

RESERVOIR CANYON NATURAL RESERVE CONSERVATION PLAN



Natural Resources Protection Program
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990 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Conservation Plan

FINAL

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Executive Summary

Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve (RCNR) is located just northeast of the City of San Luis Obispo and is situated on nearly 800 acres of open space owned by the City. It contains the Reservoir Canyon and Bowden Ranch Open Spaces, and now includes the addition of the Upper Goldtree Vineyard tract lots acquired in June 2012, as well as the site of the City's La Loma Adobe.

Natural Features

The canyon features a perennial creek fed by several streams, which contribute to a rich and diverse natural setting. Several habitat types comprise RCNR, including chaparral, serpentine coastal scrub, serpentine grassland, and riparian. Key plant species include mariposa lilies, owl's clover, dudleyas, spineflowers, and the endangered Chorro Creek bog thistle.

Management Issues

The plan provides guidance and programs to address several management issues in RCNR:

- **Conservation.** The plan gives priority to conservation and maintenance of the natural ecosystem while allowing for passive public recreational uses where appropriate.
- **Legal agreements.** These include a Deed of Conservation Easement, a trail easement across private property, a PG&E power line maintenance easement, and shared water rights with neighboring properties.
- **Trail and slope erosion.** Erosion is particularly noticeable on steeper slopes and near the creek crossings.
- **Signage.** The property has outdated and limited signage that is deficient in providing for user safety and inadequately educates public users about off-trail hiking and the natural and cultural history of the property.
- **Parking and access.** RCNR has limited and problematic trailhead parking.

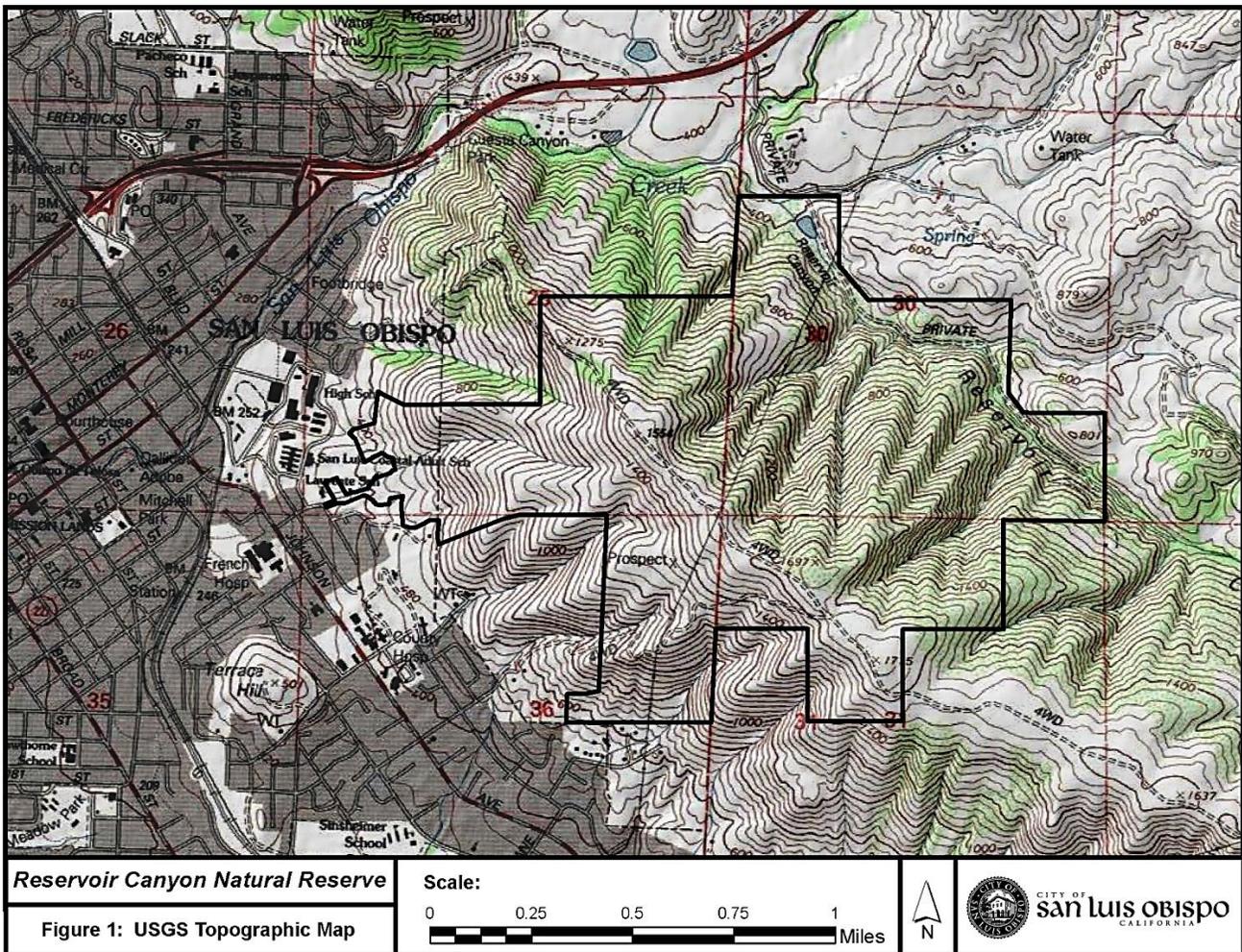
Goals & Policies

The RCNR Conservation Plan has as its overarching goal the conservation of sensitive habitats with compatible public use of the open space, while recognizing prior legal agreements. The plan will accomplish this goal, and address the management issues described above, through the following policies:

- Conserve, enhance, and restore natural plant and wildlife communities; protect sensitive endangered plant and wildlife species and their habitats; and maintain biodiversity of native plants and animals by protecting their habitats in order to maintain viable wildlife populations within balanced ecosystems.
- Provide the public with a safe and pleasing natural environment in which to pursue passive recreational activities, while maintaining the integrity of the resources and minimizing the impacts on the wildlife and habitats present in the Reserve.
- Preserve and restore creeks, wetlands, and ephemeral seeps or springs to a natural state, and provide suitable habitat for all native aquatic and riparian species.
- Minimize the impacts of harmful activities, such as off-trail hiking, illegal biking, and utility access, while maintaining natural drainage systems as a means of conveying storm water into and within urban areas.
- Provide signage and interpretive features to prevent unauthorized entrance at neighboring private property, enhance user safety, and for educational purposes.
- Maintain, protect, and improve aesthetic views as seen from the City of San Luis Obispo and Highway 101.

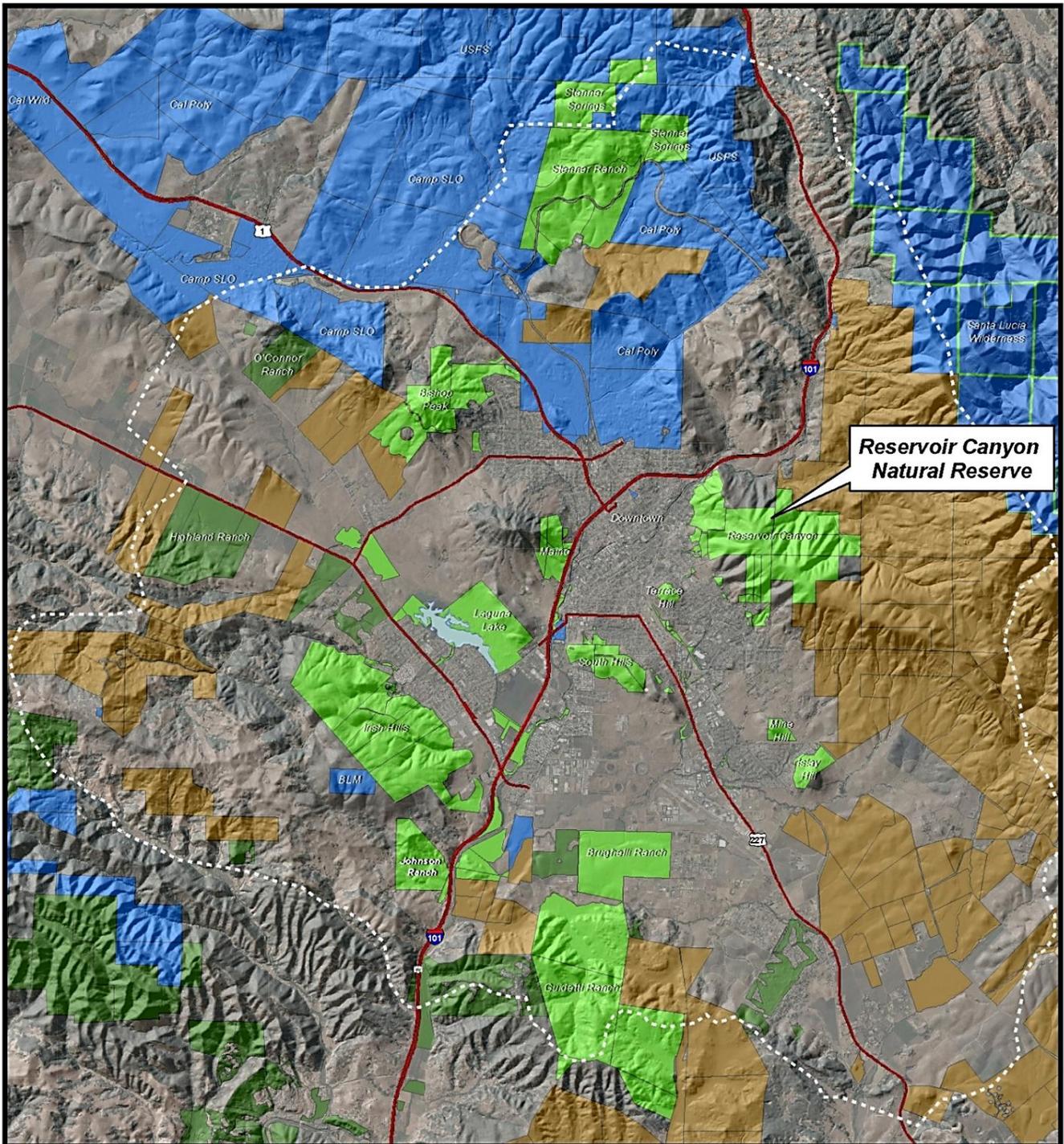
1. Introduction

Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve (RCNR) is a place of exceptional beauty, blending a rich ecosystem with spectacular views from the ridge overlooking the City of San Luis Obispo and its surroundings. It offers a unique opportunity for passive recreation within an environment full of native and rare plants. Once known as Fillmore Canyon, the area took its name from a publicly owned reservoir constructed in the first half of the twentieth century. A 1985 fire destroyed much of the vegetation in the canyon, filling in the then-abandoned reservoir in the process. Since that time, the ecosystem has made a remarkable comeback with very little human assistance. It is therefore the primary goal of this plan to conserve and protect the natural habitats comprising RCNR, mindful that the ecosystem is intact and resilient.



RCNR is located just northeast of the City of San Luis Obispo. It is situated on nearly 800 acres of open space owned by the City and features a perennial stream, numerous springs, and a variety of natural habitats. It contains the Reservoir Canyon and Bowden Ranch Open Spaces, a portion of the Upper Goldtree Vineyard tract acquired in 2012, and the site of the historic La Loma Adobe.

The creation of a conservation plan for RCNR is motivated by policy in the Conservation and Open Space Element of the City's General Plan, which states: "The City will adopt conservation plans (or master plans with conservation components) for large parcels, and for small parcels where conservation challenges and solutions need to be clarified" (from Appendix C of the Conservation and Open Space Element, p.77). In adherence to the City's *Conservation Guidelines for Open Space Lands*, this plan has a threefold purpose: to provide an account of the prevailing condition of the Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve; to set out future conservation and management goals for the property; and to prescribe a means of achieving those goals.



**Reservoir Canyon
Natural Reserve**

Map Key:

-  Greenbelt Boundary
-  City of SLO Conservation and Open Space
-  Other Conservation and Open Space
-  Public Lands
-  Williamson Act
-  Wilderness Area

Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve

Figure 2: San Luis Obispo Greenbelt Regional Context

Scale:



1.1 Site History

Reservoir Canyon was identified very early in the history of the City of San Luis Obispo as a source of reliable water of good quality. In the late 1800's the private San Luis Obispo Water Company purchased about 200 acres of land in the canyon and constructed several small diversion dams to divert water out of the creek and a series of pipelines to carry the water to a distribution reservoir just below the canyon. The company also constructed an earthen dam at the mouth of the canyon to also capture water for distribution into the City's water supply. It was this structure that gave the name Reservoir Canyon to the area; prior to that time it had been known as Fillmore Canyon.

In 1900 the City of San Luis Obispo purchased the water company in its entirety and became the water purveyor for the community. At that time the water collection system consisted of several diversion structures on San Luis Obispo Creek and several of its tributaries, including Reservoir Canyon Creek, Hansen Creek, and Gularte Creek, as well as the dam on Reservoir Canyon Creek. The purchase of the water company also included property for a potential dam site on Stenner Creek; however, this dam was never built.



Figure 3: Views of the dam (left) and filled-in reservoir in the canyon (right)

These facilities continued to operate into the 1950's. By this time the City had secured rights to water from the Salinas Reservoir, constructed in 1942 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the war effort to supply water to Camp San Luis Obispo, which was a major training facility during the war. With such a large water supply available, the smaller local supplies became uneconomical to continue to operate and were eventually abandoned as part of the City's water supply. Today all that remains of the local water supply system are remnants of a diversion dam on San Luis Obispo Creek (partially demolished to improve fish passage), a few sections of pipeline, some remains of small concrete diversion dams in the tributary creeks, including Reservoir Canyon Creek, and the dam face at the mouth of Reservoir Canyon. The reservoir itself has fully silted in and only holds a small volume of open water; it is instead a willow dominated swamp. Water still flows over the reservoir's outlet in a 15-foot waterfall, which is a popular walking destination for visitors.

In the 1980's Landscape Architecture students at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo created a master plan for Reservoir Canyon. The plan is notable for the fact that it focuses for the first time on the use of Reservoir Canyon as a recreational open space area. With this history mind, students in Landscape Architecture course 403 were again willing to provide contemporary designs for trails, parking, and adaptive re-use of the City's La Loma Adobe during the winter quarter of 2012. Some of the meritorious concepts are included in the Plan and are further discussed and depicted at Figure 7: Land Use Designations; paragraph 1.3 Access; and, paragraph 2.2 Cultural and Historical Features. Appendix A includes a few selected concept diagrams from those students' efforts.

As part of the 1994 General Plan update, the City Council formally declared that the Reservoir Canyon property would be kept as a portion of an open space system envisioned for the community. Since that

time the 284-acre Hastings property, the 207-acre Bowden Ranch property, and the 89 acre Upper Goldtree Vineyard property have been added to Reservoir Canyon, bringing it up to its current total land area of 783 acres. It should be noted that this acreage owned by the City is further buffered and enhanced by the contiguous Madonna and Wolfe open space easements to the west of RCNR, as well as numerous other smaller open space easements.

The City acquired La Loma Adobe in 1995. The Friends of Las Casa De Adobe (FOCA), a private community group, requisitioned Mr. Gil Sanchez to prepare a *Condition Assessment and Preliminary Rehabilitation Study* in 1998 of all three city-owned adobes, including La Loma Adobe. The study provided rehabilitation recommendations that were reviewed by the Cultural Heritage Committee (CHC) in 2000 and the CHC found the planned improvements to be consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards. The City was able to secure federal Community Development Block Grant funding to begin initial structural stabilization of La Loma Adobe, and recently completed re-plastering of the structure this past summer.

The Reservoir Canyon area has some history of mineral exploration. At least four small prospects exist on the hillside on both sides of the ridgeline west of Reservoir Canyon. The age, extent, and details of these explorations are unknown. It is believed that prospecting was for chromite, which is the main mineral of economic value in the serpentine hills around San Luis Obispo. Evidently, chromite was never found in economically viable quantities and the prospects were abandoned.

1.2 Natural Features

Rich plant and wildlife habitats compose Reservoir Canyon. The area consists of mostly steep terrain ranging from 400 feet to 1,715 feet in elevation and is the southern boundary for a large mammal migratory corridor associated with the Los Padres National Forest and points beyond. Chaparral covers the north ridge, with perennial grassland on the south ridge. Serpentine outcroppings provide another habitat for rare plant species adapted to the unusual soil conditions. Two perennial creeks fed by numerous springs and seeps along the ridge flow through the property, forming riparian habitats at the bottom of the canyon.

1.3 Access

Two trailheads provide access to RCNR. The first is the north entrance from Reservoir Canyon Road, which is one mile north of San Luis Obispo, east off of Highway 101. The road is partially paved near the RCNR entrance, and unmaintained parking for 6-8 cars is available at the side of the road. This location is problematic due to erosion and potholes that pool with water during the winter and spring months, as well as for the fact that it is located at the end of a rural county road largely out of view of the public. A concept sketch for a formal parking area with low-impact development (LID) drainage improvements, as well as a locking gate, is shown at Appendix A.

Returning to San Luis Obispo and points south from Reservoir Canyon Road entails a difficult, two-stage left-hand turn across Highway 101. However, an extended left-hand turn pocket between northbound and southbound traffic provides adequate distance for acceleration and merging into southbound traffic. A recent inquiry with Cal Trans District 5 staff indicates that there has been one collision at this location in the past five years, which is not significant enough to suggest that a "dangerous" condition exists that warrants further attention as part of this project.

