewer services, or change in water distribution or demand.
- 9.j. The project would not change existing solid waste services for the sites. Green waste would need to be separated from dog waste in disposal containers moved to the transfer station. This is done by providing special containers designated for “mutt mitt” disposal. To improve the ease of access for solid waste collection at the Shoreline-Arroyo Burro Beach site, it is recommended that mutt mitt stations and trash receptacles be placed near the tops of the staircases. No-Less than significant impacts on solid waste collection or storage and disposal are expected to occur.

Recommended Mitigation Measure:

PS-1 Mutt mitt stations and trash receptacles shall be added at the tops of the staircases for the Shoreline-Arroyo Burro Beach Site.

Residual Impact: No residual public services impacts are expected.

10. RECREATION. Could the project:	NO	YES
Level of Significance		
a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities?	✓	<u>Less than significant</u>
b) Affect existing parks or other public recreational facilities?	✓	<u>Less than significant</u>

Discussion:

10. a All sites currently provide opportunities for recreational activities such as walking, jogging, hang gliding/parasailing, people walking dogs, and viewing sunsets. Off-leash dog sites would continue to be in demand by the public. Other locations in the City and elsewhere on the South Coast could be considered. However, the proposal of having all these sites as off-leash dog sites would not create increased demand for regional or neighborhood recreational facilities.

It is expected that if none of the sites identified (DFP, Hale Park and the Shoreline-Arroyo Burro Beach Area) allow for dogs off-leash, there will be a continued demand for this type of activity in other neighborhood, regional parks and other recreational facilities. If any or all of the sites do allow off-leash dog use, the demand for additional facilities of this type may be reduced.

Douglas Family Preserve

In order to provide opportunities for: dog-averse people to use the DFP site comfortably; off-leash dog activities; and dogs to be on site at all times, the full range of off-leash alternatives such as dogs off-leash at all times, dogs off-leash at particular times, days, etc. and dogs on-leash at all times should be considered in an alternatives analysis of the Management Plan Environmental Review. Council preferred the option that dogs be allowed on site at all ~~time;times~~, but that dogs be on-leash two days a week, including one weekend day.

10.b. The proposed project would most likely affect existing parks or other public recreational facilities [bydue to](#) one component, that being off-leash dog use. It is anticipated that if the project does not allow for off-leash dog activities at any of the sites, these and other parks, beaches, and other recreational facilities will receive increased off-leash dog activity whether it is allowed or not. This may have an effect on other parks where organized sports (softball, soccer, etc.) take place, or at other facilities such as beaches where there already exist a variety of activities – some compatible and some incompatible with off-leash dog use. This may require stepped up Animal Control or Police enforcement to reduce

problems, although additional officers are not expected to be required. Additional signage about leash requirements may also be needed if problems occur at a particular park. However, the increase is not expected to have significant impacts on recreation.

Residual Impact Recreation impacts would be less than significant.

11. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION. Could the project result in:	NO	YES
		Level of Significance
a) Increased vehicle trips?		Potentially Significant
b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves, inadequate sight distance or dangerous intersections)?	✓	
c) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses?	✓	
d) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site?		Potentially Significant
e) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists?	✓	

Discussion:

11a. **Douglas Family Preserve**

There is no current information about visitor use numbers for the DFP and no information available on vehicle trips to the site. Anecdotal information available from long time users and neighbors of the site indicate an increased number of visitors since the property was acquired by the City, but no corollary information on how much vehicle trips have increased. Several regular users of the site are neighbors; however, there is no information on what percentage of the site users use walking, biking or driving as their mode of transportation to the site. Information gathered from a survey sent to neighbors in January 1999 indicated that the majority of those surveyed did not feel that site users impacted on-street parking or traffic. Given that off-leash dog use is already allowed at this site, Transportation staff has indicated that allowing off-leash dog use long-term will not increase usage of the DFP. As such, Transportation staff concludes that the project would not result in significant traffic impacts at the DFP.

