

PUBLIC MEETING

Habitat Conservation Plan Oceano Dunes District



Revised Draft HCP and Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting Agenda

Welcome!



Welcome



Meeting Purpose
& Structure



Meeting
Presentation



Verbal Comments on
Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting Purpose

Tonight we will provide:

- An overview of the HCP and Recirculated Draft EIR
- An opportunity for participants to provide verbal comment on the Draft EIR
- Direction on submittal of written comments



Introductions



- California State Parks – Oceano Dunes District:
 - Ronnie Glick, Senior Environmental Scientist
 - Jon O’Brien, Acting District Superintendent
- MIG
 - Ryan Mottau, Director of Digital Engagement
 - Kate Werner, Senior Project Manager
 - Paula Hartman, Principal
 - Joey Nielson, Senior Project Associate for Engagement

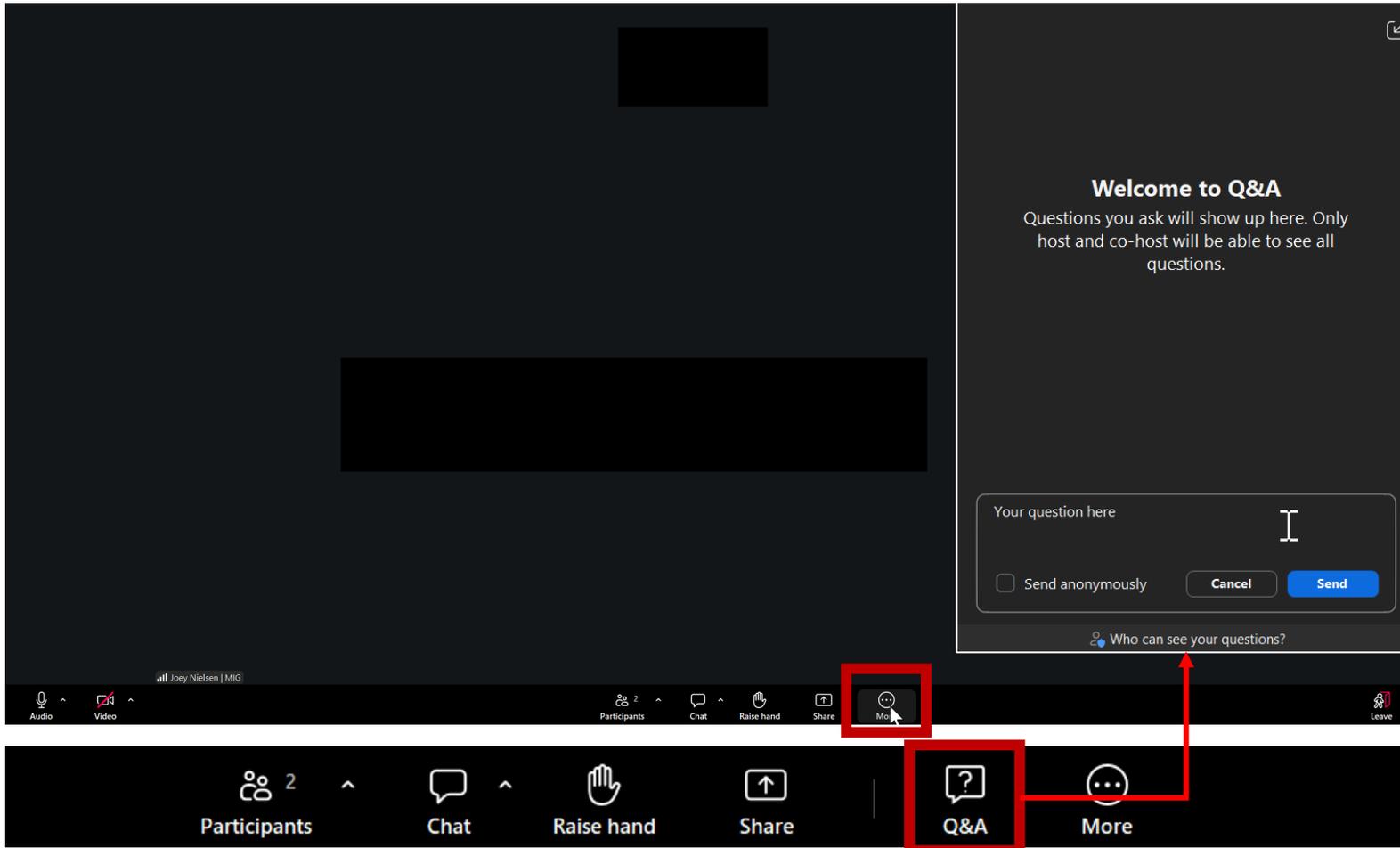


Online Meeting Format

- Video and audio will be muted during the meeting.
- During the presentation, you have the opportunity to submit clarifying questions using the Q&A window.
- Q&A is only visible to the presenters.
- Instructions will be provided at the end of the presentation on how to provide public comment.



How to Ask Clarifying Questions



Q&A: Ask clarifying questions through the Q&A window.

Audio: Participant voice and video will be muted.

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a beach. The foreground is a wide, flat expanse of light-colored sand. In the middle ground, gentle waves with white foam are washing onto the shore. The background features a low, dark mountain range under a vast sky filled with numerous small, white, fluffy clouds. The overall lighting is soft and diffused, suggesting an overcast day.