The second access point is at the Bowden Ranch Open Space trailhead, located at the top of Lizzie Street in San Luis Obispo. This location currently offers limited amenities, with RCNR visitors making use of on-street parking and a bicycle rack. However, La Loma Adobe is located contiguous to RCNR at this location, creating an opportunity to integrate both facilities in a complimentary fashion. Due to the antiquated parcel configuration of La Loma Adobe that stretches across present-day Lizzie Street into the creek area on the other side, it is intermingled with the RCNR and comprises a small portion of riparian habitat and mixed coast live oak and eucalyptus already being managed as open space.

From a functional relationship standpoint, La Loma Adobe could be used as a Natural and Cultural History Interpretive Center. It could be used to stage outdoor education activities for students. It could be used as a shady picnic area after a long hike is completed. Further, it has been suggested that the upstairs be used as an on-site Reserve Manager's quarters. The City has previous experience with this model at the Johnson Ranch Open Space, which includes a turn-of-the-century residence and ranch headquarters on the property. This site is leased at one-half the market rate as a mutual benefit arrangement to a City employee, who in return is required to perform eight hours of site maintenance per week (outside of normal work time). This arrangement has been valuable in preventing vandalism and providing a 24 hour presence on-site.

From an operational standpoint, La Loma Adobe could provide a safer, improved trailhead and parking area. Hikers currently accessing the Reserve from Lizzie Street must park in the street and then walk up the street (no sidewalk) to access the trail at the top of the cul-de-sac. With the last few houses in the Bowden Ranch subdivision being completed, people accessing the trail could pose greater parking and traffic concerns on Lizzie Street and opportunities for neighborhood conflict. An option considered in *the Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Conservation Plan* is the recommendation to relocate the trailhead further down the creek, accessed via a crosswalk from La Loma Adobe. The City also owns the lot adjacent to La Loma Adobe which could accommodate off-street parking for approximately 8-10 cars.

2. Inventory

2.1 Physical Inventory

The Reservoir Canyon trail spans over 2.5 miles from the trailhead at Reservoir Canyon Road to the top of the ridge. From the ridge, the trail connects to the Bowden Ranch trail, which runs 0.9 miles down a steep hillside to the property's other trailhead at the east end of Lizzie Street in San Luis Obispo. Currently, there is no loop system for the trails. Other features include a pair of stone benches on the ridge top and rock piles left by visitors at a few points along the ridge and trail. Most remarkable are the views of the City of San Luis Obispo from the top of the ridge and the line of Morros. Similarly, the view of the property and ridge from within the City make up part of the part of the City's geographic identity.

2.2 Cultural and Historic Features

In addition to its natural and physical features, RCNR's most notable cultural and historic feature is "La Loma de la Nopalera Adobe". Literally translated, it is the sun-dried mud brick house on the hill of prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia spp.*). The core structure is thought to have been constructed around 1782 or earlier and it is a rare example of a two-story adobe of "Monterey style" architecture, making of substantial historic significance. The Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) of the City's General Plan provides a policy framework for the inclusion of La Loma Adobe into the RCNR. In addition to its protective measures relative to natural resources, the COSE specifies that all the larger City open space properties shall be managed in accordance with *Conservation Guidelines for Open Space Lands of the City of San Luis Obispo* (2004). This document, in turn, specifies the required components of each conservation plan, to include discussion of appropriate treatment of cultural resources. At the same time, the COSE also provides specific program guidance relative to adaptive reuse and City-owned adobes:

3.6.8 Promote adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

The City will, consistent with health, safety and basic land-use policies, apply building and zoning standards within allowed ranges of flexibility, to foster continued use and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

3.6.9 City-owned adobes and historic structures.

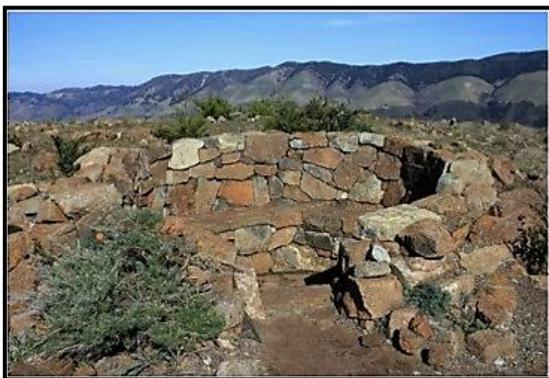
The City will preserve and, as resources permit, rehabilitate City-owned historic adobes and other historic structures by aggressively seeking grants, donations, private-sector participation or other techniques that help fund rehabilitation and adaptive reuse.

As interesting and important as La Loma Adobe is by itself, our understanding of the site and structure are much richer in the context of its historic landscape. At a fundamental level, it is typical to observe the presence of natural resources surrounding early settlements; indeed, with the perennial spring that flows adjacent, the elevated views off-site to the Mission and the surrounding valley, and the proximity to game species and pasture for cattle, La Loma Adobe is no exception and it was likely constructed where it is for these reasons. City staff's preliminary research is inconclusive as to how large the original land holding surrounding La Loma Adobe was, however. It is known that by the beginning of the early California period the *La Viña* property (which included La Loma Adobe) was large enough to support a substantial cattle operation when it transferred from Baptiste Garcia to the tenure of Estevan Quintana in 1852. "The agreement shows that there was a stone fence or corral on the property. This land was apparently adjacent to land Estevan already owned. [Both transactions are on San Luis Obispo County Deed Book A, page 28][A *sitio de ganado mayor* was a square league that measured 5,000 *varas* on each side, which equaled 4,338.68 acres. A *criadero de ganado mayor* was one quarter of the *sitio*, or 1,109.67 acres. A *sitio de ganado menor* was two thirds of a *sitio de ganado mayor*, or 2,959.12 acres. A *criadero de ganado menor* was one third of a *sitio de ganado mayor*, or 1,479.56 acres.]" (Alonzo Dana, 1970).

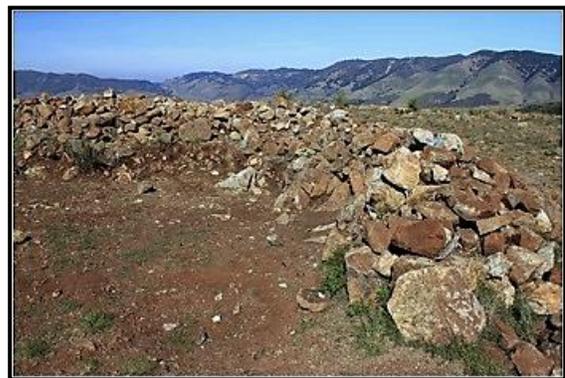
However, following a dispute with the U.S. Land Grant Commission in 1853 in which Estevan Quintana's claim that *La Viña* rancho was deeded by the Mexican government was denied, there was a subsequent exchange for a portion of *La Viña* rancho for 3,166 acres of the 3,506.33 acre *Rancho Potrero de San Luis Obispo*, which lay on Stenner Creek about five miles northeast. The exchange was made with Doña María Concepción Boronda de Muñoz, one of the prominent Boronda family of Monterey County, CA (Dana, 1970). It is also known that an additional quarter section of land (160 acres) adjacent to La Loma Adobe was homesteaded by the Boronda de Muñoz family in 1870 (Sanchez, 1998). Today, neighboring rancher Eleanor Truocchio operates an approximately 4,000-acre cattle ranch contiguous to the north of RCNR. Ms. Truocchio is a descendent of the Boronda family and as a 7th generation rancher is a living link to the early California era at La Loma Adobe (San Luis Obispo County Cattlewomen's Association website, <http://www.cattlewomen-slo.org>).

With the strong possibility of other cultural and historical features that may be found within RCNR, City staff requisitioned *An Archaeological Surface Survey for Existing Trails & Proposed Trail Extension at the Reservoir Canyon Area* prepared by Mr. Thor Conway with the firm Heritage Discoveries, Inc. (Appendix J). This study included a Phase I cultural resources survey and literature review and recommends no further study relative to the installation of new trails. Finally, an old air traffic beacon still stands at the northernmost point of the trail on the ridge – a physical reminder of the World War II era.

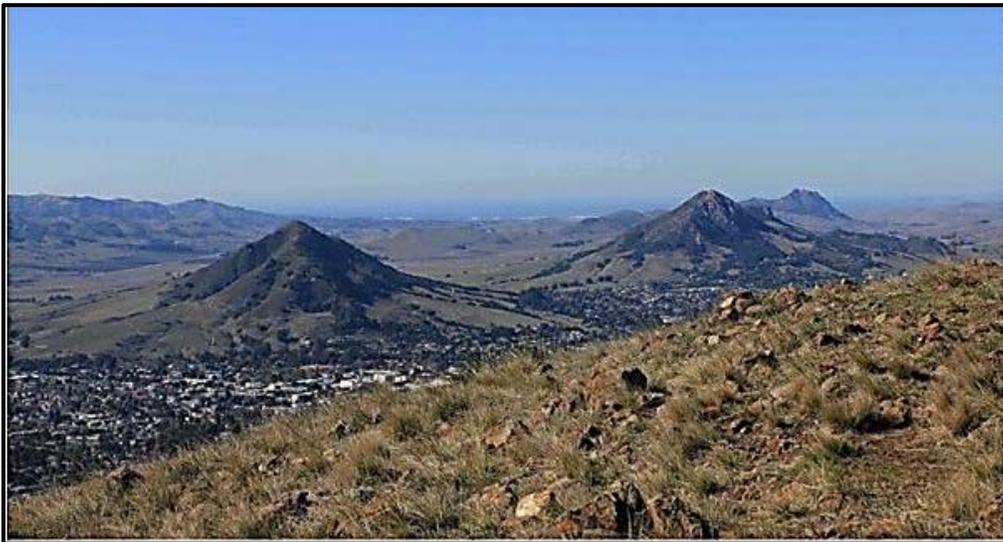
Figure 4: Physical, cultural, and historical features of RCNR



4a. Finished stone bench on the ridge



4b. Larger, unfinished stone bench on the ridge



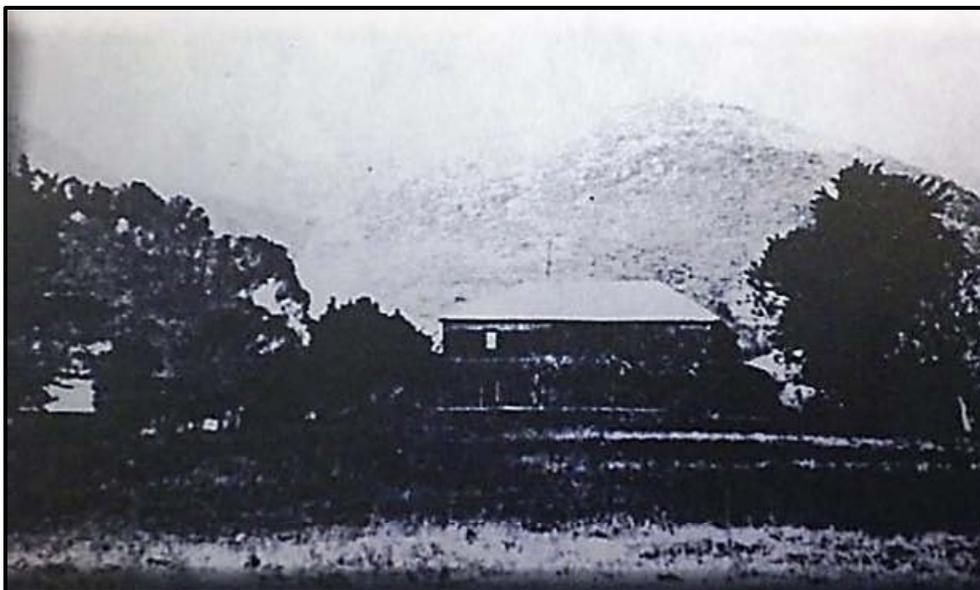
4c. A view from the ridge, facing northwest.
Cerro San Luis and Bishop Peak are in the background.



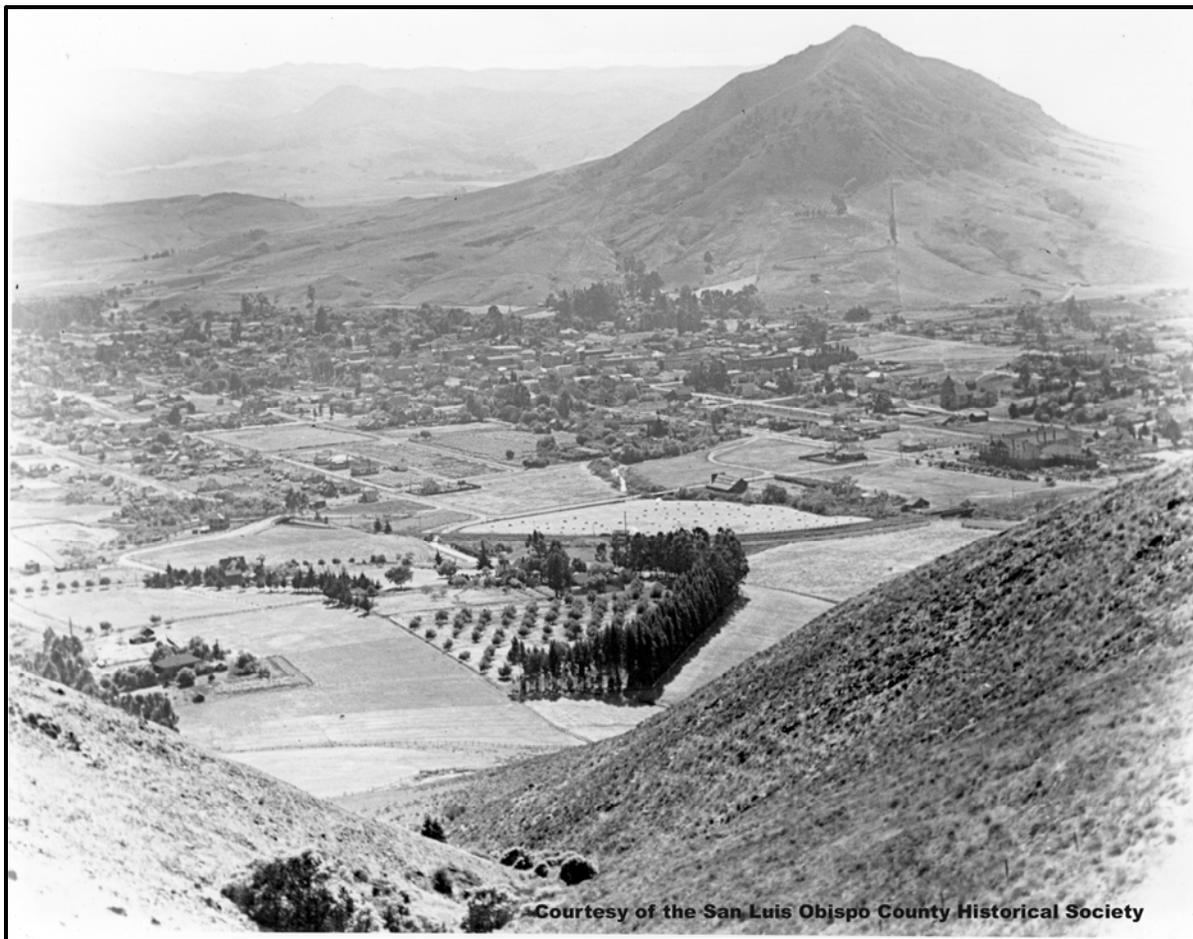
4d. Rock pile along the ridge trail



4e. Old air traffic beacon on the ridge top



4f. La Loma Adobe with present-day RCNR behind



Courtesy of the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society

4g. La Loma Adobe is at the bottom left; the RCNR trail leading to the top of the ridge ascends the same canyon from which this photo is taken

2.3 Legal Agreements

There are five legal agreements with important bearing on the use and functioning of Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve:

The first is the easement held by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for their transmission line, which crosses RCNR from southwest to northeast. This line was originally constructed in the early 1900's. Today it is known as the Atascadero-San Luis Obispo 70kV line. It consists of a single line of towers carrying 70 kilovolts (kV) of electrical power. The towers consist of a steel lattice type of construction, and are about 100 feet tall. PG&E has just completed replacing these towers for safety and supply reliability purposes. The easement grants PG&E the right of reasonable access to the towers for maintenance and replacement purposes.

Another important legal agreement is the "floating" easement for road purposes across what is now known as the Michael Sheffer property. The Hastings family retained this easement when Edward J. Hastings sold a 40-acre portion of his property (specifically the northeast quarter or the northeast quarter of Section 31 in Township 30 South, Range 13 East, MDB&M) to a son or other relative, Frank D. Hastings, in 1953. The grant deed memorializes the sale, subject to the following exception:

"Also excepting and reserving unto the grantor herein an easement for road purposes over and across said land, at a site and location to be selected by or acceptable to the Grantor and his heirs and assigns and said easement to be of a width of not more than 50 feet. Said easement shall inure to the benefit of the heirs and assigns of the Grantor, and is intended to be used by and to benefit the owners of any of the lands and portions thereof retained by the Grantor so

that the lands so retained or the portions of the lands can be held and enjoyed and the easement for road purposes be used and enjoyed without limit for any particular use by the Grantor and his heirs and assigns and the holders, owners and users of said easement."

The above language provides the legal right for the existing hiking trail crossing the Sheffer property, Mr. Sheffer being the successor in interest to Frank D. Hastings. See Appendix B for the complete agreement.