Shoreline ~~Park to Arroyo Burro~~ Beach Area

Shoreline Park is a heavily used City beachfront park and Arroyo Burro County Park is a highly used County park. The beach area between the two facilities [and from the County Park to the westerly City limits](#) is low to moderately used, and in many areas of the beach, access is limited by high tides. The area is used primarily for walking with some dog activity. No information has been formally gathered; however, staff estimates that dog use in this area is primarily off-leash. County Parks is not enforcing the leash law on the County side of Arroyo Burro Creek either. Transportation staff has indicated, however, that there is not enough information available on existing and projected usage to make a determination on the potential for traffic impacts. Therefore, there is an **unknown, but potentially significant impact** on traffic.

Hale Park

This site is a relatively unknown small open space. It is used primarily by neighbors for walks with and without dogs, some on-leash and some off-leash. If this site is designated as an off-leash dog site, it is anticipated that vehicle trips would increase because most current use is by residents of the neighborhood that walk to the site. However, Transportation staff has indicated that there is not enough information available on existing and projected usage to make a determination on the potential for traffic impacts. Therefore, there is an **unknown, but potentially significant impact** on traffic.

11b.c. This project does not include design or establishment of new streets or new access points. The existing access points (entry) and trails used, as emergency access trails would be maintained to City Fire Department standards.

11d. Douglas Family Preserve

Anecdotal information available from long time users and neighbors of the DFP site indicate an increased number of visitors since the property was acquired by the City, but no corollary information on whether on street parking has increased. Several regular users of the site are neighbors; however, there is no information on what percentage of the site users use walking, biking or driving as their mode of transportation to the site. Information gathered from a survey sent to neighbors in January 1999 indicated that the majority of those surveyed did not feel that on-street parking was a problem, and did not at all favor a parking lot on-site. Given that off-leash dog use is already allowed at this site, Transportation staff has indicated that allowing off-leash dog use long-term will not increase usage of the DFP. As such, Transportation staff concludes that the project would not result in significant parking impacts at the DFP.

Shoreline ~~Park to Arroyo Burro~~ Beach Area

Shoreline Park is a heavily used City beachfront park and Arroyo Burro County Park is a highly used County park. The beach area between the two facilities is low to moderately used, [and between the County Park and the westerly City limits](#) and in many areas of the beach, access is limited by high tides. The area is used primarily for walking, including people who walk their dogs. No information has been formally gathered; however, staff estimates that dog use in this area is primarily off-leash. Transportation staff has indicated, however, that there is not enough information available on existing and projected usage to make a determination on the potential for traffic impacts. Therefore, there is an **unknown, but potentially significant impact** on parking.

Hale Park

This site is a relatively unknown small open space. It is used primarily by neighbors for walks with and without dogs, some on-leash and some off-leash. If this site is designated as an off-leash dog site, it is anticipated that vehicle trips would increase because most current use is by residents of the neighborhood that walk to the site. There is an informal parking area along Camino Viejo. It is also possible to park along Eucalyptus Hill Road. There are very few people that use this parking. However, Transportation staff has indicated that there is not enough information available on existing and projected usage to make a determination on the potential for traffic impacts. Therefore, there is an **unknown, but potentially significant impact** on parking.

11e. The project does not contain hazards or barriers for pedestrians.

Residual Impact: ~~No traffic or parking impacts are expected to occur.~~ Traffic and parking impacts will be determined in an EIR.

12. WATER ENVIRONMENT. Could the project result in:	NO	YES
		Level of Significance
a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	✓	
b) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?	✓	
c) Discharge into surface waters?		Potentially significant
d) Change in the quantity, quality, direction or rate of flow of ground waters?		<u>Potentially significant</u> <u>Less than significant</u>
e) Increased storm water drainage?	✓	<u>Less than significant</u>

Discussion:

12a. This project does not include any new construction, remodeling, or surface treatments; therefore, no changes to drainage, absorption rates or surface runoff will occur from effects of this project.

12b. Douglas Family Preserve

The northern and western portion of the site includes Arroyo Burro Creek and an unnamed tributary. This portion of the creek and its tributary lies within the intermediate Regional and Standard project floodways as mapped by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The low-lying areas adjacent to the creek are subject to inundation from periodic storms. No changes to existing trails would occur and no new trails would be created; therefore, the project would result in no change to exposure of people to water related hazards.

Shoreline-~~Arroyo Burro~~ Beach Area

The entire length of this location is within the maximum limit of the tsunami run-up area. However, the project would result in no change to exposure of people to water related hazards. Currently, people and dogs use this area for walking and running and the project as described would not change that activity.