Background

Oceano Dunes District

Pismo State Beach + Oceano Dunes SVRA =
Oceano Dunes District

- Diversity of plants, wildlife, and their habitats, including sensitive resources
- Multiple areas of high cultural sensitivity
- This District is popular! Almost 2 million visitors a year drive, camp, stroll and jog, picnic, ride horses, surf, kite-board, and more
- The HCP addresses all of these resources and activities



What is a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)?

- An HCP is part of the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- It's required for an "incidental" take permit, i.e., a permit authorizing take caused by otherwise lawful activities.
- "Take" includes actions that harass, harm, pursue, wound, kill, etc. federally-listed species.
- The Oceano Dunes HCP is needed because visitors and park operations can cause incidental take.



State Park's Mission



The HCP reflects State Park's mission:

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



Status of Draft HCP

- Draft HCP, EIR, and Environmental Assessment (EA) issued in 2020
- Process put on hold due to Coastal Commission action and subsequent litigation
- HCP, EIR, and EA updated, e.g., data, species, activities
- Revised HCP and Recirculated Draft EIR released November 2025 (along with Recirculated Draft EA)



A wide-angle photograph of a beach. The foreground is a sandy beach. The middle ground shows waves breaking onto the shore. In the background, there is a range of low mountains or hills under a sky filled with white, fluffy clouds. The text "Clarifying Questions?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Clarifying Questions?

Habitat Conservation Plan

A wide-angle photograph of a beach scene. The foreground is a sandy beach. The middle ground shows waves breaking onto the shore. In the background, there is a range of low mountains or hills under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

HCP Goals

- Manage habitat components to benefit the covered species
- Minimize human alteration or disturbance of native habitats
- Reduce conflicts between covered species and park users
- Restore native habitats
- Monitor the success of these efforts



Covered Park Units

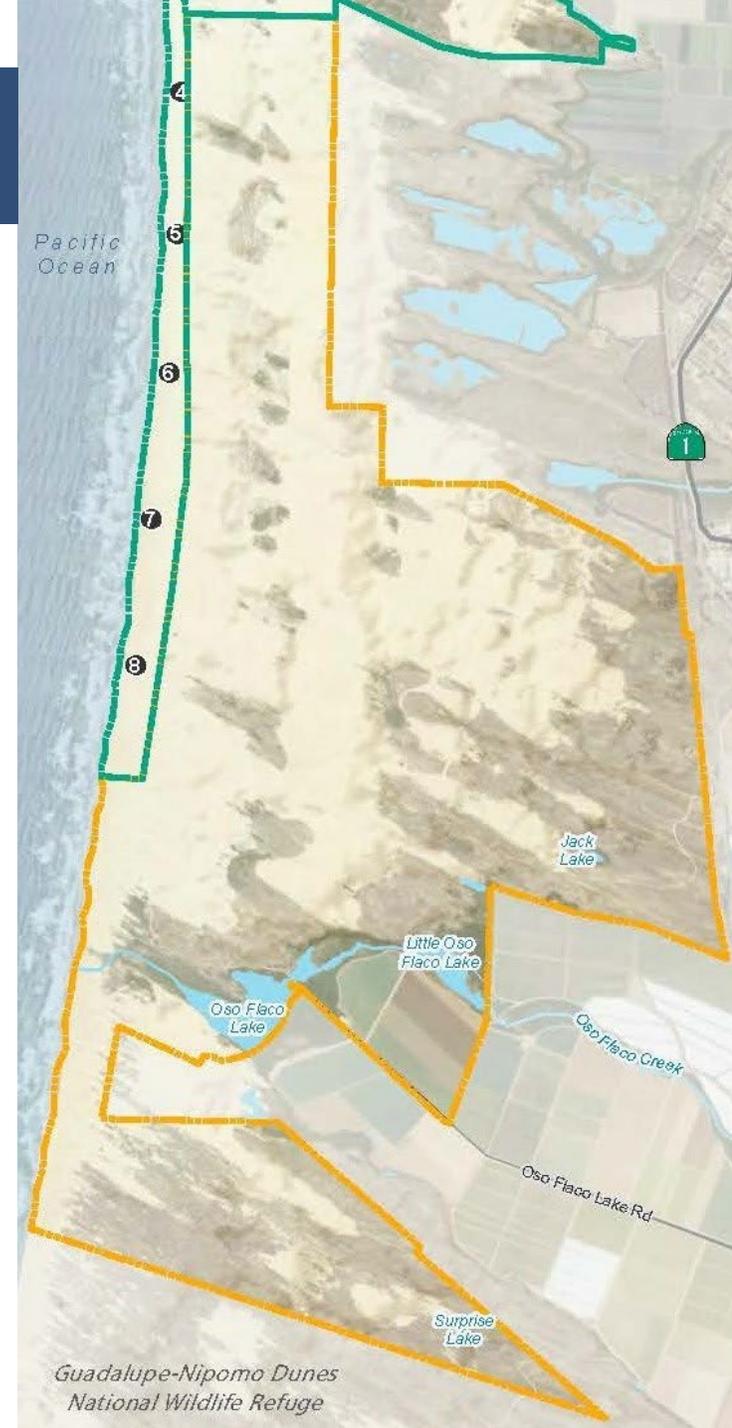
HCP Area = 5,005 acres

Pismo State Beach

- 1,515 acres natural and developed
- Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve 694-acre sub-unit
- 70 acres Pismo Lake

Oceano Dunes SVRA

- 3,490 acres



Covered Species



Western snowy plover (FT)



California least tern (FE, SE, SP)



Southwestern pond turtle (FPT)



California red-legged frog (FT)