A third legal agreement permits watering of cattle in Reservoir Canyon Creek from the adjacent Truocchio property. This agreement, which involved the purchase in 1911 of several small parcels of land by the City of San Luis Obispo from what was then called the Lowe property, allowed the City to fence off the creek from livestock, but if that were done the City would have to provide an alternative water source for livestock. Evidently this was never done, and the arrangement allowing livestock access to the creek has continued for more than 100 years, to the present day. Appendix C has the complete text of this agreement.

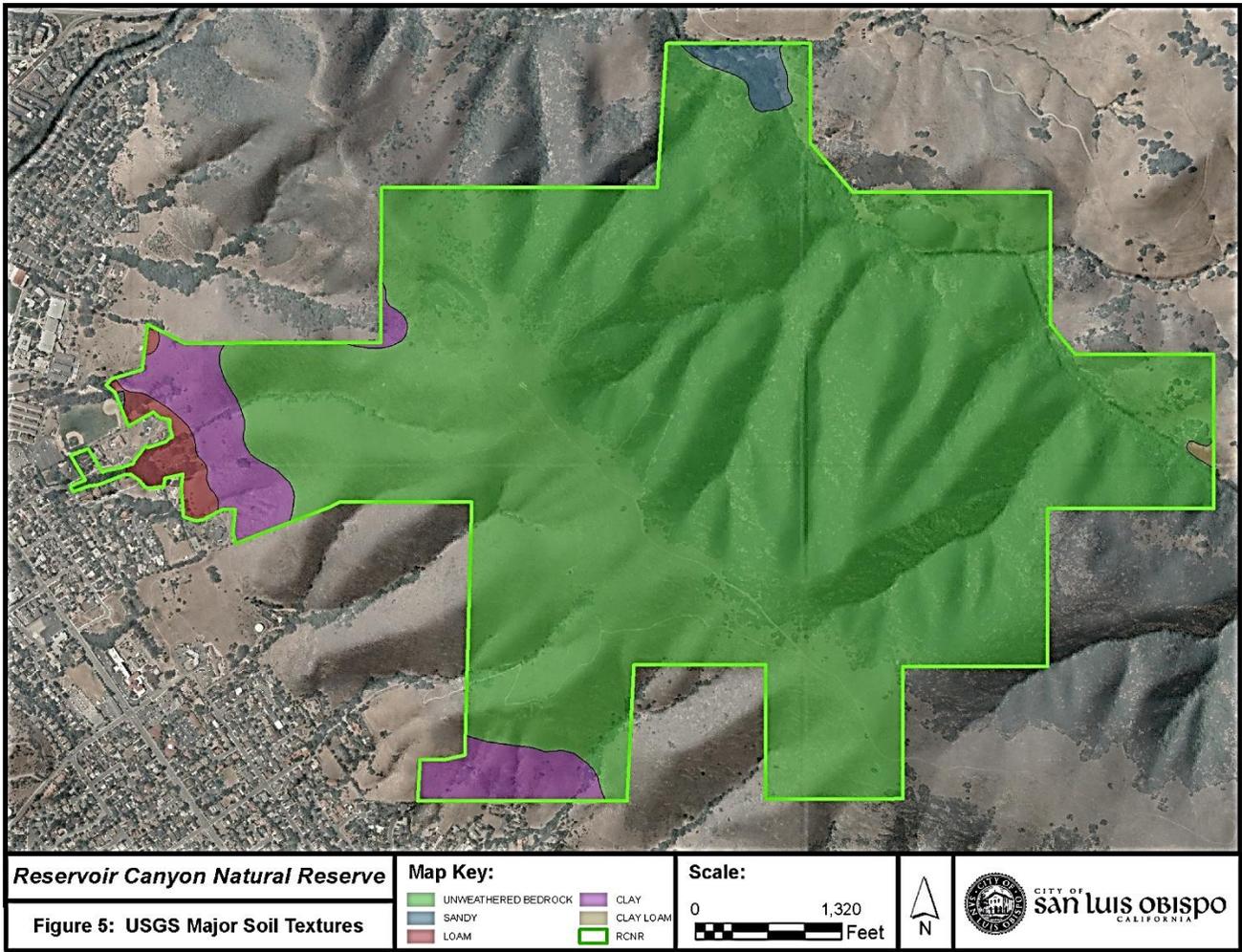
A fourth legal agreement involves the assignment of a Deed of Conservation Easement and the retained use of water from a spring on the Bowden Ranch portion of RCNR. In 2004, as part of the approval of a subdivision for the Bowden Ranch, approximately 190 acres of the 220-acre ranch was protected by dedication of a Deed of Conservation Easement in favor of the City of San Luis Obispo. In 2008, full title to the Bowden Ranch Open Space property was obtained. In order to maintain the integrity and intent of the Conservation Easement, it was assigned to The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County who continues to monitor and manage this property interest. The full text of the Deed of Conservation Easement encumbering the Bowden Ranch Open Space is included as Appendix K.

As another component of the transaction by which the City obtained ownership of the Bowden Ranch Open Space area, a fifth legal agreement pertaining to the property arises, which was the seller's retained right to use of one-half of the natural flow of the spring that once provided water to the La Loma Adobe and the grounds surrounding it. The practical effect of this retention is that the spring box, small storage tank along the Bowden Ranch Trail, and several water lines in the vicinity will remain functional for the foreseeable future. This does not impair the use of the site by the City or by visitors. Even with the retention, the spring still provides year around surface base flow to Lizzie Creek.

It should also be noted that at one time Reservoir Canyon Road extended at least one and a half miles farther up the canyon than it does today, but at some time (probably the late 1950's or early 1960's) the road was abandoned by the County of San Luis Obispo back to the point of its current terminus at the edge of RCNR.

2.4 Soils

There are five major soil textures in RCNR, as depicted in Figure 5: clay; clay loam; loam; sandy; and, unweathered bedrock, which is the dominant texture. According to the US Geological Survey, there are fifteen distinct soil types in the greater Reservoir Canyon Area. Table 1 in Appendix D lists the types and their components. It accounts for the soil coverage type as a percentage of the overall acreage. The USGS data is also illustrated in a map in Appendix D. The dominant type is Obispo-rock outcrop or serpentine-derived soils, which, due to their inhospitableness for most species, often tend to favor native and rare California plant species. The next most common type is the Los Osos-Diablo complex, occurring above shale bedrock. Usual vegetation in this soil type is mostly annual grasses and forbs with some perennial grasses, coastal sagebrush, and coast live oak. Gazos-Lodo clay loams comprise the third most common soil type in the RCNR area. This slightly acidic soil is commonly covered with vegetation consisting of annual grasses and forbs, with some brush and coastal live oak.



2.5 Water Resources

Water features include two perennial creeks – Reservoir Canyon Creek and an unnamed creek that flows along Lizzie St. that is often referred to as Lizzie Creek – and the numerous springs and seeps that feed them. Reservoir Canyon Creek runs year around in its easterly, upstream reaches before going intermittently underground just before the reservoir itself. The stream returns to surface flow near the 15-foot waterfall located below the old reservoir’s outlet. Both of these perennial creek systems provide valuable summer base flow to the greater San Luis Obispo Creek watershed. As stated in section 2.3, two legal agreements affect a portion of RCNR’s water resources: A 1911 agreement permits watering of cattle in Reservoir Canyon Creek from the adjacent Trucchio property. A second agreement, with the seller of the Bowden Ranch property, retains ownership of one half of the flow from one of the springs in that area.

2.6 Habitat Types

Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve has four general habitat types: chaparral; coastal sage- and serpentine coastal sage scrub; serpentine grassland; and riparian. Figure 6 depicts these habitat types. Notable encountered plant species include Mariposa lilies (both the club haired and San Luis Obispo varieties), owl’s clover/Indian paintbrush, spineflowers (both Brewer’s and Palmer’s varieties), star tulip, and Chorro Creek bog thistle, which are shown in Table 1. A full plant species list is available in Appendix E. Notable wildlife species encountered include mountain lion, skunk, deer (fawn), roadrunner, and

white tailed kite. A full wildlife inventory will be completed at a later date and will be appended to this plan.

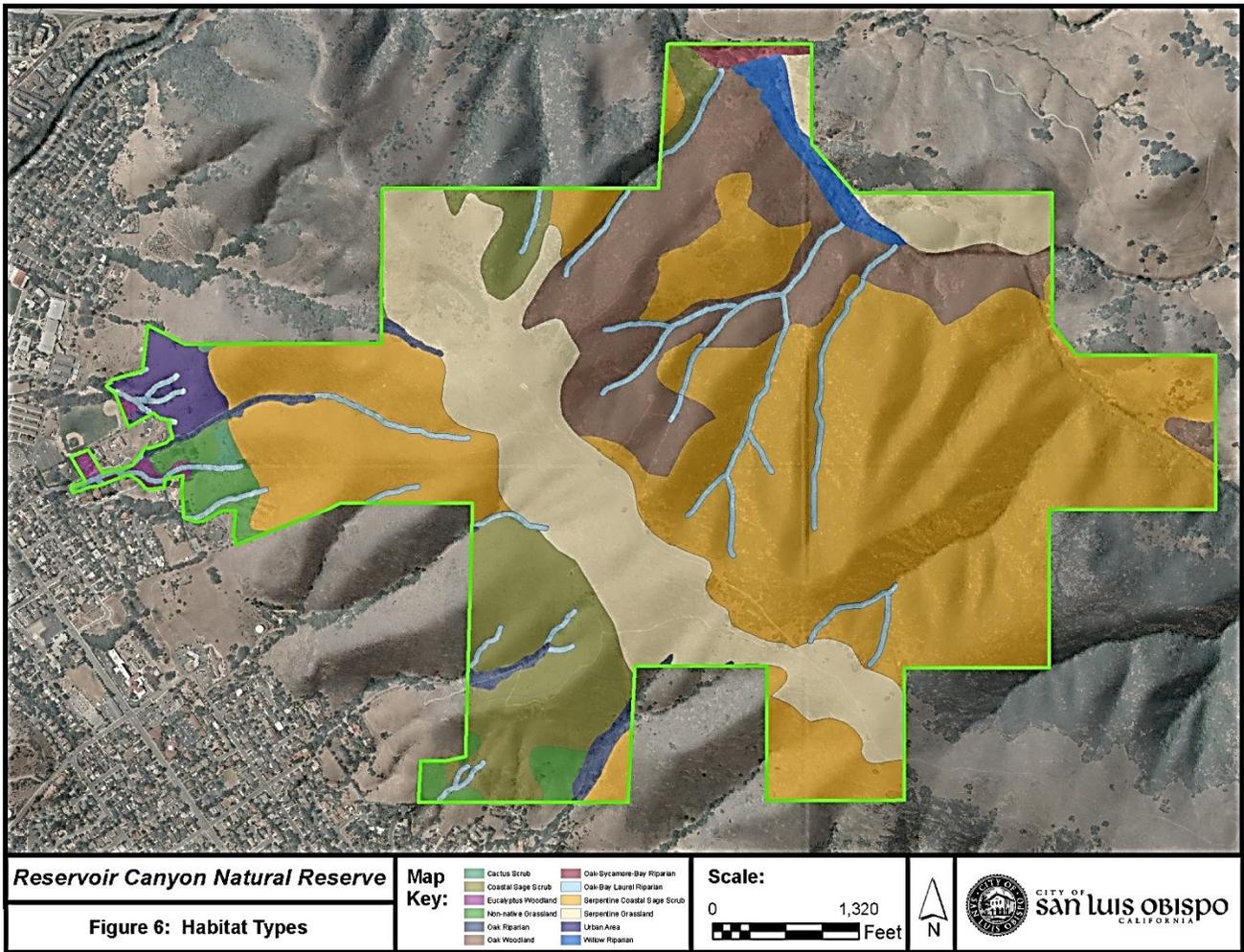


Table 1: Notable Plant Species in RCNR



Club-haired Mariposa lily
Calochortus clavatus var. *clavatus*



San Luis Obispo Mariposa lily
Calochortus obispoensis



San Luis Obispo dudleya
Dudleya abramsii ssp. *murina*



San Luis Obispo Owl's clover
Castilleja densiflora ssp. *obispoense*



Brewer's spineflower
Chorizanthe breweri



Palmer's spineflower
Chorizanthe palmeri



Chorro Creek bog thistle
Cirsium fontinale var. *obispoense*



Jones' Layia
Layia jonesii

2.6.1 Chaparral

The north-facing slope of the Reservoir Canyon ridge has diverse vegetation due to relatively warm, moist conditions and protection from the wind. As is typical for chaparral habitats, the plants in this part of RCNR are full of woody, evergreen shrubs. The plants' dormant period coincides with dry, summer weather. Many plants in chaparral have reproductive cycles adapted to fires, with some requiring the heat of flames to germinate seeds. The currently thriving chaparral is likely a direct result of natural ecological succession following the Las Pilitas fire of 1985, which burnt much of Reservoir Canyon. Intervals for naturally occurring fires in chaparral are 30-40 years on average, but can be as long as 100 years.

The chaparral habitat in RCNR includes the shrubs ceanothus (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), the rare San Luis Obispo spineflower (*Chorizanthe palmeri*) and Brewer's spineflower (*Chorizanthe breweri*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). The main tree type is the California scrub oak (*Quercus durata*). Key grass, herb, and flower species include purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*), giant wildrye (*Leymus condensatus*), and the California golden poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*).

2.6.2 Coastal Sage Scrub and Serpentine Coastal Sage Scrub

These habitats occupy the south-facing slope of RCNR, where the climate is windier and drier as compared to the north-facing slope. Plants typically have leaves that are softer and more aromatic than those in chaparral. Also unlike chaparral, sage scrub plants drop their leaves in summer. Serpentine outcroppings in RCNR's coastal sage scrub are extreme versions of the habitat due to the soil: only rare species can survive the inhospitable conditions. Fire intervals in typical scrub habitats often coincide with nearby chaparral. Plant species of note in the sage scrub habitats are various lilies (*Calochortus*) and the Indian paintbrush flower (*Castilleja affinis*).

2.6.3 Serpentine Grassland

The serpentine grassland, primarily on the ridge and the south-facing slope in RCNR, is a relatively pristine habitat in that it is dominated by native species. Within the last decade, the area was submitted by the City's Natural Resources Program to the state's Fire and Resource Assessment Program as a reference example of a natural grassland area. Due to the chemical composition and relative infertility of serpentine soil, a lower diversity of species is found. Yet, as a result, the soil also favors rare and native species.

Grass species include several *Bromus* and most notably *Avena barbata*, however several native species including *Melica* species and *Nassella* species can be found in less hospitable areas of shallow, rocky soil. Notable wildflowers include coastal tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*) and California golden poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*). Rare species include Mariposa lilies (both the San Luis Obispo and club haired varieties of *Calochortus*), most beautiful jewel flower (*Streptanthus albidus* subspecies *peamoenus*), brewer's spineflower (*Chorizanthe breweri*) and the succulent Abrams' liveforever (*Dudleya abramsii*).

2.6.4 Riparian

Riparian areas within City property on the north slope of the Reservoir Canyon ridge are fed by six drainages, which favors the species diversity in the canyon, including numerous species of shrubs, and a variety of trees, grasses, herbs, succulents, and most notably, ferns. The observed species of fern are: maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*), coffee (*Pellaea andromedifolia*), goldback (*Pentagramma triangularis*), and California polypody (*Polypodium californicum*). Tree species include California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), brewer's willow (*Salix breweri*), and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Among the succulents, shrubs, and herbs are Abrams' and lanceleaf liveforevers (*Dudleya abramsii* and *Dudleya lanceolata*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and both the common seep and sticky monkey flower (*Mimulus guttatus* and *Mimulus aurantiacus*). The federally endangered Chorro Creek bog thistle (*Cirsium fontinate* var. *Obispoense*) was first observed next to a seep within one of the upper

north slope drainages by Cal Poly biological sciences student Ben Carter in 2002. This population was again located and documented in the spring of 2013.

3. Goals and Policies

The document *"Conservation Guidelines for Open Space Lands of the City of San Luis Obispo"* describes management guidelines and policies designed to achieve the stated goals of the City's open space element (i.e. COSE 8.1-8.7).

Goals

The City will manage Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve with the following goals:

3.1 To conserve, enhance, and restore natural plant and wildlife communities; to protect sensitive endangered plant and wildlife species and their habitats; and to maintain biodiversity of native plants and animals by protecting their habitats in order to maintain viable wildlife populations within balanced ecosystems.

3.2 To provide the public with a safe and pleasing natural environment in which to pursue passive recreational activities, while maintaining the integrity of the resources and minimizing the impacts on the wildlife and habitats present in the Reserve.

3.3 To preserve and restore creeks, wetlands, and ephemeral seeps or springs to a natural state, and provide suitable habitat for all native aquatic and riparian species.

3.4 To minimize the impacts of harmful activities, such as off-trail hiking, illegal mountain bike use, cattle grazing, catastrophic wildfire, and utility access, while maintaining natural drainage systems as a means of conveying storm water into and within urban areas.

3.5 To provide signage and interpretive features to enhance user safety, prevent unauthorized entrance at neighboring private property, and for educational purposes.

3.6 To maintain, protect, and improve aesthetic views as seen from the City of San Luis Obispo and Highway 101.

3.7 To protect, restore, and further research the important historic and cultural resources within the Reserve, most particularly La Loma Adobe.

3.8 To regularly monitor and patrol the Reserve, establish Levels of Acceptable Change (LAC), and take action to correct areas or problems that exceed LAC.