Hale Park

This location does not expose people to water related hazards.

12c. Water quality issues associated with the project relate primarily to the control of dog feces from entering

the water bodies associated with each of the sites. The DFP contains Arroyo Burro Creek and an unnamed tributary. Hale Park contains a small unnamed riparian area that is thought to be a tributary to Sycamore Creek and Shoreline – Arroyo Burro Beach Area includes open ocean and Arroyo Burro Creek. At the DFP and possibly at Hale Park a secondary concern is related to erosion that could potentially be caused by human and dog access to particular areas on the sites associated with riparian areas.

Sediment loading is a known cause of wetland degradation. Sedimentation causes the filling of wetlands, reduces the depth, size and general configuration of deep pools which are necessary to particular species (i.e. steelhead trout), and carries contaminants to the water environment. Another negative impact to wetlands that may be caused by sedimentation is increased water temperatures. As wetlands are filled, temperatures may warm due to shallower depths. Sedimentation can change the bed textures. Steelhead trout reproduction is dependent on deep pools, and sedimentation may cause reduction of pool depths. Erosion control is the means to prevent sedimentation.

The concern related to dog waste (feces and urine) is that, either through direct deposit into the drainages or ocean or runoff, dog waste could enter these water bodies and contribute to degraded water quality and increase public health risks, resulting in a **potentially significant** impact. It is known that direct deposit of feces contributes fecal coliform and increased nitrate levels in water. However, there are unknown and related concerns, such as how quickly waste degrades in or on the soil before it becomes innocuous; how quickly it is transported to the water habitat; how close to the creek banks feces have to be before they cause a negative impact; and at what locations on the property this is an issue; what pathogens, if any, are distributed and what level of concern they are related to endangered species, habitat and public health.

Douglas Family Preserve

The draft Management Plan stipulates that riparian and estuarine areas are off-limits at all times; therefore, direct deposit should be limited if users abide by the use regulations. However, off-leash dogs may deposit fecal matter in areas where people are unwilling to remove it, such as areas of heavy brush, steep slopes or poison oak. This could result in increased fecal coliform and other contaminants in the creek, a **potentially significant** water quality impact.

The tidewater goby and steelhead trout are especially sensitive to increased water temperatures, and the goby's reproduction is dependent on coarse sand bottoms. Sedimentation can change the bed textures. Steelhead trout reproduction is dependent on deep pools, and sedimentation causes reduction of pool depths. Feces or urine runoff from the property could have **unknown potentially significant** impacts on water quality.

Shoreline-Arroyo Burro Beach Area

The concerns are the same related to dog feces; however, this location is the only open ocean site. It is unknown if this could increase, equal or decrease environmental and public health risks. It is unknown if the beach environment itself (constantly wet) and tidal flows increase production or release of pathogens, if there are any to be concerned about. Feces or urine runoff from the beach could have **unknown potentially significant** impacts on water quality.

Hale Park

Hale Park is located on a relatively steep site, the average slope being 19% and, as stated earlier, contains a small unnamed riparian area/unnamed tributary. It appears to be a former tributary of Sycamore Creek and it is piped underground at the southeastern corner of the property. It is suspected that it eventually daylight on private property easterly of Summit Road and flows to the Andree Clark Bird Refuge. The Bird Refuge has a long history of water quality problems related to eutrophication, resulting in severe odor, substantial fish kills and aesthetic concerns in a very public open space. It is especially undesirable to increase nitrate and/or phosphorous nutrients to this water body, as well as any other nutrient or chemical. Feces or urine runoff from the property could have **unknown potentially significant** impacts on water quality.

Mitigation Measure(s): To be determined in an EIR.

Residual Impact: To be determined in an EIR.

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.		YES	NO
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?	✓	
b)	Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?		✓
c)	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)?	✓	
d)	Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	✓	

INITIAL STUDY CONCLUSION

On the basis of this initial evaluation it has been determined that:

The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and further study in an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required to evaluate the following issues.