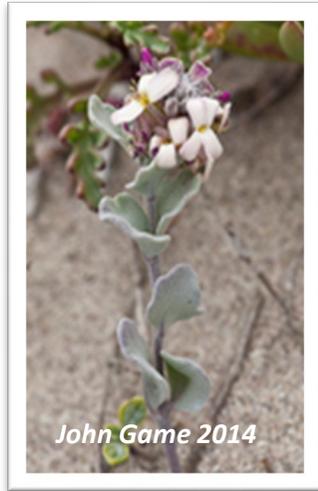


Western spadefoot (FPT)

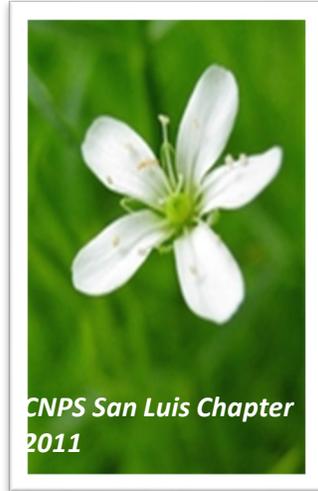


Tidewater goby (FE)

Covered Species (cont.)



Beach spectaclepod
(ST)



Marsh sandwort
(FE, SE)



La Graciosa thistle
(FE, ST)



Surf thistle
(ST)



Nipomo Mesa lupine
(FE, SE)



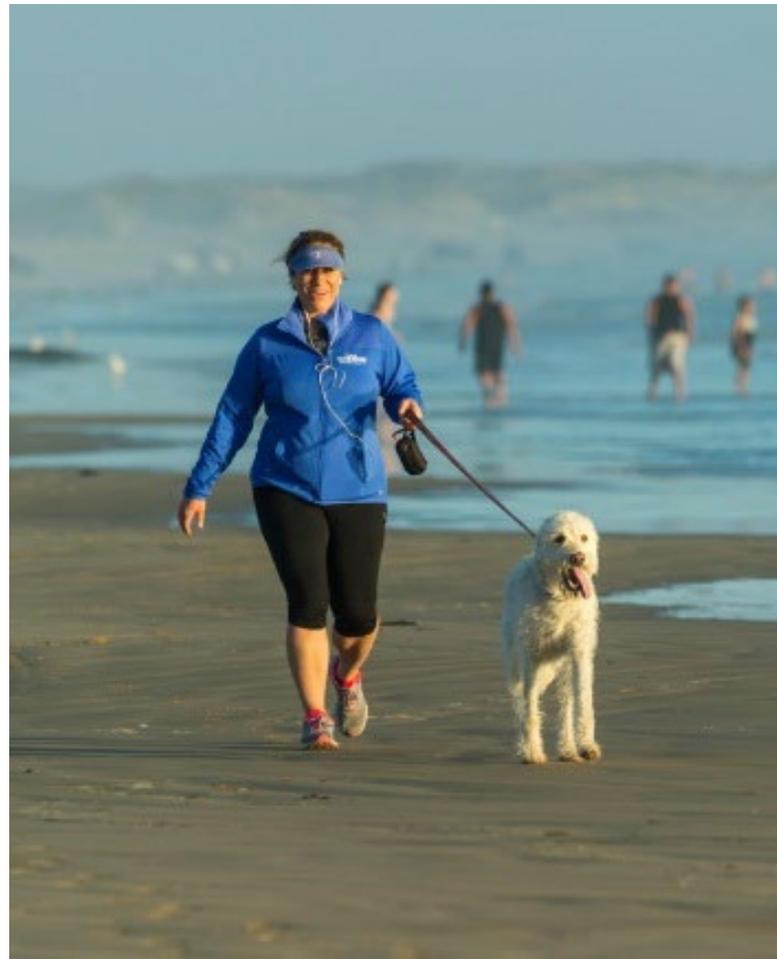
Gambel's watercress
(FE, ST)

Covered Activities

- Park Visitor Activities
- Natural Resource Management
- Park Maintenance
- Visitor Services
- Other Activities
 - e.g., creek crossings, exclosure adjustments, dust control, and special projects



Park Visitor Activities



- CA-1: Motorized recreation
 - CA-2: Camping
 - CA-3: Pedestrian activities
 - CA-4: Bicycling and golfing
 - CA-5: Fishing
 - CA-6: Dog walking (on leash only)
 - CA-7: Equestrian recreation
 - CA-8: Boating/surfing
 - CA-9: Aerial/wind-driven activities, including kiteboarding
 - CA-10: Holidays
 - CA-11: Special events
- (No change from 2020)*



Natural Resources Management

CA-12a: Plover/tern exclosures

CA-12b: Plover/tern monitoring and management

CA-13: Tidewater goby and salmonid surveys

CA-14: Pond turtle, red-legged frog, and spadefoot surveys and management

CA-15: Listed plant surveys and management

CA-16: Habitat restoration program

CA-17: Invasive plant and animal control

CA-18: Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan implementation

CA-19: Water quality monitoring projects

(some changes from 2020)

Park Maintenance

CA-20: Campground maintenance

CA-21: General facilities maintenance

CA-22: Trash control

CA-23: Wind fencing installation, maintenance, and removal

CA-24: Sand ramp and other vehicular access maintenance

CA-25: Street sweeping

CA-26: Routine riparian maintenance



Park Maintenance (cont.)