Policies

3.9 Public Comment and Input

This conservation plan seeks to accommodate the wishes and desires of the general public while addressing the City's goals in the Conservation Open Space Element. A public meeting was held in January 2012 as well as meetings with other individuals and groups for input on the conservation plan. Notes from that meeting are included as Appendix H. The first Public Hearing Draft was reviewed before duly noticed Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission hearings. This Revised Public Hearing Draft was also heard before the same bodies again, as well as the Cultural Heritage Committee. Staff has noted comments received as testimony in these hearings, as well as written comments received. Staff's response to these comments is provided as Appendix K.

3.10 Vegetation Management

3.10.1 The City will monitor and manage vegetation to meet prescribed goals for the land. Management strategies such as the following will be implemented where necessary: physical pruning/removal of unwanted or problematic vegetation – especially non-native species; erosion and sediment control; and application of Integrated Pest Management practices.

3.10.2 Restoration and/or re-vegetation techniques will be utilized when necessary to restore a degraded vegetative community to a fully functioning ecosystem. All restoration activities will utilize site or region-specific native grasses, herbs, shrubs, and trees. Planting of invasive, non-native species will be prohibited. Adjacent landowners will be encouraged to undertake efforts to control target non-native vegetation on their land.

3.10.3 All existing native trees will be preserved wherever possible, and new native trees planted to enhance wildlife habitat. Where possible, vegetation will be left to follow its natural course of succession and will not receive any form of active management. The ultimate goal will be to re-establish, or preserve, a self-sustaining ecosystem.

3.11 Active Recreation

Active recreation are activities that are considered more intrusive to the local natural environment, including mountain biking, horseback riding, rock climbing, paintball, hunting, and fishing, and will be prohibited.

3.12 Scientific Research

Non-destructive scientific study and research will be permitted with prior, written approval from the City's Natural Resources Program. A condition of approval will be that the applicant provides the City with a written report of the findings of the study. This will assist the City in compiling a detailed inventory of natural and biological resources located in RCNR.

4. Conservation Plan

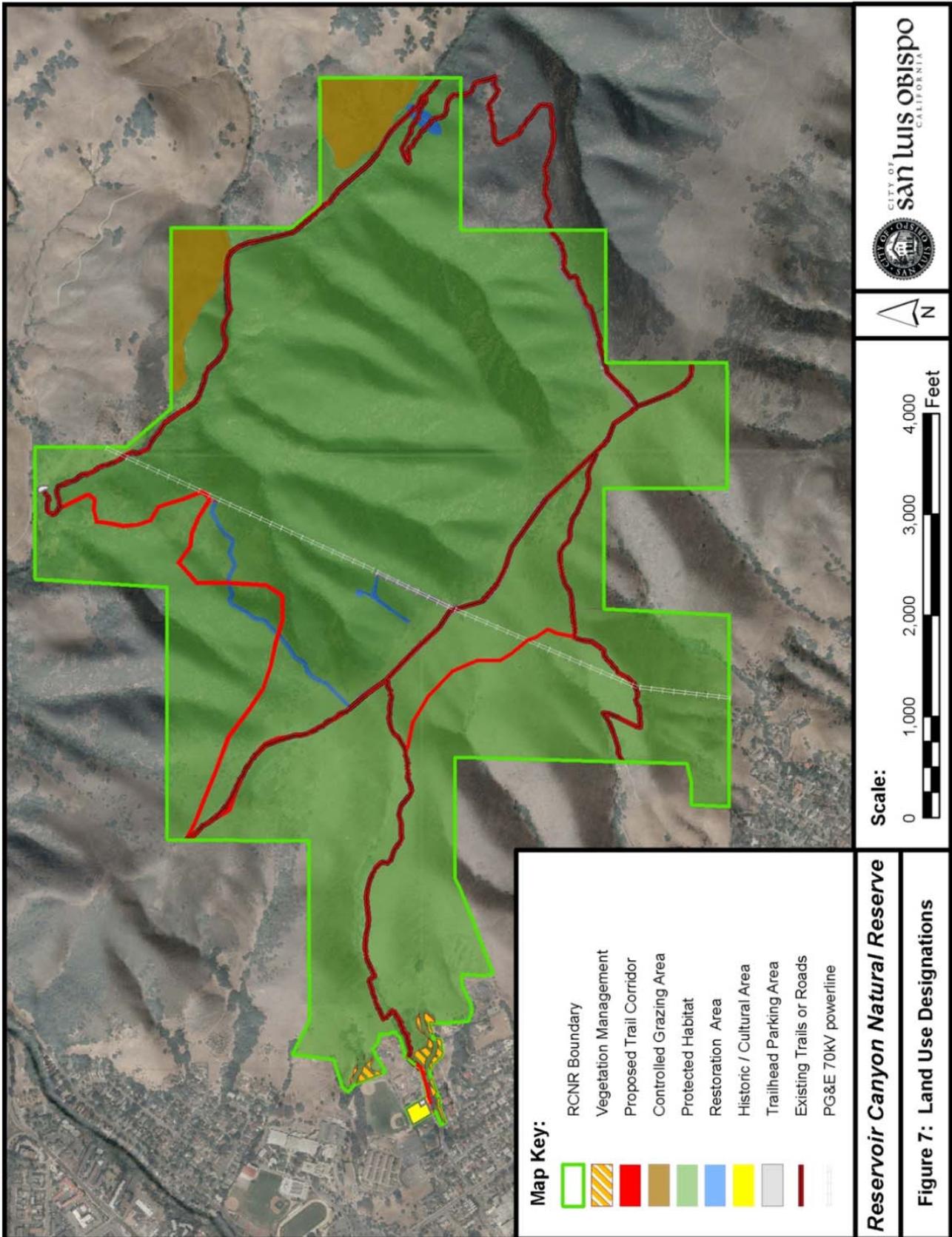
4.1 Naming

The name *Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve* shall be the name of the plan area. Since the property combines multiple, contiguous open spaces, including Reservoir Canyon and Bowden Ranch, it is a "natural reserve," according to the City's Open Space Regulations (Municipal Code Sec. 12.22.030).

4.2 Land Use Designations

The land uses of Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve are explained below and illustrated in Figure 7.

4.2.1 Habitat Area – Land on which the primary objective will be to protect natural resources essential to the continued existence of native plants and resident and migratory wildlife. This is by far the largest share of the land uses in RCNR.



4.2.2 Management Areas

a. Trail Corridor – Lands that have the potential to support low levels of recreational pressure; or those areas that may be impacted by adjacent land uses. Active management of land in these areas will be required to facilitate approved activities while protecting valuable natural resources. To provide a safe and stable surface that minimizes soil disturbance, boardwalks will be considered along the lower portion of the trail adjacent to the creek, past the Reservoir Canyon entrance. Also consider impact of unauthorized trails and close/rehabilitate them as soon as possible.

b. Proposed Trail Corridor – Proposed expansion of the trail system to complete a loop trail. The alignment proposed is based on interpretation of aerial photographs and contour maps. Actual alignment of the trail may vary depending on “ground-truthing”. Currently, both PG&E and members of the public traverse the steep hillside, passing through habitat. Since the public traverses the area, and PG&E has a continual need to access its utility towers, the City will examine the feasibility of creating a proper trail to link the ridge back down to the parking lot on the north side of the property. The proposed trail would be intended to both increase safety for visitors and reduce the ongoing impact to the habitat of the current off-trail travel. Therefore, the trail would not exceed a slope of 15%.

c. Utility Corridor – Access trail for PG&E’s maintenance of utility towers. PG&E has an easement right for such access. A flat area will be considered for use as a heli-spot to provide PG&E quick maintenance access that minimizes land disturbance.

d. Administrative-Road – Vehicular access road through the southern part of the property. This area will be managed as the trail corridor.

e. Grazing – Land that will be monitored for impacts due to grazing. Based on a 1911 deed, the neighboring property to the north has access rights for watering 40 head of livestock in the creek. [See Appendix C for the text of the deed.] The City will monitor any impacts to this area and consider whether to add fencing along the property line to prevent livestock access.

f. Fire hazard management areas – Areas of active fire hazard mitigation. See Section 5 – Wildfire Preparedness Plan – for additional explanation.

4.2.3 Restoration Area – Land on which restoration and enhancement of plant and animal habitats will be pursued in an effort to restore damaged or impacted natural resources. One restoration area is a gully at the final creek crossing on the Reservoir Canyon side. The other restoration area is the PG&E maintenance easement. The City is working collaboratively with PG&E on new practices to satisfy the needs of both parties – that is, to provide safe maintenance access in a sustainable manner. Historically, the utility company clear-cut their way to their towers. Modern practices can achieve the same result with a lower, more sustainable impact.

4.3 Photo Monitoring Points

City staff will establish photo-monitoring points throughout RCNR to establish baseline conditions and periodically monitor levels of acceptable change. Photo points will include areas of heavy public traffic, areas likely to suffer erosion damage, areas impacted by grazing, and habitats with sensitive plant and wildlife species.

The following photo points will be used to establish baseline conditions. Additional points may be added as necessary if conditions change or new issues arise. Initial photos are included in Appendix F.

Beginning from the Reservoir Canyon (i.e. north) entrance of RCNR:

1. The Reservoir Canyon trailhead
2. The waterfall area near the trailhead
3. Initial creek crossings (two locations)
4. Erosion location 1 – along the trail, after the first two creek crossings
5. Erosion location 2 – farther along the trail
6. Upper creek crossing – final creek crossing before ascending the trail up the ridge
7. Erosional gully along the trail, after the final creek crossing (two locations)
8. PG&E access trail from the top of the ridge, under the power lines (two locations)
9. Access trail to lower towers proposed for decommissioning
10. Proposed heli-spot for PG&E maintenance access

Beginning from the Bowden Ranch (i.e. west) entrance to RCNR on Lizzie Street:

11. The Bowden Ranch trailhead
12. Initial creek crossing
13. Trail through lower entrance area of Bowden Ranch (two locations)

4.4 Needs Analysis

4.4.1 Resource Management and Protection

Biological surveys are the basis for natural resource management in RCNR. After the initial surveys conducted for the creation of this plan, the City will monitor and protect the habitat areas, and sensitive species identified in particular (e.g. trout, bog thistle, and lilies), on an ongoing basis and will evaluate levels of acceptable change. City staff will work with local universities to compile ongoing resource inventories.

4.4.2 Resource Enhancement

Enhancement of natural resources will focus on two areas of RCNR. The first is the set of utility easement trails for power line maintenance in the northern part of the property. The second is to review and, if necessary, improve the conditions of eroded areas along the creek and trail. In all cases, any enhancements will attempt to restore the area to more natural conditions, weighing trail maintenance or rerouting against existing use. Ongoing management will consist of monitoring and protecting those restored conditions, including removal of non-native vegetation. It will also consist of evaluating the need and feasibility of constructing boardwalks and/or step-over bridges where feasible along the lower, creek-adjacent portion of the trail. Visual resources for the Reserve will be protected through the regular patrol by City staff and who will also respond to reports from the public about unauthorized trails, signs, or any other impairments.

4.4.3 Mitigation

RCNR is not conducive to mitigation banking due to its rugged, natural terrain that will largely be left in a natural state except for periodic monitoring to ensure protection. PG&E's power line upgrade project will include mitigation for impacts to the property within that project's footprint.

4.4.4 Signage

Signage for RCNR is currently outdated compared to the standards used for the City's other open spaces, and should therefore be upgraded. City staff will pursue grants or use approved city funds to:

- Highlight features at the trailheads. These will include trail maps and interpretive materials.
- Raise awareness. New signage will be placed at appropriate points along the trail to raise awareness of private property ownership. Specifically, signs will be placed at either end of the trail easement through the Sheffer property. Signs will also be placed at the northwest side of the RCNR property to warn against mountain biking and trespassing on the neighboring private property. Similarly, a sign will be placed at the first creek crossing near the Bowden Ranch trailhead to educate the public that biking is not allowed.
- Signage may also be used to indicate closures or restoration areas if adverse / impactful uses arise.

4.4.5 Trail Loop

City staff have identified a potential loop system to prevent off-trail travel by the public, which is already occurring. The loop trail would also be a collaborative effort with PG&E to improve access to utility towers. The new trail corridor would be installed with sustainable techniques, working with the natural contour and integrating gentle grades where possible. The corridor would be integrated with a new PG&E access path to access the lower tower. The existing access path will be abandoned and rehabilitated in the future.

4.4.6 Reservoir Canyon Trailhead Area

a. Fencing – Based on the 1911 agreement to provide water access for livestock from the neighboring private property, the City will monitor and consider the impacts of this continued access over a period of 4-5 years. After evaluating the potential impact, the City will consider the option of using fencing on the property line. Consideration will be based on the extent of impacts and resource availability, particularly given the costs of building fences and for engineering a solution to make water available to the livestock on the neighboring property as would be required per the above agreement. This open space is at the southern boundary for large mammal migration and should link up with studies being completed by students at Cal Poly who are assessing the impact of the crossing under the US 101 Freeway. Reservoir Canyon acts to funnel animals up the canyon for accessing lands north of the Cuesta Grade. Any fencing needs to be designed to ensure there it is effective in keeping cattle in one area while allowing for the free mobility of wild animals.

b. Improved Creek Crossings – At the easternmost point where the trail crosses Reservoir Canyon Creek, the City will improve signage to identify the trail and allow for safer crossing. The City will also improve crossing opportunities at this point of the creek by constructing a new bridge. For the lower creek crossings, the City will evaluate whether to install boardwalks and/or bridges that provide greater trail access for a longer timeframe, such as during winter storm events when Reservoir Canyon creek often floods parts of the trail. The City will consider as an alternative closing sections of the trail at certain times, particularly during winter storm events.

c. Improved parking and access - the City should improve the current parking area to ameliorate the erosion and potholes that fill with water in winter and spring months with a contemporary, low-impact design solution. There is also an opportunity to provide an accessible, raised boardwalk facility from the parking area to the waterfall, a relatively level distance of about 50 yards, for use by wheelchairs, strollers, and others.

4.4.7 Bowden Ranch Trailhead Area

Improvements to the Bowden Ranch trailhead area around Lizzie Street were previously implemented as required for the Bowden Ranch development. These included planting of native species, improved access at the trailhead, and fencing to guide the public through the riparian area past the trailhead entrance and to avoid off-trail travel to protect sensitive plants. This location offers on-street parking and a bicycle rack. Just a few lots down the street from the existing trailhead is the historic La Loma Adobe, also owned by the City. The possibility exists to integrate these two facilities by allowing compatibly designed parking and trail access to RCNR from the La Loma Adobe, while also restoring the structure for use as a Natural and Cultural History Interpretive Center.

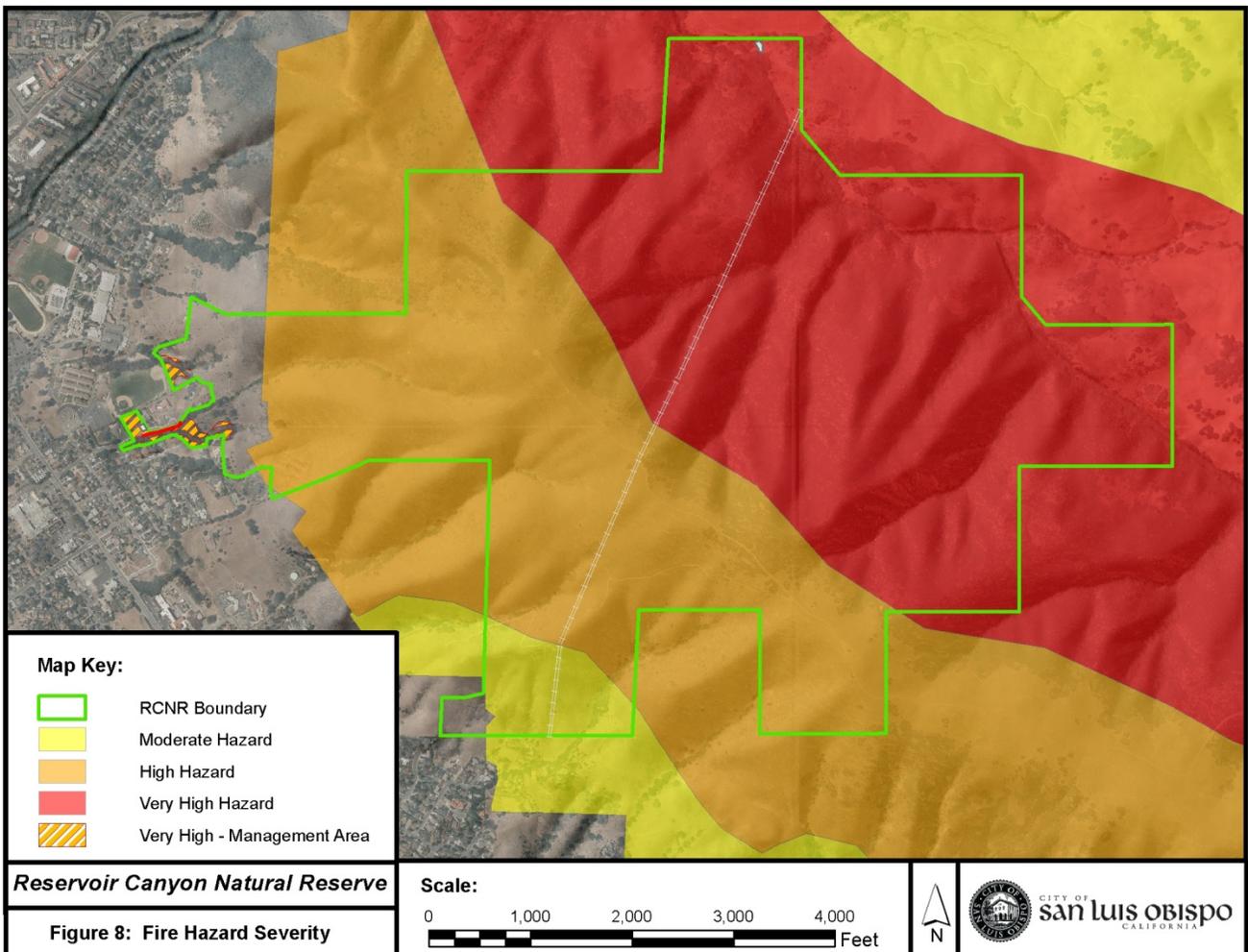


5. Wildfire Preparedness Plan

Wildfires have occurred periodically in and around Reservoir Canyon and are a continual hazard. The last major fire in the canyon itself was the Las Pilitas fire in July of 1985, which burned a total of 75,000 acres in San Luis Obispo County. More recent major wildfires in the County include the Highway 41 (1994) and Highway 58 (1996) fires; the first of which nearly reached the City of San Luis Obispo.