Aesthetics/ View impacts of fenced dog run

Biological/ Impacts on native flora, fauna, habitats; Snowy Plovers, tidepools

Traffic, Parking/ Shoreline-Arroyo Burro Beach Area and Hale Park

Water\ Water quality effects of dog waste

Case Planner/Initial Study Preparer: Jan M. Hubbell, Project Planner/[Michael Berman, Environmental Analyst and Project Planner](#)

Environmental Analyst:

~~Barbara Shelton~~, [Michael Berman](#), Environmental Analyst

Date: ~~October 15, 2000~~September 25, 2002

Exhibits

1. Vicinity Map
2. City and Coastal Act Policies Related to Off-Leash Dog Use
3. Potential Location for Fenced Off-Leash Dog Area at Douglas Family Preserve

LIST OF SOURCES USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

The following sources used in the preparation of this Initial Study are located at the Community Development Department, Planning Division, 630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara and are available for review upon request.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) & CEQA Guidelines

General Plan Circulation Element

General Plan Conservation Element

1995 Housing Element

General Plan Land Use Element

General Plan Noise Element w/appendices

General Plan Map

General Plan Seismic Safety/Safety Element

Geology Assessment for the City of Santa Barbara

Institute of Traffic Engineers Parking Generation Manual

Institute of Traffic Engineers Trip Generation Manual

Local Coastal Plan (Main & Airport)

Master Environmental Assessment

Parking Design Standards

Santa Barbara Municipal Code & City Charter

Special District Map

Uniform Building Code as adopted by City

Zoning Ordinance & Zoning Map

NOP Distribution List

County: *Santa Barbara*

SCH# *000121*

Resources Agency

- Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou
- Dept. of Boating & Waterways
Bill Curry
- California Coastal Commission
Elizabeth A. Fuchs
- Dept. of Conservation
Ken Trott
- Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
Allen Robertson
- Office of Historic Preservation
Hans Krutzberg
- Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Debra Gilbert
Resource Mgmt. Division
- Reclamation Board
Pam Bruner
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.
Steve McAdam
- Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou
Dept. of Water Resources

Health & Welfare

- Health & Welfare
Wayne Hubbard
Dept. of Health/Drinking Water

Food & Agriculture

- Food & Agriculture
Ted Bell
Dept. of Food and Agriculture

Fish and Game

- Dept. of Fish & Game
Joe Vitcasty
Environmental Services Division
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Donald Koch
Region 1
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Sandy Curtis
Region 2
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Brian Hunter
Region 3
- Dept. of Fish & Game
William Laudermilk
Region 4
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Sandy Peterson
Region 5, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Gabrina Gatchel
Region 6, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Tammy Allen
Region 6, Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game
DeWayne Johnston
Marine Region

Independent Commissions

- California Energy Commission
Environmental Office
- Native American Heritage Comm.
Debbie Treadway
- Public Utilities Commission
Andrew Barnsdale
- State Lands Commission
Betty Silva

- Colorado River Board
Gerald R. Zimmerman
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Lyn Barnett
- Office of Emergency Services
John Rowden, Manager
- Delta Protection Commission
Debbie Eddy
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Paul Edelman

Dept. of Transportation

- Dept. of Transportation
IGR/Planning
District 1
- Dept. of Transportation
Vicki Roe
Local, Development Review,
District 2
- Dept. of Transportation
Jeff Pulveman
District 3
- Dept. of Transportation
Jean Finney
District 4
- Dept. of Transportation
Lawrence Newland
District 5
- Dept. of Transportation
Marc Birnbaum
District 6
- Dept. of Transportation
Stephen J. Buswell
District 7
- Dept. of Transportation
Mike Sim
District 8
- Dept. of Transportation
Caroline Yee for Kate Walton
District 9

- Dept. of Transportation
Chris Sayre
District 10
- Dept. of Transportation
Lou Salazar
District 11
- Dept. of Transportation
Aileen Kennedy
District 12

Business, Trans & Housing

- Housing & Community Development
Cathy Creswell
Housing Policy Division
- Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics
Sandy Heenard
- California Highway Patrol
Lt. Dennis Brunette
Office of Special Projects
- Dept. of Transportation
Ron Helgeson
Caltrans - Planning
- Dept. of General Services
Robert Sleppy
Environmental Services Section

Air Resources Board

- Airport Projects
Rob Rogan
- Transportation Projects
Ann Geraghty
- Industrial Projects
Mike Tolstrup

- California Integrated Waste Management Board
Sue O'Leary
- State Water Resources Control Board
Diane Edwards
Division of Clean Water Programs

