

PUBLIC MEETING

Habitat Conservation Plan Oceano Dunes District



Meeting to receive comment on Draft EIR

Meeting Agenda

Welcome!



Welcome



Meeting Purpose



Meeting
Presentation



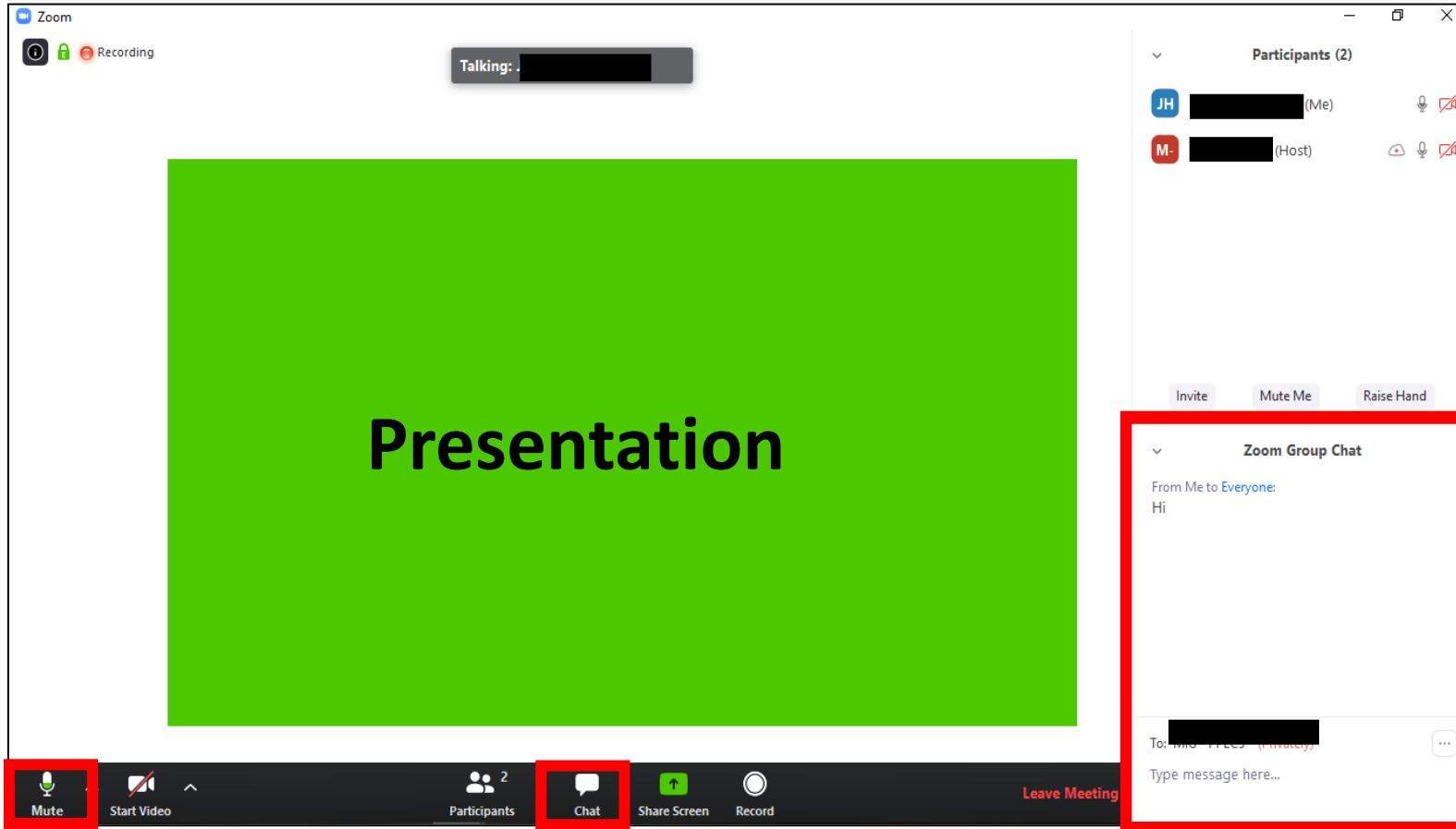
Verbal Comments on
Draft EIR

Online Meeting Format

- Video and audio will be muted during the meeting.
- During the presentation, you have the opportunity to submit clarifying questions to “MIG – QUESTIONS”.
- Chat is only visible to the Host
- Instructions will be provided at the end of the presentation on how to provide public comment.