Although RCNR is property owned by the City of San Luis Obispo, it is mostly located in the County's jurisdiction. Furthermore, for firefighting purposes, most of the land is in the State Responsibility Area (See map in Appendix G). In its Fire Protection Plan, the County has identified the Reservoir Canyon wildland-urban interface in general as target area for focusing fire prevention areas and fuel treatments. The City's area of responsibility includes a portion of the wildland-urban boundary and contains eucalyptus groves near the Bowden Ranch entrance to RCNR. These groves will continue to be managed with safety pruning and selection removal over time in order to allow younger oak trees light and space to grow, while maintaining the tree canopy of the larger eucalyptus trees that provide the character and backdrop to the neighborhood. These activities will be undertaken outside of nesting bird season and with notice to neighbors unless an imminent safety hazard is determined.

Figure 8 shows the fire hazard mitigation areas designated specifically for this conservation plan. The High Hazard areas are at the wildland-urban interface near Bowden Ranch depicted in Figure 9. The City's preference will be to use non-mechanical firefighting methods if possible. This is due to the need to protect the natural habitats and to the relatively lower fire hazard posed by the grassy hillside.



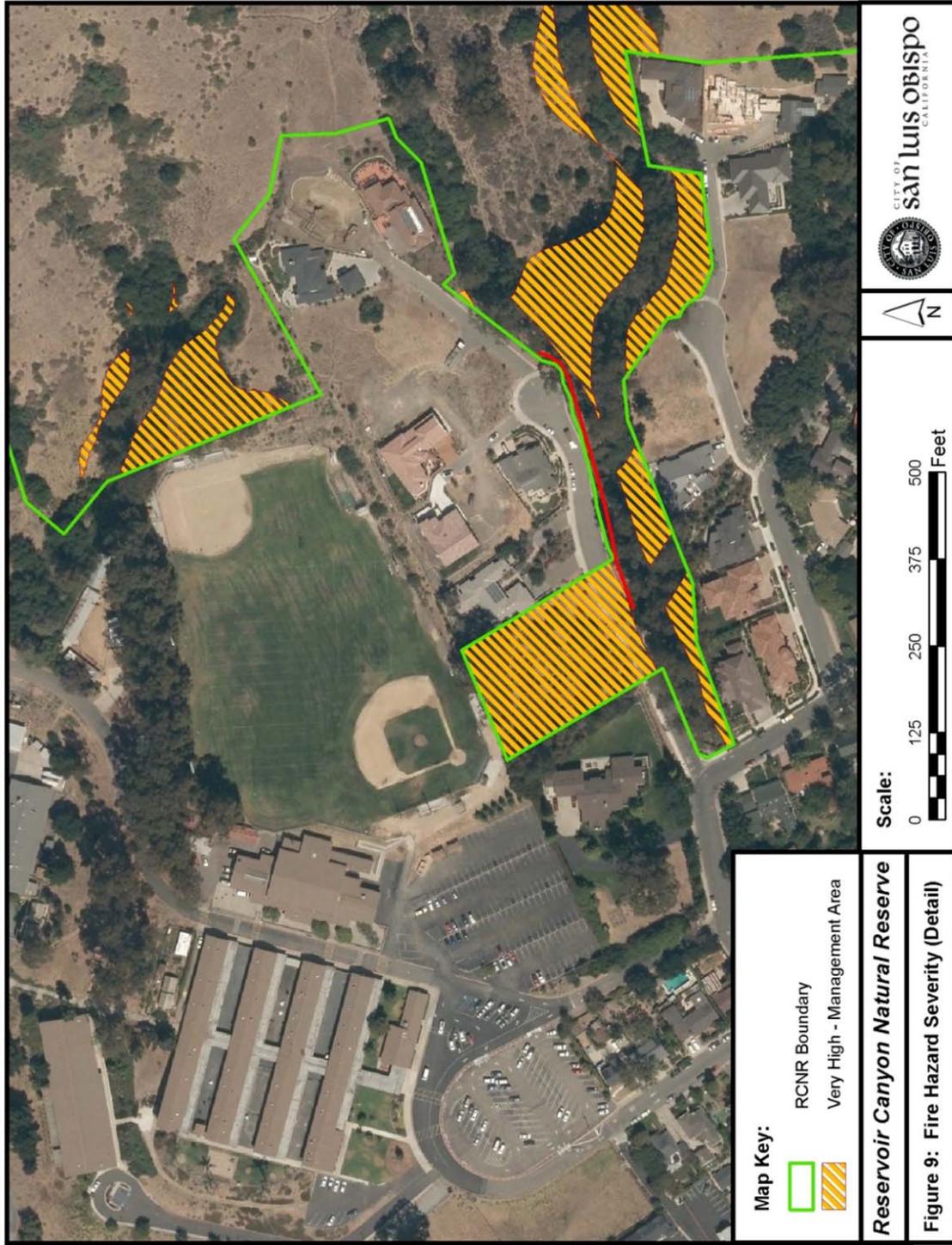


Figure 9 shows the vegetation management zones. Located near the city limit at the western boundary of RCNR, these areas consist primarily of eucalyptus trees and will be areas of active firefighting. The City will regularly remove forest litter and duff from the eucalyptus trees to reduce the fuel loading in those areas.

6. Implementation

General maintenance activities in accordance with the adopted policies described in “Conservation Guidelines for Open Space Lands of the City of San Luis Obispo” and the “Conservation & Open Space Element” shall be implemented on a regular or ‘as needed’ basis.

Specific Tasks:

Years 1-2

- Monitor impacts to the habitat and trail areas for level of acceptable change.
- Identify photo-monitoring points.
- Continue to monitor and protect the locations of Chorro Creek bog thistle populations.
- Install new, updated signage at trailheads.
- Identify a loop trail alignment.
- Identify a potential section for a boardwalk along the lower portion of the trail near the creek and waterfall, and construct trial sections to assess effectiveness.
- Complete a project plan for fencing the northern boundary to prevent cattle from being able to access Reservoir Canyon Creek.. (This will include a cost to provide water to the 40 head as detailed in the deed).

Years 3-5

- Pursue a conservation easement for RCNR (or other protective mechanism), to include identification of a qualified easement holder, draft terms and conditions, and consideration of costs involved as conditions precedent to subsequent City Council consideration of an actual conservation easement transaction.
- Construct loop trail based on an alignment identified to minimize impacts.
- Evaluate boardwalk trial sections and, if the trial is successful, complete construction of the boardwalk.
- Conduct another comprehensive field analysis to determine changes in species composition, paying close attention to threatened/endangered species, wildlife corridors, and levels of invasive plants.
- Requisition professional cultural resources analysis relative to La Loma Adobe.
- Complete project implementation for fencing the northern boundary to prevent cattle from being able to access Reservoir Canyon Creek.

Year 6-7

- Reassess the locations of photo-monitoring points to guide future management based on use.

Ongoing Specific Tasks:

- Work with local universities to compile resource inventories.
- Monitor ecosystem health.
- Monitor for unauthorized trails on the property and close/restore.
- Monitor integrity of the “Cal Poly” bridge and reinforce/replace as necessary.
- Monitor non-native vegetation and remove.
- Monitor Chorro Creek bog thistle location(s) to ensure protection.
- Engage stakeholders, identify funding, and seek opportunities to integrate the La Loma Adobe with RCNR, including parking, site design, trail access, and restoration of the structure itself.

7. Fiscal Statement

Day-to-day management of RCNR will continue to be supported through the operating budgets within the Natural Resources Program and Ranger Services. City staff will develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) program for major RCNR improvements. The program will include signage, trail work, parking improvements, and bridge and boardwalk construction to allow safer passage through the property. City staff will also pursue grants and volunteers to augment funding for this plan’s identified projects. Overall, the fiscal impact of the conservation plan and its implementation is considered relatively minor given opportunities to phase projects and leverage modest investments of City funds.

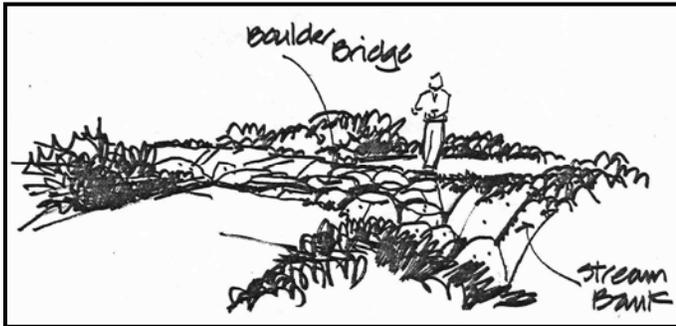
8. Amendment

This Conservation Plan, or any portion of it, may be considered for amendment upon request. Any citizen or other interested party may initiate such a request, however such requests shall be directed to the City Administrative Officer or designee. Such a request will include the nature of the requested amendment and rationale for the request. If appropriate, the amendment will be processed in the same manner as the original Conservation Plan.

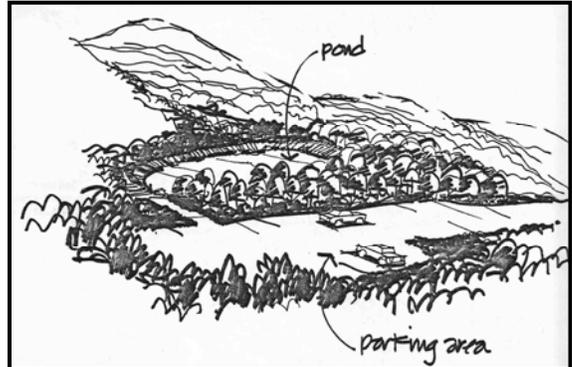


Appendix A: Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Design Concepts

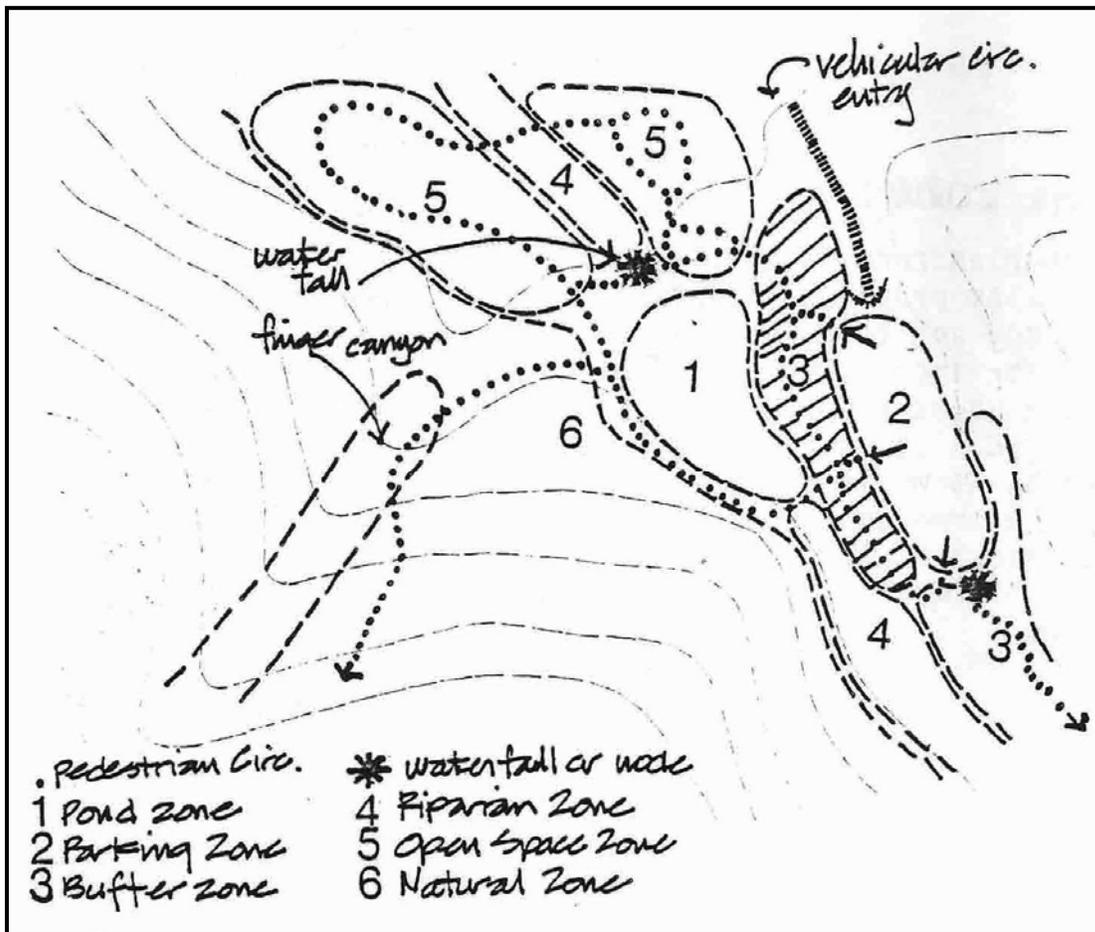
The following are selected images from the 1981 master plan created by Cal Poly Landscape Architecture students. Clockwise from left: A. Boulder bridge for creek crossing; B. Paved parking area with pond near Reservoir Canyon entrance; Concept map with loop trail extension (dotted line near "finger canyon" area).



A. Boulder Bridge

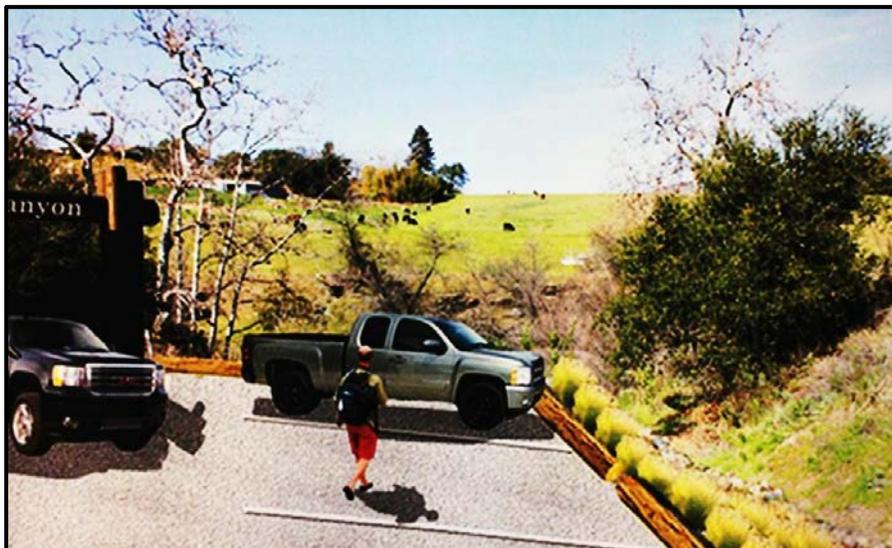
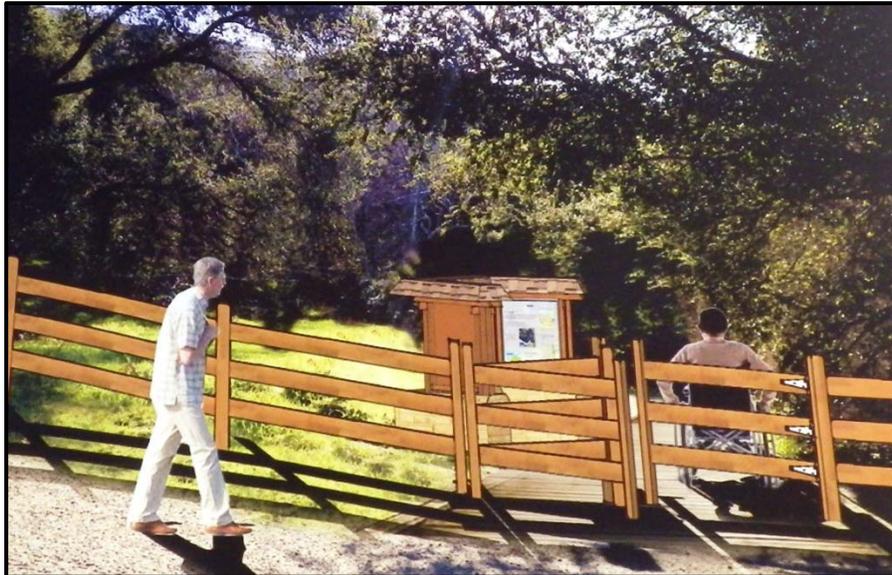


B. Parking Area & Pond



C. Concept Map

The following are selected images that were created by Cal Poly Landscape Architecture Course 403 students working under the direction of Professor Walt Bremer, Winter quarter 2013. From top to bottom: A. "Kissing gate" providing accessible access to the waterfall area; B. Reservoir Canyon parking and trailhead site plan; C. Reservoir Canyon parking area rendering.