CA-27: Perimeter and vegetation island fence installation, maintenance, and removal

CA-28: Cable fence maintenance and replacement

CA-29: Heavy equipment response in all areas of Oceano Dunes District

CA-30: Minor grading (i.e., less than 100 cubic yards)

CA-31: Boardwalk and other pedestrian access maintenance

(No change from 2020)





Visitor Services

CA-32: Ranger, lifeguard, and park aide patrols

CA-33: Emergency response by CDPR staff

CA-34: Access by non-CDPR vehicles

CA-35: American Safety Institute (ASI) courses

CA-36: Beach concessions

CA-37: Pismo Beach Golf Course operations

CA-38: Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center

CA-39: Natural history and interpretation programs

(No change from 2020)



Other HCP Covered Activities

CA-40: Motorized vehicle crossing of Pismo/Carpenter, Arroyo Grande, and Oso Flaco creeks

CA-41: Pismo Creek estuary seasonal (floating) bridge

CA-42: Limited trail riding area

CA-43: Replacement of the Safety and Education Center

CA-44: Dust control activities (*updated since 2020*)

CA-45: Cultural resources management

CA-46: CDPR management of agricultural lands

CA-47: Maintenance of a bioreactor on agricultural lands

CA-48: Oso Flaco Lake boardwalk replacement

CA-49: Special projects

CA-50: Reduction of the Boneyard and 6 exclosures

CA-51: Use of pesticides

CA-52: CDPR UAS (drone) use

Conservation Program

Key Elements:

- Built on 25+ years of survey data
- Includes hundreds of Avoidance & Minimization Measures (AMMs) + mitigation
- Uses adaptive management
- Identifies permit take limits
- Commitment to request funding throughout 25-year permit term



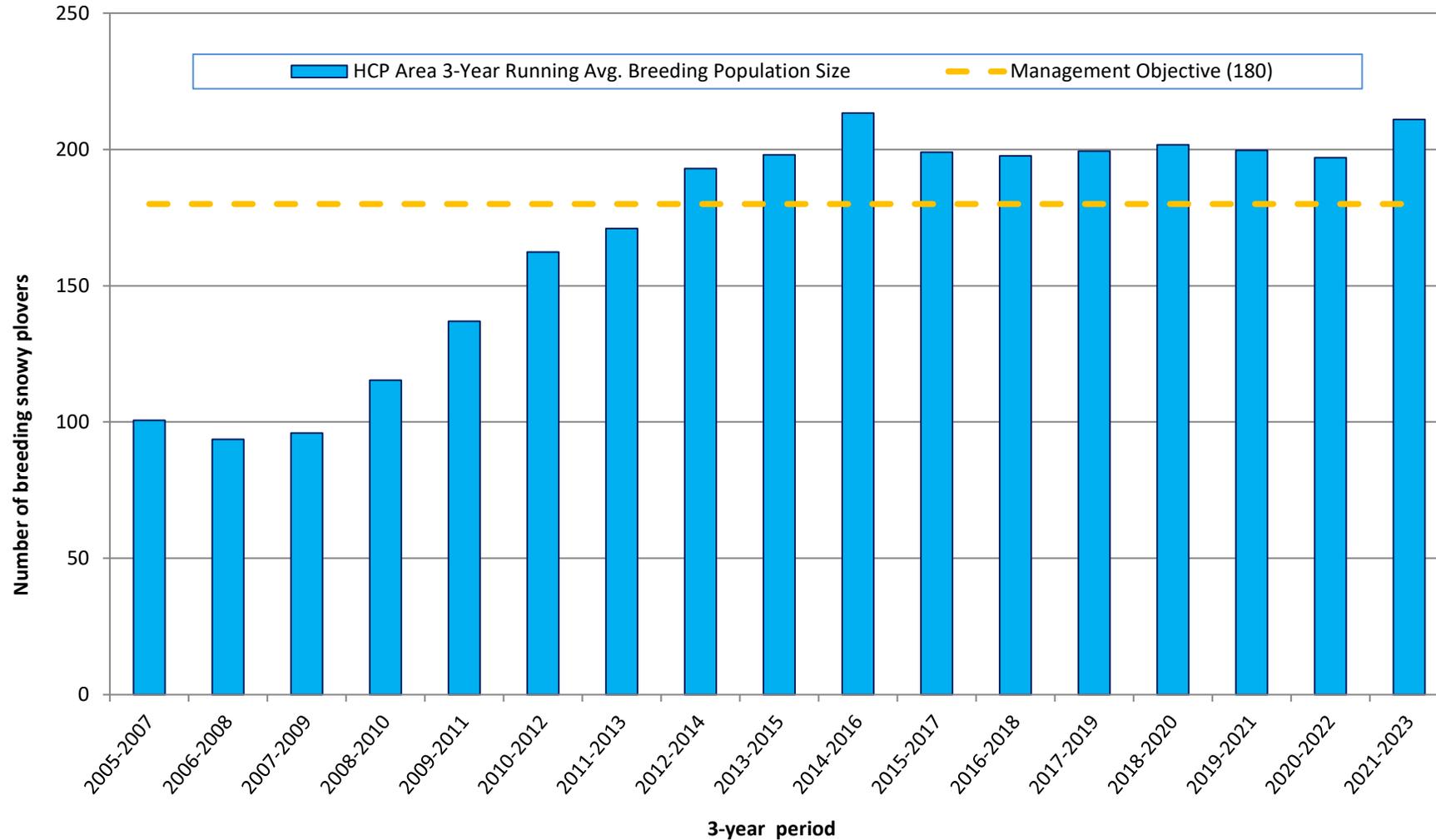
Conservation Program Updates

Key updates since 2020:

- Southwestern pond turtle & western spadefoot added
- Updates to objectives and take numbers to reflect new data
- Additional plover/tern habitat enhancement
- Mitigation/Offset includes:
 - Restoring dune slack habitat at Jack and/or Surprise Lake
 - Enhanced removal of invasive species such as bullfrogs
 - Capturing and relocating tidewater goby stranded in isolated pools

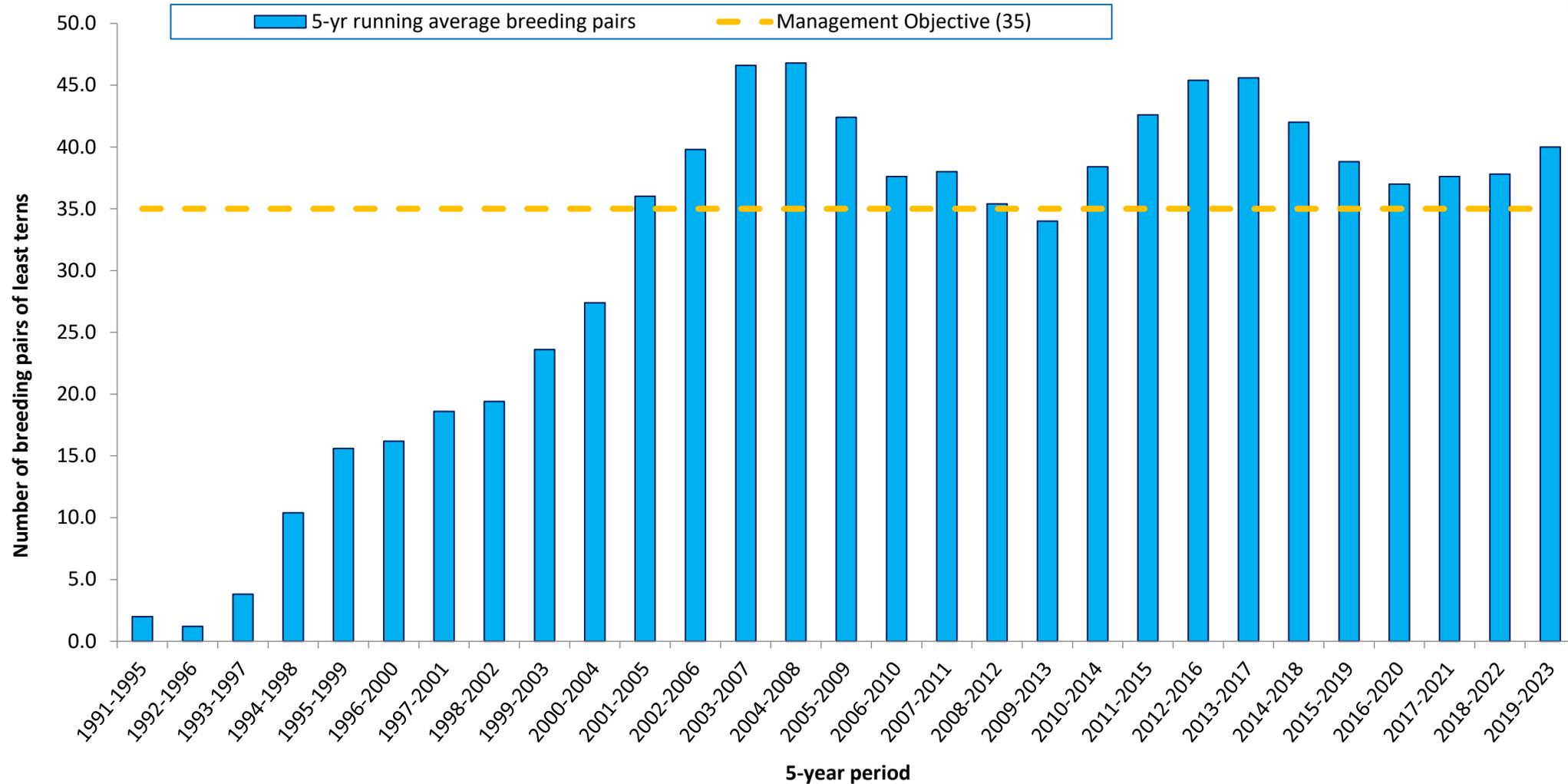


Population Data – Snowy Plover



Three-year running average number of breeding adult snowy plovers in the HCP area from 2005-2023 with HCP management objective

Population Data – Least Tern



Five-year running average number of breeding least tern pairs in the HCP area from 1991-2023 with HCP management objective

Example of AMMs

Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) for Snowy Plover

Park Visitor Activities: Motorized recreation (CA-1)

Potential Effects: Adults/juveniles/chicks struck by vehicles; Breeding/foraging/roosting disturbance; Chicks separated from adult(s) and inadequately attended or exposed to predation/inclement weather; Eggs buried by sand, exposed to predation, or not properly incubated when adults are disturbed; Chicks/eggs abandoned when adults are disturbed, killed, or injured; Eggs crushed

AMM 24 CDPR peace officers will continue to provide focused enforcement of HCP area regulations (e.g., 15-mph speed limits). CDPR peace officers will continue to respond to requests by monitors for assistance with snowy plover protection and security. Enforcement of laws affecting safety of snowy plover will continue to be the highest non-emergency Law Enforcement priority.



Program Funding - What does it cost?