- State Water Resources Board
Greg Frantz
Division of Water Control
- State Water Resources Board
Mike Falkenstein
Division of Water Rights
- Dept. of Toxic Substances
CEQA Tracking Center

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- RWQCB
Cathleen Hudson
North Coast Region (1)
- RWQCB
Environmental Document Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Region (2)
- RWQCB
Central Coast Region (3)
- RWQCB
Jonathan Bishop
Los Angeles Region (4)
- RWQCB
Central Valley Region (5)
- RWQCB
Central Valley Region (5)
Fresno Branch Office
- RWQCB
Central Valley Region (5)
Redding Branch Office
- RWQCB
Lahontan Region (6)
- RWQCB
Lahontan Region (6)
Victorville Branch Office
- RWQCB
Colorado River Basin Region (7)
- RWQCB
Santa Ana Region (8)
- RWQCB
San Diego Region (9)

Scoping Comments On Douglas Family Preserve And Off-Leash Dog Study EIRs

1. Sharon Diriam, December 3, 2000
2. Carol Hack, December 4, 2000
3. Mr. & Mrs. R.T. Tozer, December 4, 2000
4. Richard Teraoka, December 4, 2000
5. Mary Ann Norbom, December 4, 2000
6. Richard Grossgold and Ruth R. Levine, December 5, 2000
7. Walter Knapp, December 6, 2000*
8. Robin Bisio & Tom Bortolazzo, December 7, 2000
9. Walter Knapp, December 7, 2000*
10. Mrs. G. Griffin, December 8, 2000
11. Native American Heritage Commission, December 11, 2000*
12. Dorrie Tames Powell, December 12, 2000*
13. Weston & Therese Porter, December 12, 2000
14. John Housh, December 12, 2000*
15. Lisa Mangione, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, December 13, 2000*
16. Wendy Hawksworth, December 14, 2000*
17. Dog PAC, SB Position Paper, October 1997, distributed to Planning Commission, Dec. 14, 2000
18. Jack Sanford, December 15, 2000
19. C.J. & Achilles Carnewal, December 18, 2000
20. Tom Hinshaw, December 21, 2000
21. Susan Whalen, December 21, 2000
22. Environmental Defense Center, Brian Trautwein, December 22, 2001*
23. Raveewan Livesley (for Mango), December 25, 2000
24. J.V. & Stephanie Guy-Bray, December 27, 2000
25. Jack Sanford, December 28, 2000*
26. Citizens for Animal Control, December 29, 2000*
27. Lee E. Heller, Ph.D., January 2, 2001*
28. Harold Jacobson, January 2, 2001
29. Fray A. Crease, January 2, 2001
30. Dr. Andrew J. Flanagan (with attached study from USC, prepared for FREEPLAY), January 3, 2001
31. Surfrider Foundation, Keith Zandona, January 3, 2001*
32. Mary & Claude Williams, January 3, 2001
33. Shelley Bookspan, January 3, 2001
34. Keith Lawler, January 3, 2001
35. Teresa Rounds, January 4, 2001
36. Mrs. Carol Kosterka, January 4, 2001
37. Dr. Miriam J. Metzger, January 4, 2001
38. Audrey Austin, January 4, 2001
39. Douglas Family Preserve Advisory Committee, January 5, 2001**
40. Mary W. Oakley, January 5, 2001
41. Lisa Ann Kelly, January 5, 2001
42. Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Maria Gordon, January 6, 2001*
43. Donna and Jerry O'Toole, January 6, 2001

* Includes recommended changes to one or both Initial Studies or additional issues to be considered in the EIRs.

44. Steve Eltinge, January 6, 2001
45. Connie Ferrer, January 6, 2001
46. Dr. Joyce M. Zarling, January 7, 2001
47. Ann Frye, January 7, 2001
48. Dog PAC, SB, January 7, 2001 (without attachments)*
49. Janet Schmidt, January 8, 2001
50. Mary Anne Morrison, January 8, 2001
51. N. Clancy, January 8, 2001
52. William C. Roberts, January 8, 2001
53. Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Maria Gordon, January 8, 2001
54. Kristi Solberg, January 8, 2001
55. Jeff Cope, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, January 8, 2001

The above comment letters can be viewed at:

Planning Division,
City of Santa Barbara,
630 Garden Street,
Santa Barbara, California 96102