The following are selected images that were created by Cal Poly Landscape Architecture Course 403 students working under the direction of Professor Walt Bremer, Winter quarter 2013. From top to bottom: A. La Loma Adobe elevation rendering; B. La Loma Adobe parking and trailhead concept rendering; C. La Loma Adobe Natural and Cultural History Interpretive Center concept rendering.



Appendix B: Hastings Trail Easement Deed and Transcript

BOOK 722 PAGE 438

VOL 722 PAGE 438

GRANT DEED

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,

EDWARD J. HASTINGS, a widower

hereby GRANTS to

FRANK D. HASTINGS, a single man.

the following described real property in the state of California, county of San Luis Obispo,

The northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 31 in Township 30 South, Range 13 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, in the county of San Luis Obispo, according to the official plat of the survey of said land on file in the Bureau of Land Management.



Excepting therefrom all the coal and other minerals in the lands so entered and patented, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove the same pursuant to the provisions and limitations of the Act of December 29, 1916 (39 Stat. 862) as reserved by the United States of America in patent recorded May 8, 1930 in book K, page 496 of Patents.

Also excepting and reserving unto the grantor herein an easement for road purposes over and across said land, at a site and location to be selected by or acceptable to the Grantor and his heirs and assigns and said easement to be of a width of not more than 50 feet. Said easement shall inure to the benefit of the heirs and assigns of the Grantor and is intended to be used by and to benefit the owners of any of the lands or portions thereof retained by the Grantor so that the lands so retained or the portions of said lands can be held and enjoyed and the easement for road purposes be used and enjoyed without limit for any particular use by the Grantor and his heirs and assigns and the holders, owners and users of said easement.

Dated: June 9, 1953

Edward J. Hastings
Edward J. Hastings

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA) SS.

On July 15th, 1953, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Edward J. Hastings known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same.



my hand and official seal.
Harry A. Manuel
Notary Public in and for said County and State.

11038
RECORDED AT REQUEST OF
E. J. Hastings
AT 4.5 MIN. PAST 12 P.M.
VOL 722 Official Records p. 438
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIF.

AUG 18 1953

SHERIDAN, HOFFMAN & MENDEL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
GRICE BUILDING
2224 EAST 14TH STREET
OAKLAND 1, CALIFORNIA

W.L. Ramage
County Recorder
Fee \$1.70 Indexed
RTH

[Transcription of Hastings Property Trail Easement]

GRANT DEED

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EDWARD J. HASTINGS, a widower

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Dated: June 9, 1953

(signed)
Edward J. Hastings

[Notarized on July 15th, 1953 by
Harry A. Manuel, notary public
State of California
County of Alameda]

RECORDED AT REQUEST OF
(signed) F. D. Hastings
AT 45 MIN. PAST 8 A.M.
VOL. 722 Official Records p. 488
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIF.
AUG. 18, 1953
(signed) W. L. Ramage
County Recorder

(sic)

particularly described as follows, to wit:-
 commencing at a stake marked W. S. 6 at the southwest corner of the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, Township 20 South, Range 12 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, and from said stake a Live Oak 12 inches in diameter bears N 88° W, 20 links distant. Thence N 21° W, 6.78 chains to a stake marked P. 5 on the southwesterly line of the County Road up what is known as the Reservoir or Fillmore Canyon. From stake P. 5 a Live Oak 12 inches in diameter bears N 85° E, 53 links distant. Thence following along the southwesterly line of said road on the following courses and distances, to wit:
 S 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° E, 1.09 chains to stake P. 4; S 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° E, 2.69 chains to stake P. 3; S. 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° E, 4.11 chains to stake P. 2; S. 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° E, 1.79 chains to stake P. 1 from which a live oak 14 inches in diameter bears S. 9° W. 48 links distant. Thence leaving the line of the said County road, N. 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W., 7.07 chains to stake W. S. 6, the point of beginning, containing 2.42 acres.
 commencing at a stake marked T. 2 said stake being at the southwest corner of the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, Township 20 South, Range 12 East, Mount Diablo Meridian. Thence North 184.7 feet to a stake marked T. 1 on the southwesterly line of a County Road up what is known as Reservoir or Fillmore Canyon, and from which said stake a Live Oak tree 20 inches in diameter bears N. 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W. 11 feet distant. Thence along the southwesterly line of said County Road on the following courses and distances, to wit:-
 N. 35° E. 147.7 feet to a stake marked T. 4; S. 57° E. 122 feet to a stake T. 3. West 195 feet to stake T. 2, the point of beginning, containing 27/100 acres. Said parties of the first part also give and grant unto said party of the second part the perpetual right of way and easement to lay, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and remove pipe lines for the transportation of water over, along and across the County road in what is known as the Fillmore or Reservoir Canyon in the county of San Luis Obispo, State of California, where the same crosses the lands of the parties of the first part, situate in Sections Twenty-nine (29), Thirty (30), Thirty-one (31) and Thirty-two (32), Township Thirty (30) South, Range Thirteen (13) East, M. D. M. Said parties of the first part also give and grant unto said party of the second part the perpetual right of way and easement to enter upon their said lands situate as above described for the purpose of cleaning out and keeping clean the channel of what is known as the upper reservoir or Fillmore Creek and the branches thereof. As a further consideration for this conveyance, said party of the second part agrees to pipe by means of 4 inch pipe to a trough to be located on the Northwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of said Section Thirty (30). So long as said 40 acres of land remains unfenced, and thereafter on the Northeast quarter of said Section Thirty (30), and to supply thereat sufficient water to water not to exceed forty head of stock; provided, that the said parties of the first part shall furnish the necessary trough and float valve faucets to prevent the waste of water, and provided, that said city shall not be required to furnish in excess of 2000 feet of pipe, and that said parties of the first part shall at all times maintain said trough and float valve faucets and pipe line in good order and condition. To have and to hold, the said property, rights and easements unto said party of the second part, its successors and assigns, forever. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written. S. Jackson Love (SEAL) Robt. L. Love (SEAL)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
 County of San Luis Obispo. } SE. On this 12th day of August, 1911, before me, V. H. Spencer, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared S. Jackson Love and Robert L. Love, known to me to be the persons named in, whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and they acknowledged to me that they executed the same. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, the day and year in this certificate

Appendix D: Soils of Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve

Table 2: USGS Soil Survey - Reservoir Canyon Area			
Source: USGS Web Soil Survey - San Luis Obispo County, California, Coastal Part			
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
121	Concepcion loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes	0.8	0.00%
130	Diablo and Cibo clays, 9 to 15 percent slopes	0.1	0.00%
142	Gaviota fine sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent slopes	33.6	1.40%
143	Gazos-Lodo clay loams, 15 to 30 percent slopes	55.9	2.40%
145	Gazos-Lodo clay loams, 50 to 75 percent slopes	55.3	2.40%
160	Los Osos loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes	75.9	3.20%
161	Los Osos loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes	38.4	1.60%
162	Los Osos-Diablo complex, 5 to 9 percent slopes	3.5	0.20%
163	Los Osos-Diablo complex, 9 to 15 percent slopes	18.7	0.80%
164	Los Osos-Diablo complex, 15 to 30 percent slopes	30.1	1.30%
165	Los Osos-Diablo complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes	148.3	6.30%
183	Obispo-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 75 percent slopes	1,839.00	78.40%
194	Riverwash	22.6	1.00%
197	Salinas silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0.1	0.00%
203	Santa Lucia shaly clay loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes	23.9	1.00%
Totals for Area of Interest		2,346.20	100%

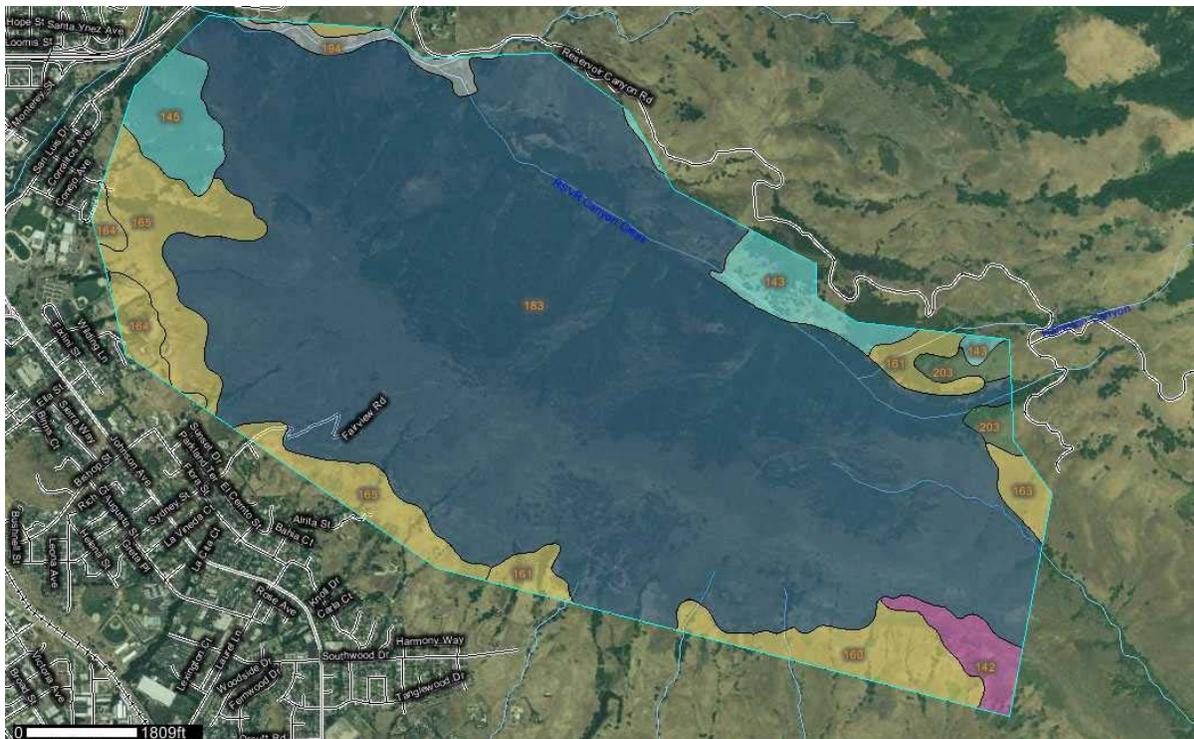


Figure APP 1: Soil types in the Reservoir Canyon area from USGS's Web Soil Survey, retrieved from <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

Appendix E: Plants and Animals

Plants

Except where noted the plants listed below are from the 2002 survey by Ben Carter, for his Cal Poly senior project.

PLANT LIST		
Scientific Name	Family	Common Name
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Asteraceae	Common Yarrow
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	Rosaceae	Chamise
<i>Adiantum jordanii</i>	Pteridaceae	Maidenhair fern
<i>Aquilegia eximia</i>	Ranunculaceae	Columbine
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	Asteraceae	California sagebrush
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Asteraceae	Mugwort
<i>Astragalus curtipes</i>	Fabaceae	Locoweed
<i>Astragalus gambelianus</i>	Fabaceae	Gambel's Locoweed
<i>Avena barbata</i>	Poaceae	Slender wild oats
<i>Bloomeria crocea</i>	Liliaceae	Common goldenstar
<i>Brachypodium distachyon</i>	Poaceae	False brome
<i>Bromus carinatus</i>	Poaceae	California brome
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Poaceae	Soft chess brome
<i>Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens</i>	Poaceae	Red brome
<i>Calochortus clavatus var. clavatus</i> *	Liliaceae	Club-haired Mariposa lily
<i>Calochortus obispoensis</i> *	Liliaceae	San Luis Obispo Mariposa lily
<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Convolvulaceae	Wild morning glory
<i>Cardamine californica ssp. integrifolia</i>	Brassicaceae	Milkmaids
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Asteraceae	Italian thistle
<i>Castilleja affinis</i> *	Scrophulariaceae	Indian paintbrush
<i>Castilleja densiflora ssp. obispoense</i>	Scrophulariaceae	Owl's clover
<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>	Rhamnaceae	Buckbrush
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	Rosaceae	Mountain mahogany
<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum</i>	Liliaceae	Soap plant
<i>Chorizanthe breweri</i> *	Polygonaceae	Brewer's spineflower
<i>Chorizanthe palmeri</i> *	Polygonaceae	Palmer's spineflower
<i>Cirsium fontinale var. obispoense</i> ^	Asteraceae	Chorro Creek bog thistle
<i>Clarkia purpurea</i>	Onagraceae	Farewell to spring
<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>	Portulacaceae	Miner's lettuce
<i>Coreopsis douglasii</i>	Asteraceae	Douglas's coreopsis
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Poaceae	Pampas grass
<i>Crassula connata</i>	Crassulaceae	Pygmy weed
<i>Cryptantha clevelandii</i>	Boraginaceae	Cleveland's popcorn flower
<i>Cryptantha muricata</i>	Boraginaceae	Popcorn flower
<i>Daucus pusillus</i>	Apiaceae	Miniature Queen Anne's lace
<i>Delphinium parryi ssp. eastwoodiae</i>	Ranunculaceae	Parry's delphinium

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name
<i>Dendromecon rigida</i>	Papaveraceae	Bush poppy
<i>Dichelostemma capitatum ssp. capitatum</i>	Liliaceae	Blue dicks
<i>Dodecatheon clevelandii</i>	Primulaceae	Shooting stars
<i>Dudleya abramsii ssp. Murina *</i>	Crassulaceae	San Luis Obispo dudleya
<i>Dudleya lanceolata *</i>	Crassulaceae	Lanceleaf dudleya
<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	Poaceae	Squirreltail
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Poaceae	Blue wildrye
<i>Epilobium minutum</i>	Onagraceae	Threadstem fireweed
<i>Eriogonum elongatum var. elongatum</i>	Polygonaceae	Slender buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum var. foliolosvm</i>	Polygonaceae	California buckwheat
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum</i>	Asteraceae	Golden yarrow
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Geraniaceae	Redstem filaree
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Papaveraceae	California poppy
<i>Eucalyptus globulus #</i>	Myrtaceae	Blue gum eucalyptus
<i>Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia var. chrysanthemifolia</i>	Hydrophyllaceae	Common eucrypta
<i>Euphorbia spathulata</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Petty spurge
<i>Festuca elmeri</i>	Poaceae	Elmer's fescue
<i>Filago californica</i>	Asteraceae	Herba impia
<i>Fritillaria biflora var. biflora</i>	Liliaceae	Chocolate bells
<i>Galium californicum</i>	Rubiaceae	California bedstraw
<i>Galium porrigens var. porrigens</i>	Rubiaceae	Climbing bedstraw
<i>Garrya veatchii</i>	Garryaceae	Silk tassel bush
<i>Gilia achilleaefolia</i>	Polemoniaceae	Blue-headed gilia
<i>Gnaphalium californicum</i>	Asteraceae	California everlasting
<i>Grindelia hirsutula var. davyii</i>	Asteraceae	Gum plant
<i>Guillenia lasiophyla</i>	Brassicaceae	Wild mustard
<i>Hazardia squarrosa var. squarrosa</i>	Asteraceae	Saw-toothed golden bush
<i>Hemizonia congesta ssp. luzulifolia</i>	Asteraceae	Hayfield tarweed
<i>Hesperavax sparsiflora</i>	Asteraceae	Hesperavax
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Rosaceae	Toyon
<i>Hordeum marinum</i>	Poaceae	Mediterranean barley
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Asteraceae	Smooth cat's-ear
<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>	Scrophulariaceae	Climbing penstemon
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Poaceae	June-grass
<i>Lactuca saligna</i>	Asteraceae	Slender lettuce
<i>Lasthenia californica</i>	Asteraceae	Goldfields
<i>Lathyrus vestitus</i>	Fabaceae	Wild sweet-pea
<i>Layia platyg/ossa</i>	Asteraceae	Tidy-tips
<i>Lepidium nitidum</i>	Brassicaceae	Pepper cress
<i>Lessingia filaginifolia</i>	Asteraceae	California-aster
<i>Leymus condensatus</i>	Poaceae	Giant wildrye
<i>Linanthus parviflorus</i>	Polemoniaceae	Baby stars
<i>Lithophragma heterophyllum</i>	Saxifragaceae	Woodland star
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Poaceae	Italian ryegrass
<i>Lomatium dasycarpum</i>	Apiaceae	Large-seeded lomatium