Estimated Annual Cost

Snowy plover/Least tern	\$2,581,641
Southwestern pond turtle	\$37,277
Red-legged frog	\$51,277
Western spadefoot	\$37,277
Tidewater goby	\$48,512
Listed plants	\$105,506
Reporting	\$131,717
Other Items of Expense	\$50,000
Total	\$3,043,207

Estimated Cost
over 25-year Life of HCP:
\$97 to \$111 million



A wide-angle photograph of a beach. The foreground is a sandy beach. The middle ground shows waves breaking on the shore. In the background, there is a range of low mountains or hills under a sky filled with white and grey clouds. The text "Clarifying Questions?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Clarifying Questions?

A scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore under a cloudy sky. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds, with some blue visible. The ocean is a mix of grey and white, with white foam from the waves. The beach is a light brown color. In the distance, a range of low mountains or hills is visible on the horizon.

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report

Scope of EIR Analysis

- 2025 Recirculated Draft EIR updated to reflect new species, modifications to covered activities, new AMMs/mitigation, and more recent data
- The 2025 Recirc. Draft EIR (and HCP) address seasonal (March – September) operation of plover/tern exclosures
- Environmental review addresses proposed new activities causing a change in the physical environment
- Environmental review is not required for existing activities and their effects, such as recreation (baseline conditions)



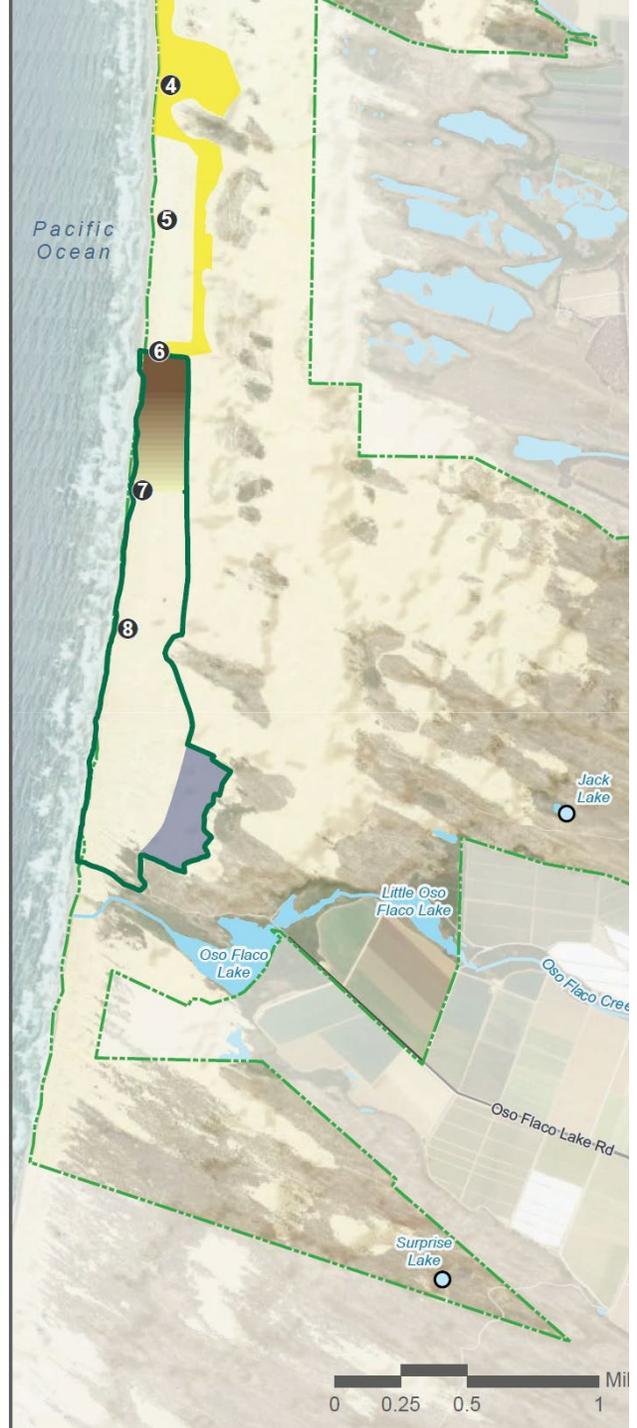
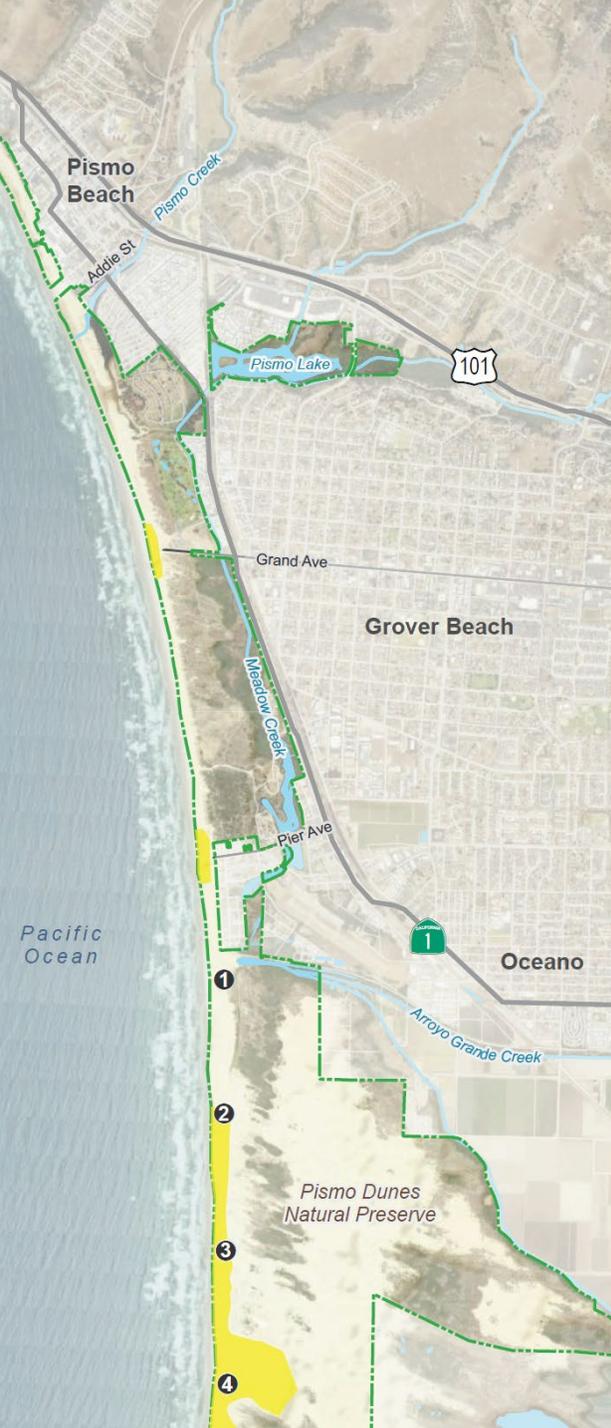