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name
<i>Lomatium parvifolium</i> *	Apiaceae	Small-leaved lomatium
<i>Lomatium utriculatum</i>	Apiaceae	Foothill lomatium
<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	Fabaceae	Deer weed
<i>Lotus strigosus</i>	Fabaceae	Annual lotus
<i>Madia gracilis</i>	Asteraceae	Slender tarweed
<i>Melica imperfecta</i>	Poaceae	Melic grass
<i>Melica torreyana</i>	Poaceae	Torrey's melic grass
<i>Microseris douglasii</i>	Asteraceae	Douglas's microceris
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Scrophulariaceae	Sticky monkeyflower
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Scrophulariaceae	Seep-spring monkeyflower
<i>Nassella lepida</i>	Poaceae	Slender needlegrass
<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	Poaceae	Purple needlegrass
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Cactaceae	Prickly pear cactus
<i>Orobanche californica</i>	Orobanchaceae	California broom-rape
<i>Pellaea andromedifolia</i>	Pteridaceae	Coffee fern
<i>Pentagramma triangularis</i>	Pteridaceae	God-back fern
<i>Phacelia distans</i>	Hydrophyllaceae	Common phacelia
<i>Phacelia imbricata</i> ssp. <i>imbricata</i>	Hydrophyllaceae	Imbricate phacelia
<i>Pickeringia montana</i> var. <i>montana</i>	Fabaceae	Chaparral pea
<i>Pinus attenuata</i>	Pinaceae	Knobcone pine
<i>Plantago erecta</i>	Plantaginaceae	Dwarf plantain
<i>Poa secunda</i>	Poaceae	Bluegrass
<i>Polypodium californicum</i>	Polypodiaceae	California polypody
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> ssp. <i>ilicifolia</i>	Rosaceae	Holly-leaved cherry
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken fern
<i>Pterostegia drymarioides</i>	Polygonaceae	Notchleaf
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Fagaceae	Coast live oak
<i>Quercus durata</i>	Fagaceae	Leather oak
<i>Rafinesquia californica</i>	Asteraceae	California-chicory
<i>Ranunculus californicus</i>	Ranunculaceae	California buttercup
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> ssp. <i>californica</i>	Rhamnaceae	Coffee-berry
<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	Rhamnaceae	Redberry
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Grossulariaceae	Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry
<i>Rosa californica</i>	Rosaceae	Wild rose
<i>Salix breweri</i>	Salicaceae	Brewer's willow
<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	Lamiaceae	Chia
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Lamiaceae	Black sage
<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>	Apiaceae	Biscuit root
<i>Selaginella bigelovii</i>	Selaginaceae	Resurrection plant
<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	Scrophulariaceae	Figwort
<i>Senecio aphanactis</i> *	Asteraceae	Alkali groundsel
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Asteraceae	Common groundsel
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Caryophyllaceae	Windmill pink
<i>Silene laciniata</i> ssp. <i>major</i>	Caryophyllaceae	Mexican pink

<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Iridaceae	Blue-eyed grass
<i>Solanum xanti</i>	Solanaceae	Purple nightshade
Scientific Name	Family	Common Name
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Asteraceae	Common sow thistle
<i>Stachys bullata</i>	Lamiaceae	Common hedge nettle
<i>Stachys pycnantha</i>	Lamiaceae	Short-spiked hedge nettle
<i>Stephanomeria virgata</i> ssp. <i>pleurocarpa</i>	Asteraceae	Wire lettuce
<i>Streptanthus albidus</i> ssp. <i>peramoenus</i>	Brassicaceae	Most beautiful jewel flower
<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i>	Caprifoliaceae	Creeping snowberry
<i>Thysanocarpus laciniatus</i>	Brassicaceae	Fringepod
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Anacardiaceae	Poison oak
<i>Trifolium depauperatum</i> var. <i>amplectens</i>	Fabaceae	Balloon clover
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Fabaceae	Strawberry clover
<i>Trifolium oliganthum</i>	Fabaceae	Common clover
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	Lauraceae	California bay laurel
<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>	Asteraceae	Silver puffs
<i>Verbena lasiostachys</i>	Verbenaceae	Vervain
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fabaceae	Hairy vetch
<i>Viola pedunculata</i>	Violaceae	Johnny jump-ups
<i>Vulpia microstachys</i>	Poaceae	Annual fescue
<i>Yucca whipplei</i>	Liliaceae	Our Lord's candle
<i>Zigadenus fremontii</i>	Liliaceae	Death camas

* Rare

^ Listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=Q1UG>

From field observations, Oct. 2011-May 2012

Wildlife Species List for Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve.

Data collected by Terra Verde staff in collaboration with Cal Poly Wildlife Ecology students.

Scientific/Common Name	Listing Status	Nesting/ Breeding Period	Habitat Type
<i>Actinemys marmorata pallida</i> Western pond turtle	State: CSC	April - August	Permanent or semi-permanent streams, ponds, lakes.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored blackbird	State: CSC	Varies, but likely early spring through early summer locally	Needs nest sites near open, fresh water, protected habitat (flooded, thorny), and suitable feeding areas (pastures, rice fields, grassland, etc.).
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid bat	State: CSC	Spring - Summer	Rock crevices, caves, tree hollows, mines, old buildings, and bridges.

Scientific/Common Name	Listing Status	Nesting/ Breeding Period	Habitat Type
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden eagle	Fully Protected State: CSC	March - August	Nests in large, prominent trees in woodland areas.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> Vernal pool fairy shrimp	Fed: Threatened	Rainy season	Vernal pools, depressions, in grasslands.
<i>Buteo regalis</i> Ferruginous hawk	Special Animal	February - July	Variety of nesting locations including rock outcrops, trees, and ground.
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i> <i>occidentalis</i> Western yellow-billed cuckoo	State: Endangered	May - July	Often found in woodlands near streams, lakes, rivers. Prefer dense scrub understory.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> Monarch butterfly	Special Animal	Spring	Rely on milkweed, need protected stands of trees for roosting.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> White-tailed kite	Fully Protected	March 15 - August 15	Nests in dense trees, near open foraging areas.
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> California horned lark	State: CSC (nesting)	March 15 - August 15	Open fields, short grass areas, fields, rangelands.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> Western mastiff bat	State: CSC	March - July	Rocky cliffs, canyon areas, roosts in crevices, also in buildings.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i> Prairie falcon	State: CSC	February - April	Primarily inhabits grasslands, savannahs, and rangelands. Nests on cliffs, canyons, and rock outcrops.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> Loggerhead shrike	Fed: Endangered	April - July	Open fields and woodland areas bordered with trees or fields with thick shrubs for hiding.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> Steelhead – South/Central California Coast DPS	Fed: Threatened State: CSC	February - April	Fed listing refers to runs in coastal basins from Pajaro River south to, but non including, the Santa Maria River.

Scientific/Common Name	Listing Status	Nesting/ Breeding Period	Habitat Type
<i>Polyphylla nubila</i> Atascadero June beetle	Special Animal	Unknown	Known only from sand dunes in Atascadero and San Luis Obispo.
<i>Pyrgulopsis taylori</i> San Luis Obispo pyrg	Special Animal	N/A	Freshwater habitats in San Luis Obispo County.
<i>Rana boylei</i> Foothill yellow-legged frog	State: CSC	April - July	Rocky streams and rivers with rocky substrate. Found in woodlands, chaparral and forests with open sunny banks.
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	Fed: Threatened State: CSC	January - March	Lowlands and foothills in or near sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.
<i>Taricha torosa torosa</i> Coast Range newt	State: CSC	December - May	Slow moving streams, ponds, and lakes with surrounding evergreen/oak forests along coast.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	State: CSC	February - May	Needs friable soils in open ground with abundant food source such as California ground squirrels.

Listing status shown in order of Federal, State, CNPS list status.

Wildlife Species observed to date (Includes all vocalizations, tracks, scat, burrows/dens, and skeletal remains of wildlife species observed on-site):

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status
Fish		
Rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	FT,CSC
Amphibians		
Black-bellied Slender salamander	<i>Batrachoseps attenuatus</i>	
Coast Range newt	<i>Taricha torosa subsp. torosa</i>	CSC
Pacific chorus frog	<i>Pseudacris sierra</i>	
Western toad	<i>Bufo boreas</i>	
Reptiles		
California kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getulus californiae</i>	
Common garter snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	
Gopher snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	
Pacific pond turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	CSC
Southern alligator lizard	<i>Elgaria multicarinatus</i>	
Western fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	
Western rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	
Western skink	<i>Eumeces skiltonianus</i>	
Western whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	
Birds		
Acorn woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	M

Allen's hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	M
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	M
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	M
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	M
Anna's hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	M
Ash-throated flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	M
Band-tailed pigeon	<i>Columbia fasciata</i>	M
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	M
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	M
Belted kingfisher	<i>Ceryle Alcyon</i>	M
Bewick's wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	M
Black-chinned hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	M
Black-headed grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	M
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	M
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	M
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	M, CSC
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	M
California horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	M, CSC
California quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	
California thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	M
California towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	M
California wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	M
Chestnut-backed chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>	
Common poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	M
Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	M
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	M, CSC
Dark-eyed junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	M
Eurasian collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocta</i>	M
European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
Fox sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	M
Golden crowned sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	M
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	BE & GEPA
Grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	M, ST
Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	M
Great horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	M
Greater roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	M
Hermit thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	M
Hermit warbler	<i>Setophaga occidentalis</i>	M
Hooded oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	M
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	M
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	M
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	M
Hutton's vireo	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>	M
Lark sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	M
Lazuli bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	M
Lesser goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	M
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	M
Northern flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	M
Northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	M, CSC
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	M
Nuttall's woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	M
Oak titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	M
Olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	M
Orange-crowned warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	M
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	M
Pacific-slope flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	M
Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	M
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	M
Rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	

Rock wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	M
Ruby-crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	M
Rufous-crowned sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	M
Savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	M
Say's phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	M
Selasphorus hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sp.</i>	M
Song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	M
Spotted towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	M
Stellar's jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	M
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	M
Violet-green swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	M
Warbling vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	M
Western bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	M
Western meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	M
Western scrub-jay	<i>Apelocoma californica</i>	M
Western tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	M
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	M, FP
White-throated swift	<i>Auronautes saxatalis</i>	
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	
Wilson's warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	M
Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	M
Yellow-headed blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	M
Yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Setophaga coronate</i>	M
Yellow warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	M
Mammals		
Audubon's cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	
Big-eared woodrat	<i>Neotoma macrotis</i>	
Black-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	
Black-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californica</i>	
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	
Brazilian free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	
Brush mouse	<i>Peromyscus boylii</i>	
California ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	
California mouse	<i>Peromyscus californicus</i>	
California myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>	
California pocket mouse	<i>Chaetodipus californicus</i>	CSC
Canyon bat	<i>Parastrellus hesperus</i>	
Cougar	<i>Puma concolor</i>	
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	
Cow	<i>Bos taurus</i>	
Deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	
San Diego Desert woodrat	<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	CSC
Western gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	
Yuma bat	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	

Protected Status

- FE – Federal-listed Endangered Species
- FT – Federal-listed Threatened Species
- FPT – Federal-listed Candidate Species
- SA – California Special Animal
- SE – State-listed Endangered Species
- ST – State-listed Threatened Species
- CP – Protected under California Fish and Game Code
- CSC – California Species of Special Concern
- BE & GEPA – Bald Eagle & Golden Eagle Protection Act
- M – Migratory Bird Treaty Act Species

Appendix F: Initial Photo-Monitoring Points

As discussed in Section 4.3 of this plan, these are the proposed initial photo-monitoring points for RCNR. These locations may be modified – or new locations may be added - as conditions warrant.

Beginning from the Reservoir Canyon (i.e. north) entrance of RCNR:

1. The Reservoir Canyon trailhead



2. The waterfall area near the trailhead



3. Initial creek crossings
(two locations)

- 3a.



- 3b.



4. Erosion location 1 –
along the trail, after the
first two creek crossings



5. Erosion location 2 –
farther along the trail



6. Upper creek crossing –
final creek crossing
before ascending the
trail up the ridge



7. Erosional gully along the trail, after the final creek crossing.
- 7a. Facing up the ridge



- 7b. Facing down the ridge from above the gully



8. PG&E access trail from the top of the ridge, under the power lines (two locations)

- 8a



- 8b



9. Access trail to lower towers proposed for decommissioning

- 9a. Facing up the ridge, near the top



- 9b. Facing up the ridge, about 1/2 of the way down the trail



- 9c. Facing down the ridge, about 1/2 of the way down the trail. (Proposed heli-spot would be to the left of the electrical tower seen in the center of the image.



10. Proposed heli-spot for PG&E maintenance access



Beginning from the Bowden Ranch (i.e. west) entrance to RCNR on Lizzie Street:

11. The Bowden Ranch trailhead



12. Initial creek crossing



13. Trail through lower entrance area of Bowden Ranch, after the creek crossings (two locations)

-13a.



- 13b.



Appendix G: Wildfire Jurisdictional Responsibility Areas in RCNR

The map below shows the state and local responsibility areas for Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve.

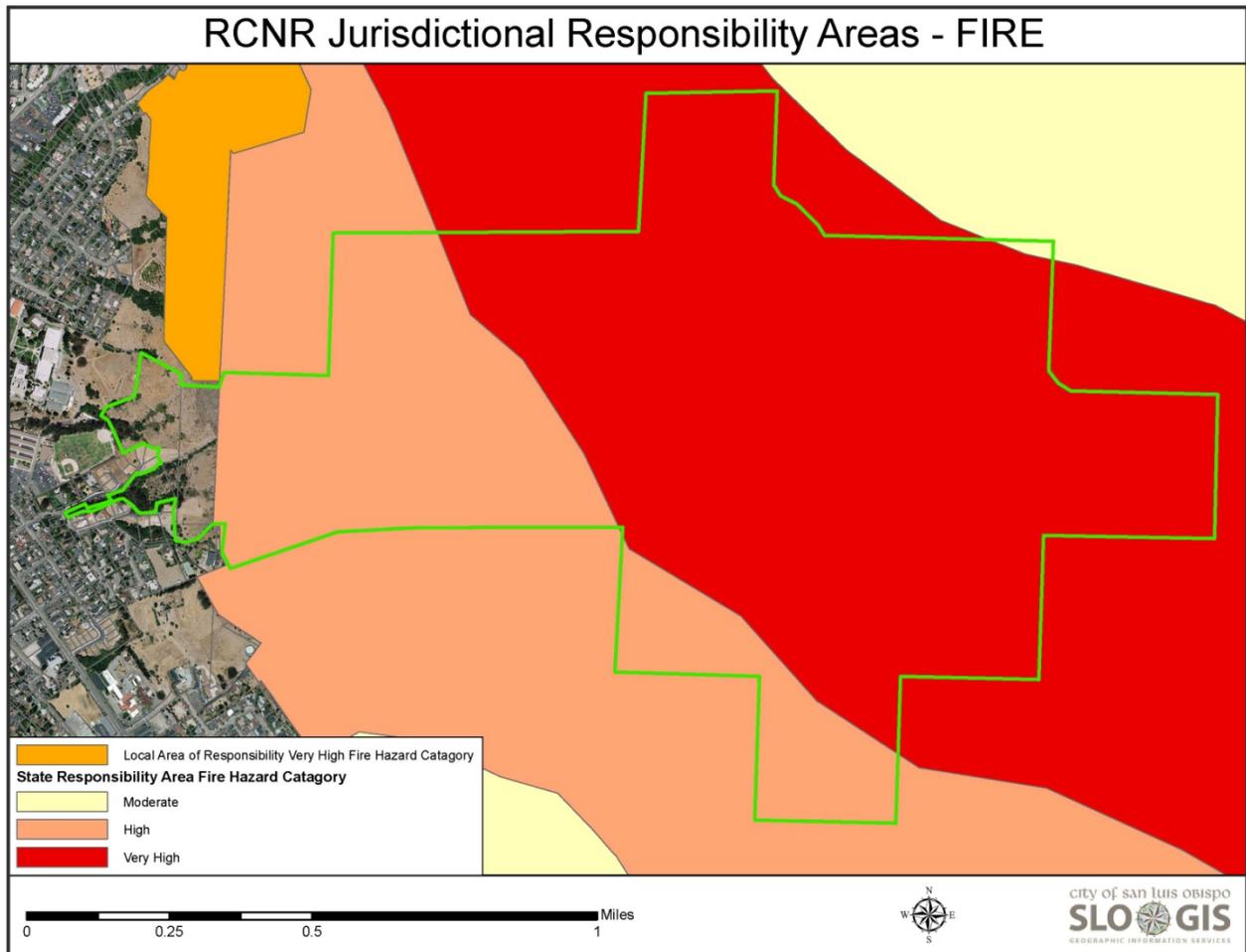


Figure APP 2: Wildfire Jurisdictional Responsibility Areas in RCNR

Appendix H: Notes from January 31, 2012 Public Workshop

Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Conservation Plan Initial Public Meeting Jan. 31, 2012 6:30 PM *Meeting Notes*

City Biologist Freddy Otte introduced the Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve and explained the City's intent to create a conservation plan. The presentation covered the history of the area, prominent natural features, management issues, sensitive plant and animal species, and legal issues.

History

City involvement with the area began around 1900 when a private water company was acquired including 200 acres of land in Reservoir Canyon. By the 1960s, the City discontinued use of the reservoir. In 1994 the area officially became open space. The 284-acre Hastings property and the 207-acre Bowden ranch properties were acquired and added to the Natural Reserve in 2001 and 2006, respectively. Currently (2012), the City is negotiating the purchase of 83 acres at Goldtree tract to be added to the Natural Reserve. The City will concurrently prepare a Conservation Plan.

Natural and Cultural Features

Reservoir Canyon has two main habitats: chaparral north of the ridge and pristine grassland to the south. These are home to several rare plant and animal species. Two perennial creeks and numerous small springs and seeps emanate from the ridge. There is one trail through the property, but no loop. Consideration of whether to create a loop trail will occur in the conservation planning process. Several road/trail easements exist for servicing electrical towers owned by PG&E.

Management Issues or Concerns

The conservation plan will address the following issues / concerns:

- Proper restoration of damaged areas (such as the north trailhead area)
- Evaluation of the trail system, including considering whether to create a loop
- Correction of erosion problems associated with unauthorized trails, steep trails, old roads, and unauthorized mountain biking (mountain bikes are not allowed in the Natural Reserve)
- Proper management of the wildland-urban interface in the Bowden Ranch area for fire protection

Reservoir Canyon Trailhead Issues

Problems at this trailhead include:

- Multiple creek crossings without proper bridges, as well as maintenance needed for the Cal Poly Bridge
- Cattle on the property
- Illegal collection of mushrooms
- Lack of a holistic vision the trailhead and vicinity
- Outdated and inadequate signage (Newer signage in the City's other open spaces includes trail maps and information panels.)