Scope of EIR Analysis (cont.)

Proposed New Activities

- Plover chicks and eggs captive rearing
- Stranded tidewater goby salvage
- Pond turtle and spadefoot monitoring
- Dune slack restoration

Proposed new activities are subject to CEQA review in the HCP EIR



Scope of EIR Analysis (cont.)

Proposed New Activities (cont.)

- Focused invasive aquatic species predator control
- Mechanical trash removal
- Reduction of Seasonal Exclosures
- CDPR use of unmanned aircraft systems

Proposed new activities are subject to CEQA review in the HCP EIR

Scope of Analysis (cont.)

Potential Future Activities (Cumulative Analysis)

- Plover adult banding and plover/tern breeding habitat manipulation
- Listed plant propagation and outplanting
- **CalVTP habitat restoration**
- Cable fence replacement
- **Grover Beach Lodge**
- Limited trail riding
- Pismo Creek Estuary seasonal (floating) bridge
- Safety and Education Center Replacement
- **New dust control activities**
- Oso Flaco Lake boardwalk replacement
- Special projects

Potential future activities are considered in EIR cumulative analysis but subject to separate CEQA review



Environmental Impact Analysis

- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural/Tribal Resources
- Recreation/Public Access



Draft EIR Analysis Conclusions

- Land Use: No significant changes
- Air Quality: Potential dust emission increases offset by mitigation
- Biological Resources: AMMs/Standard Project Requirements (SPRs) sufficient to avoid significant effects
- Cultural and Tribal Resources: AMMs/SPRs sufficient to avoid significant effects
- Recreation and Public Access: Increased opportunity on 109 acres



Project Alternatives

Considered and Rejected Alternatives

- No Take park operations
- Off-site mitigation in lieu of nesting exclosures
- Changes in SVRA access
- Restricted riding times
- Increased vehicle limits