Sensitive Species

There are several sensitive plants and wildflowers in Reservoir Canyon, such as mariposa lilies, owl's clover, and spineflowers. Some of these are serpentine dependent and are therefore rare. Also sensitive in general is the pristine grassland habitat on the south ridge. The region is the southern boundary for a large mammal migratory corridor, steelhead trout descendents (i.e. rainbow trout), and California red-legged frogs. A 2002 report by Cal Poly student Ben Carter indicated the presence of the endangered Chorro Creek Bog Thistle.

Utility Easement Issues

PG&E holds maintenance easements for access to its five power line towers on the property. Two of these are scheduled for consolidation as part of the company's project to replace the 70keV

transmission line from Atascadero to San Luis Obispo. PG&E has acted to minimize environmental impacts with innovations such as hand digging culverts for replacement towers and using helicopters to fly in crew and materials.

Legal Issues

Three legal concerns affect the Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve. The first is PG&E's easement for right of access for maintenance of its transmission line. The second is a water right: A Bowden Ranch neighbor holds legal rights to one-half of the natural flow from a spring. Finally, the City holds an easement for "road purposes" across a 40-acre property in Reservoir Canyon as part of its purchase of the Hastings property.

Views and Signage

Photos were shown of views from Reservoir Canyon, trailhead signs, and of the Cal Poly Bridge.

Environmental Review

Environmental review will be undertaken as part of the conservation plan process. Environmental issues include potential for impacts to rare or endangered plant and animal species, potential for erosion problems from new or existing trails, and potential for exposure by trail volunteers and users to naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) due to the exposed serpentine rock in Reservoir Canyon.

Conservation Planning Process

Overall, the planning process includes several major steps. The first is background documentation research, which is ongoing. The second step is this public meeting. Third will be preparation of a draft conservation plan. The draft plan will then be presented to the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission to receive feedback from the commissions and the public. Finally, the revised draft plan, integrating all feedback, will be presented to the City Council for final document approval.

Public Comments and Q&A

The following are comments and questions made by the public during the meeting. The City's responses--given at the meeting--were made by Freddy Otte (City Biologist), and Neil Havlik (Natural Resources Manager).

Comment: Cattle from the adjacent private property are locked in the area near the Reservoir Canyon trailhead for about 65 days out of the year.

Question: Why are there no "no smoking" signs among the trailhead signs?

City Response: Although this is covered under the "no fires" rule posted on the signs, we will consider adding no smoking signs, particularly in light of San Luis Obispo's recent (2010) ban on public smoking.

Question: Have you considered adding public toilets to the open space?

City Response: This is a double-edged sword: While they might prevent urination in the natural habitat, they are also expensive and difficult to maintain. Additionally, the City has generally discouraged structures and garbage cans, as they tend to attract animals. The philosophy has been "pack it in, pack it out."

Question: Has there been any archaeological work done in the area?

City Response: Nothing has been found so far, except for *historical* resources such as structures from when the property was an active reservoir.

Question: Are there any special rights associated with the property?

City Response: There are no mineral rights, or etc. The property has the restriction by City mandate that it be maintained as an open space.

Question: What about water rights? There may have been something about using enough water for 40 head of sheep.

City Response: The City is unaware of such a right, but will investigate. [City will contact Utilities Department about the deed.]

Question: Can the City look into removing the trail from the Sheffer property?

City Response: The City will consider it depending on best trail management practices, but the City has a legal easement for "road purposes" on the property.

Question: What about signs indicating the trail is entering private property?

City Response: The City will consider this option.

Comment: There should be more investigation about the actual need to complete a loop trail. Cutting a road/trail ruins the visual aspects of the canyon– you can see the trail from far away.

City Response: Evidence and observation have shown that people are completing a loop on their own already. It is difficult to stop this behavior once it has begun, and adding a trail would make it safer than the current steep areas down the north side of the where people traverse to go back to the Reservoir Canyon trailhead. Nevertheless, the City will take this and the potential for environmental harm into account when investigating whether to complete a loop trail system.

Question: What about adding a sign to prevent people from going off trail?

City Response: Signs might help, but mountain bike tracks on the property show that signs are often ignored.

Comment: Conservation should emphasize native aquatic species and aim for a fully functional ecosystem. The area of protection should be maximized.

City Response: Maps in the conservation plan document will clearly show which are the protected areas and which are the management areas. Essentially, management will be limited to the trails and a small amount of space on either side of the trail. The rest will be protected as natural habitat.

Comment: Please continue the no-bike policy at Bowden Ranch. The area is too steep and biking causes too much erosion.

Comment: Clarify the grazing policy for the area.

Comment and Question: Clarify the fire management program. There should be coordination with CalFire and other agencies. **Also:** should there be a "let it burn" policy for some parts of the property?

City Response: The Conservation Plan will address fire management through a Fire Protection Plan. It will include guidance that preserves the structure of the hillside, such as an avoidance of bulldozing when something like airdropped fire retardant would suffice.

END

Recorded by:

Brian Provenzale,
Natural Resources Planning Intern

Appendix I: Comments Received and Staff Response

Note: Staff responses are noted in *bold italics* below each major comment.

Comments on Draft Reservoir Canyon Plan from Mr. Don Dollar via email:

Please enter these comments into the record.

The Natural Resources Program has been very successful with the City's Open Space Program. In fact, success has resulted in very heavy use and some overuse of these valuable resources. In preparing comments, I have reviewed the City's General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) and Conservation Guidelines for Open Space Lands (Guidelines).

I am interested in having a high quality Open Space Program.

Grazing

Looking at COSE Appendix C, # 3:

On open space land that the City manages, the City may decide to permit more than one type of activity or use. Where different uses may not be compatible, the following priorities will guide decisions. The items listed under a priority heading are co-equal. (Land uses are subject to any deed restrictions placed by owners conveying land to the City for open space purposes, and to easements or rights retained by others.)

Priority 1

- Protection of existing wildlife and natural habitat generally
- Protection of existing listed species and their existing habitat, or re-establishment of such habitat where damaged
- Protection of public resources such as water quality (watershed runoff and groundwater recharge)
- Avoidance of threats to public health and safety, such as ground instability (In the case of vegetation management for wildland fire, separation between hazardous vegetation and structures generally should be provided on the land containing the structure, by the owner of the land containing the structure. Where vegetation management on City-owned land is needed or desirable, management practices will minimize harm to wildlife habitat and scenic resources.)

Priority 2

- Public access and passive recreation.
- Protection of scenic resources

Priority 3

- Scientific study
- Agricultural production

You can see that natural resources take priority over public access, passive recreation and agricultural production. You may recall at Johnson Ranch, a recent previous landowner did unauthorized work to the access road. The Cal Fish and Game Dept. required that landowner to build a cattle enclosure fence along the creek in Johnson Ranch to avoid criminal prosecution. That creek has many of the same species of plants and animals as in Reservoir Canyon - including species of concern and listed species.

For Reservoir Canyon I think we should go ahead and build a cattle exclosure fence to protect riparian habitat. There is a deed restriction requiring a one inch water line to provide for 40 cattle (not more than 5000 feet) - go ahead and do that - get it done. The city bought out water supply requirements to some local residents in the 1990's. This property has been in City ownership a long time. Building a fence to keep cattle out of the creek also benefits the local landowner, delineating the property line in reference to trespassing issues. It is also worth noting, that the area is not "Open Range", so it is the legal responsibility of the livestock owner to control their livestock and prevent trespass onto others land.

Staff concurs with this comment. A project plan will be completed in years 1-2, and implementation will be completed in years 3-5 (see pg. 25).

La Loma Adobe

I think this should be dropped from the Plan. The Plan does not address cultural significance, context or reasoning for inclusion. The Cultural Heritage Committee should review any proposals first. If the idea is to provide a trailhead parking area, that really distracts from any historical context for the Adobe. And, last but not least, cost for historical buildings can be very high. Who will staff, maintain and cover costs for upkeep? What are the costs?

Suggest that this item be given more details, go before the Cultural Heritage Committee and then if appropriate, submitted as an amendment to this Plan.

Staff did bring the concept of incorporating La Loma Adobe before the Cultural Heritage Committee (CHC), as per this comment, at its 10/28/13 meeting. The CHC was unanimously recommended that La Loma Adobe be incorporated into RCNR by adoption of this Conservation Plan.

Maximize amount of land in Habitat Category

Also, place a very high priority on the aquatic/riparian habitat, so that is a fully functioning ecosystem. Also, work to make the large mammal wildlife corridor effective for wildlife, including fencing.

The vast majority of RCNR has been designated as Habitat (see Figure 7, pg. 19). Priority is placed on habitat and ecosystem protection. The cattle exclusion fencing project plan will incorporate "wildlife friendly" design, wherein the top strand is barbless and the bottom strand is slightly raised and also barbless.

There is no Wildlife Report

In the Guidelines, 5.2 Inventory:

The inventory will describe the physical, biological, natural, cultural and recreational resources represented on a property. Establishing a detailed resource inventory is likely to be a long-term, ongoing process. The initial plan will be formulated using the information gathered during base-line studies performed during preparation of the first draft of the Conservation Plan. Plans will be updated periodically as new resource information becomes available.

Need a regular Wildlife Report as has been done with other Plans for base line information. Please fund Natural Resources Program so that this can be done in a timely manner.

An inventory of plant and animal species that occur in RCNR is included as Appendix E (see pg. 35.)

Goals

Under Goals, #3, add categories for:

Fire Management

Levels of Acceptable Change (LAC) -how they will be applied and when

Grazing

Visual Resources - add: in the vicinity of the City of SLO and Hwy 101

3.5 add: patrol and monitor lands regularly

Staff concurs with these comments. Please see Goals 3.1-3.8, pg. 17.

PG&E ROW

Work with PG&E to have an effective 21st century ROW agreement, especially in terms of access maintenance so as to minimize visual and resources impacts. If it includes a helispot, prohibit storage of hazardous materials.

Staff has been working in close collaboration with PG&E. Recent major maintenance / reconductoring work was completed by helicopter to minimize resource impacts. PG&E will be following a Restoration Plan required by their resource agency permits for their project.

Signs

Under section 4.4.4, add that other signs may be added if adverse uses develop in other areas.

Staff concurs with this comment and have included this provision at 4.4.4 (pg. 21).

Loop Trail

I have concerns about this. When will the old trail be rehabilitated? Please detail. As I look at Cerro San Luis, I still clearly see the old trail that goes straight up to the "M". That was supposed to be rehabilitated years ago. I don't see how this will prohibit other illegal trails. Explain. All Open Spaces have trails that are not part of approved plans, which I assume are illegal. How will this be different? Will there be more ranger patrol? Quicker rehab efforts?

Natural Resources needs a staff dedicated to Open Space maintenance and rehabilitation. The current setup, using Rangers that are funded, hired, supervised and evaluated by Recreation, makes for divided loyalties. As the Open Space Program continues to receive strong public support and heavy use, having inline authority for staff will make for more timely response and effectiveness in dealing with resource issues. The COSE makes the Natural Resources Manager responsible for the Open Space Program. Suggest that some Ranger staff be moved to Natural Resources for Open Space maintenance.

The implementation of the loop trail was identified as a potentially significant impact in the Initial Study, and staff have proposed mitigation measures to reduce any impacts to less than significant levels. It is expected that Ranger Services will design and implement the trail in coordination with the Natural Resources Manager. Staff changes or additions would need to be recommended by the City Manager and approved by the City Council as part of the normal financial plan process for fiscal years 2013-15 or thereafter.

Seasonal Closures

Consider seasonal closures of the creek area in Reservoir Canyon during wet periods. The high water can create dangerous conditions.

Staff concurs with this comments and will manage RCNR accordingly. Ranger Services staff regularly close City open space areas during periods of prolonged rain and wet soil conditions. Also, a raised boardwalk just past the entry to RCNR will avoid an area that persists in a very wet condition well into the spring.

Annex

Annex into city limits so that the city has greater management options.

As owner of RCNR is fee simple, the City enjoys all the rights that are normally appurtenant to ownership of real property. San Luis Obispo Municipal Code provides for the City to enforce its Open Space Regulations (Chapter 12.22) even if a property is located outside of City limits. Annexation can be a lengthy and expensive process to pursue, with the outcome not within the City's control. Annexation also raises concerns about wildfire jurisdictional responsibility and costs.

Conservation Easement

Put a Conservation Easement on the property. Preferably to be held by a third party such as the Land Conservancy. I think it will be easy to get the needed money to finance this. An easement would prevent this land from being developed, traded, sold, etc.

Staff concurs that a Conservation Easement for the entirety of RCNR (the Bowden Ranch portion is already encumbered by a Conservation Easement) would provide the greatest level of assurance that RCNR will be held for open space conservation purposes forever. However, the City would need to identify an easement holder willing to take on this perpetual responsibility; most conservation organizations that hold Conservation Easements require a permanent stewardship endowment with the acceptance of a such an easement. Other less expensive and onerous options could include simple deed restrictions or conservation covenants recorded on title. It should also be noted that the Conservation and Open Space Element of the City's General Plan specifies the following at Appendix B (pg. 6-76): "8. The City will sell, exchange, or transfer an interest in open space lands, or relinquish a permanent open space easement, only by approval of the City Council following a public hearing, and only after a 60-day period in which the decision can be suspended pending reversal by referendum."

Comments on Draft Reservoir Canyon Plan from The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, received via email:

"... I think this looks pretty good. My only real concern is that the easement terms are not really explicitly stated. Will you be putting the easement in the appendix or otherwise summarizing the easement terms in the document so that the reader doesn't have to conduct an additional search and review?"

Staff concurs with this comment. The full text of the Bowden Ranch Conservation Easement is included as Appendix K.

Comments made in public comment period at the Cultural Heritage Committee by Richard Paul, neighbor to La Loma Adobe on Lizzie Street:

(Paraphrased): Parking on Lizzie Street in unclear due to fire lane closure signs, but no red striping; parking on site at La Loma would be ideal; supportive of the Plan overall.

RESOLUTION NO. 10479 (2013 Series)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO APPROVING THE
RESERVOIR CANYON NATURAL RESERVE CONSERVATION PLAN AND
ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, the City of San Luis Obispo has adopted policies for protection, management, and public use of open space lands acquired by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Luis Obispo manages twelve open space areas totaling approximately 3,800 acres, including the nearly 800-acre Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Cultural Heritage Committee, and the general public have commented upon the *Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Conservation Plan* as it has moved through a Council-directed approval process, and staff has considered and incorporated those comments where appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo as follows:

SECTION 1. Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Conservation Plan. The City Council hereby adopts the *Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Conservation Plan*, an official copy of which shall be kept on record with the City Clerk, based on the following findings:

1. The *Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Conservation Plan* is consistent with General Plan goals and policies relating to the oversight and management of City open space areas, specifically Conservation and Open Space Element Policy 8.5.6 that calls for the development of conservation or master plans for open space properties to protect and enhance them in a way that best benefits the community as a whole; and
2. Implementation of the *Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve Conservation Plan* will provide protection of identified natural and cultural resources and appropriate public access to the site while maintaining a majority of the site for habitat protection and enhancement.

SECTION 2. Environmental Review. The City Council hereby adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project, an official copy of which shall be kept on record with the City Clerk, finding that it adequately identifies all of the potential impacts of the project and that the following mitigation measures are reasonably capable of reducing potentially-significant impacts to less-than-significant levels:

1. Ensuring that new trail construction design preserves native vegetation on the outer edge in order to screen the trail itself;
2. Ensuring that individuals involved in trail construction are educated about the occurrence

of sensitive rare plants in the area and what to do if individuals of are observed within a work area if pre-activity surveys did not find them;

3. Inclusion of commonly used "Best Management Practices" in the construction of trails and other feature of the site to abate erosion;
4. Use of dusk masks for volunteers and with soil wetting techniques where feasible, and timing of trail construction to minimize or eliminate exposure to Naturally Occurring Asbestos; and
5. The large grove of eucalyptus trees in the area that poses a potential wildland-urban interface fire hazard will be periodically managed by City contractors and private landowners. This activity will continue on a regular basis, but with advance notice when possible and outside of nesting bird season.

With incorporation of these provisions, potential impacts are mitigated to a level that is less than significant and issuance of a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate.

Upon motion of Vice Mayor Smith, seconded by Council Member Ashbaugh, and on the following roll call vote:

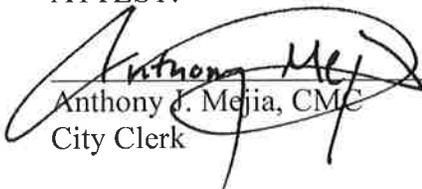
AYES: Council Members Ashbaugh, Carpenter and Christianson, Vice Mayor Smith and Mayor Marx
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

The foregoing resolution was adopted this 19th day of November 2013.



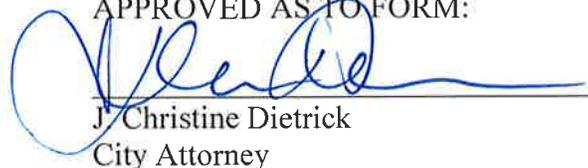
Mayor Jan Marx

ATTEST:



Anthony J. Mejia, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Christine Dietrick
City Attorney