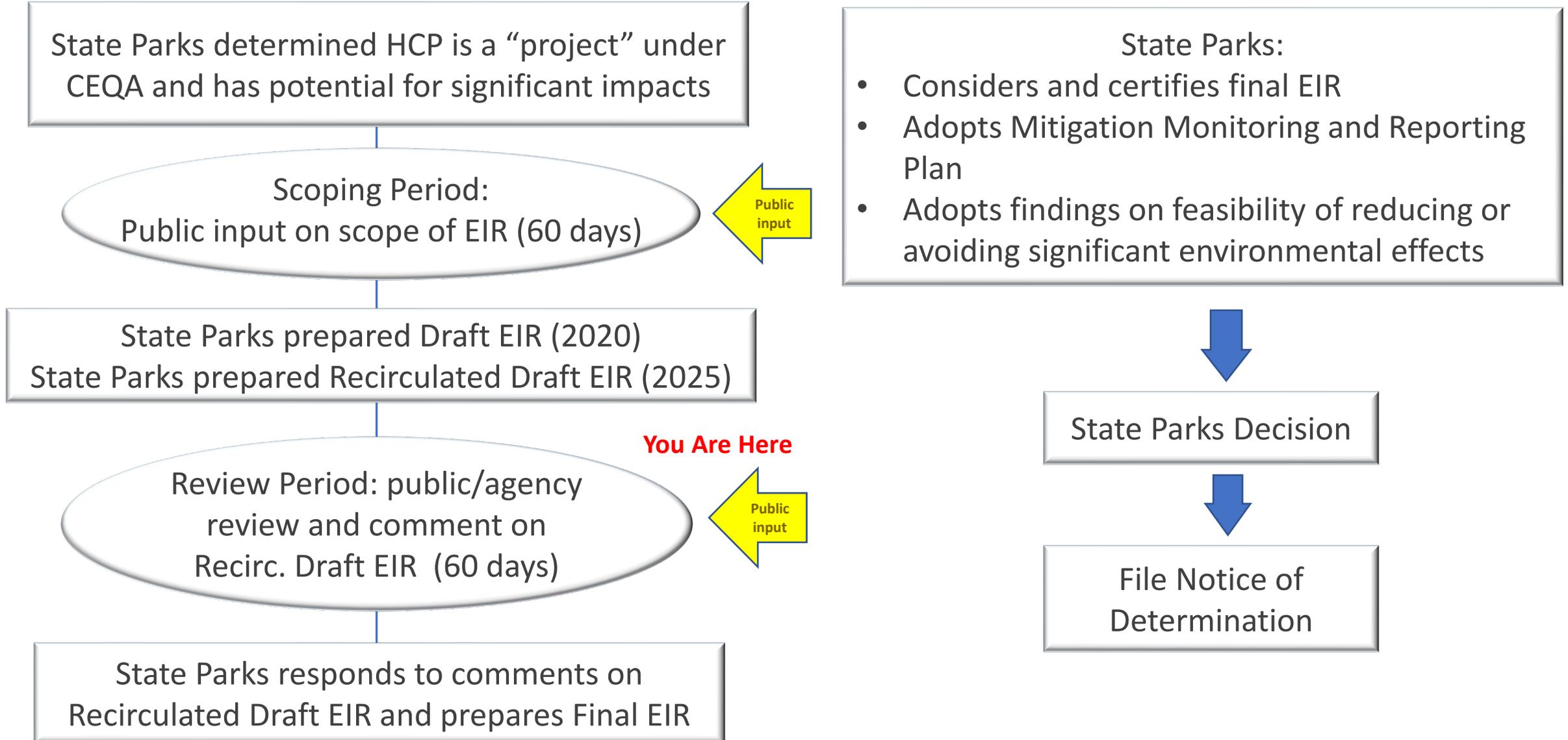


Project Alternatives

- Alternatives Considered in Detail
 - No Project
 - Reduced Disturbance in Dust Emission Areas
 - Permanent Year-Round Enclosures
 - Reduced Vehicle Limits
- Environmentally Superior Alternative

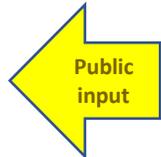


CEQA Process



State Parks determined HCP is a "project" under CEQA and has potential for significant impacts

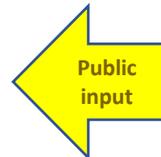
Scoping Period:
Public input on scope of EIR (60 days)



State Parks prepared Draft EIR (2020)
State Parks prepared Recirculated Draft EIR (2025)

Review Period: public/agency
review and comment on
Recirc. Draft EIR (60 days)

You Are Here



State Parks responds to comments on
Recirculated Draft EIR and prepares Final EIR

State Parks:

- Considers and certifies final EIR
- Adopts Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
- Adopts findings on feasibility of reducing or avoiding significant environmental effects



State Parks Decision



File Notice of
Determination

Schedule

- State Parks released Recirculated Draft EIR for public and agency comment in November 2025
- USFWS published the Recirculated Draft EA and HCP concurrently with the Draft EIR
- 60-day public and agency review closing January 23, 2026, at 5PM
- Estimated Take Permit issuance 2026



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Clarifying Questions?

Public Comment

A wide-angle photograph of a beach scene. The foreground is a sandy beach. The middle ground shows waves breaking onto the shore. The background features a range of low mountains or hills under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The text 'Public Comment' is centered in the upper half of the image in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

Public Comment

Per CEQA Guidelines, State Parks is required to respond to any significant environmental issues raised

Examples:

- Adequacy of EIR in identifying significant environmental impacts of proposed new activities
- Ways significant environmental impacts can be avoided or significantly reduced
- Alternatives or mitigation measures that would better avoid or reduce significant impacts



Ways to Provide Comments

1) Provide verbal comment now

Raise your hand now to join the comment queue

2) E-mail comments to: **comment@oceanoduneshcp.com**

3) Mail written comments to:

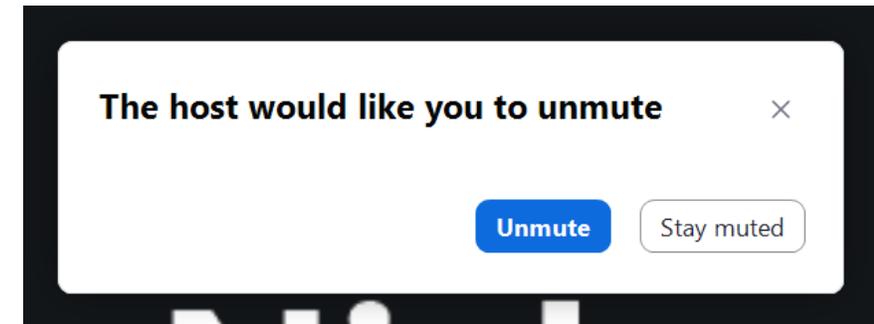
California State Parks, Oceano Dunes District
340 James Way, Suite 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
Attn: Ronnie Glick

**Submit written comments by:
Friday, January 23, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**



Verbal Public Comment Instructions

- Raise your digital hand to provide comment
- If you are joining via phone audio only, you can press *9 to raise your hand so we can unmute you when it is time to speak
- You will be asked to unmute when it is your time to speak
- Moderator will call out names in groups of 3 so you know if your turn is coming up
- Each speaker will get up to 2 minutes for their comments





Time for
Public Comments
on Draft EIR

Ways to Provide Comments

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Raise your hand now to join the comment queue
- 2) E-mail comments to: **comment@oceanoduneshcp.com**
- 3) Mail written comments to:
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A wide-angle photograph of a beach scene. The foreground is a sandy beach. The middle ground shows waves breaking onto the shore. In the background, there is a range of low mountains or hills under a sky filled with white, fluffy clouds. The text "Thank You!" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Thank You!