How to Use Chat



Chat: Address clarifying questions to “MIG – Questions”

Audio: Participant voice and video will be muted.

Introductions



Ronnie Glick
Senior Environmental Scientist



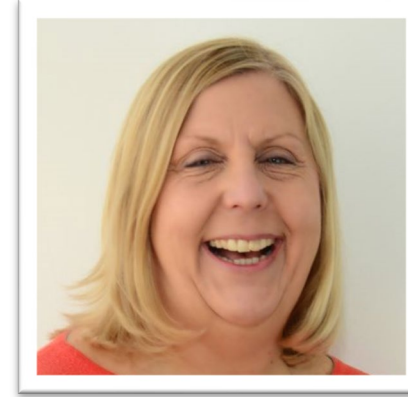
Dan Canfield
Park and Recreation Specialist



Paula Hartman
Principal



Kate Werner
Project Manager



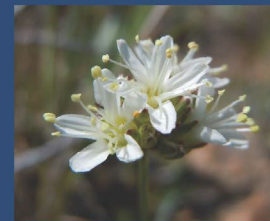
Joan Chaplick
Senior Facilitator

Meeting Purpose

A scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore under a vast, cloudy sky. The text "Meeting Purpose" is overlaid in the center.

Meeting Purpose

- Present overview of the HCP
- Present conclusions of Draft EIR
- Provide opportunity for verbal comment to be received
- Provide direction on submittal of written comments



DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FOR
THE OCEANO DUNES DISTRICT



September 2019

HCP and State Park Mission

How does HCP fit in with State Park's mission?

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



Oceano Dunes District

- **Natural Resources**
 - Diversity of biological resources
 - Conservation beginning 1991
- **Cultural Resources**
 - Multiple areas of high sensitivity
- **Coastal Dependent Activity**
 - Non-vehicle recreation activities (e.g., pedestrian, equestrian, surfing, kite-boarding, etc.)
 - Beach and coastal dune camping
 - Beach and coastal dune vehicle recreation

District Context

- 2 million visitors every year
- Pismo State Beach is 1 of 62 state beaches (6% of total acreage)
- Oceano Dunes SVRA is 1 of 9 SVRAs (2.5% of total acreage)
- Oceano Dunes SVRA is only SVRA in a beach location



Three Planning Efforts – One HCP

Three separate planning efforts are currently underway:

- HCP – Conservation plan supports the application for an Incidental Take Permit required by the federal Endangered Species Act
- Public Works Plan (PWP) – Comprehensive, long-range land use management plan to comply with the California Coastal Act
- Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP) – Dust control and monitoring measures supporting compliance with the SLOAPCD Stipulated Order of Abatement



Status of Draft HCP and NEPA Review

- Joint scoping period held with USFWS in 2018
- Separation of NEPA analysis from CEQA EIR
- USFWS still reviewing HCP and preparing separate EA
- Separate opportunity for public comment on EA
- Estimate release of EA in Summer 2020



Habitat Conservation Plan

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal landscape. The foreground is a sandy beach. The middle ground shows waves breaking onto the shore. In the distance, a range of low mountains or hills is visible against a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall tone is bright and natural.

HCP Overview

- Conservation plan required as part of an application for an “incidental” take permit, i.e., a permit allowing take caused by otherwise lawful activities.

(Federal Endangered Species Act, Section 10(a))

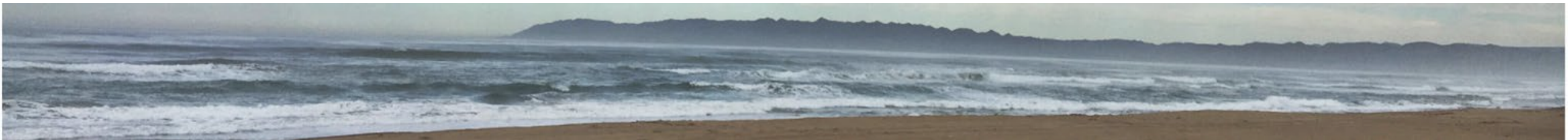
- “Take” includes actions that harass, harm, pursue, wound, kill, etc. listed species.

(Federal Endangered Species Act, Section 3)



HCP Goals

- Ensure habitat-level protection and management
- Minimize human-related impacts to covered species
- Enhance survival and recovery of the covered species
- Meet resource management objectives



Covered Park Units

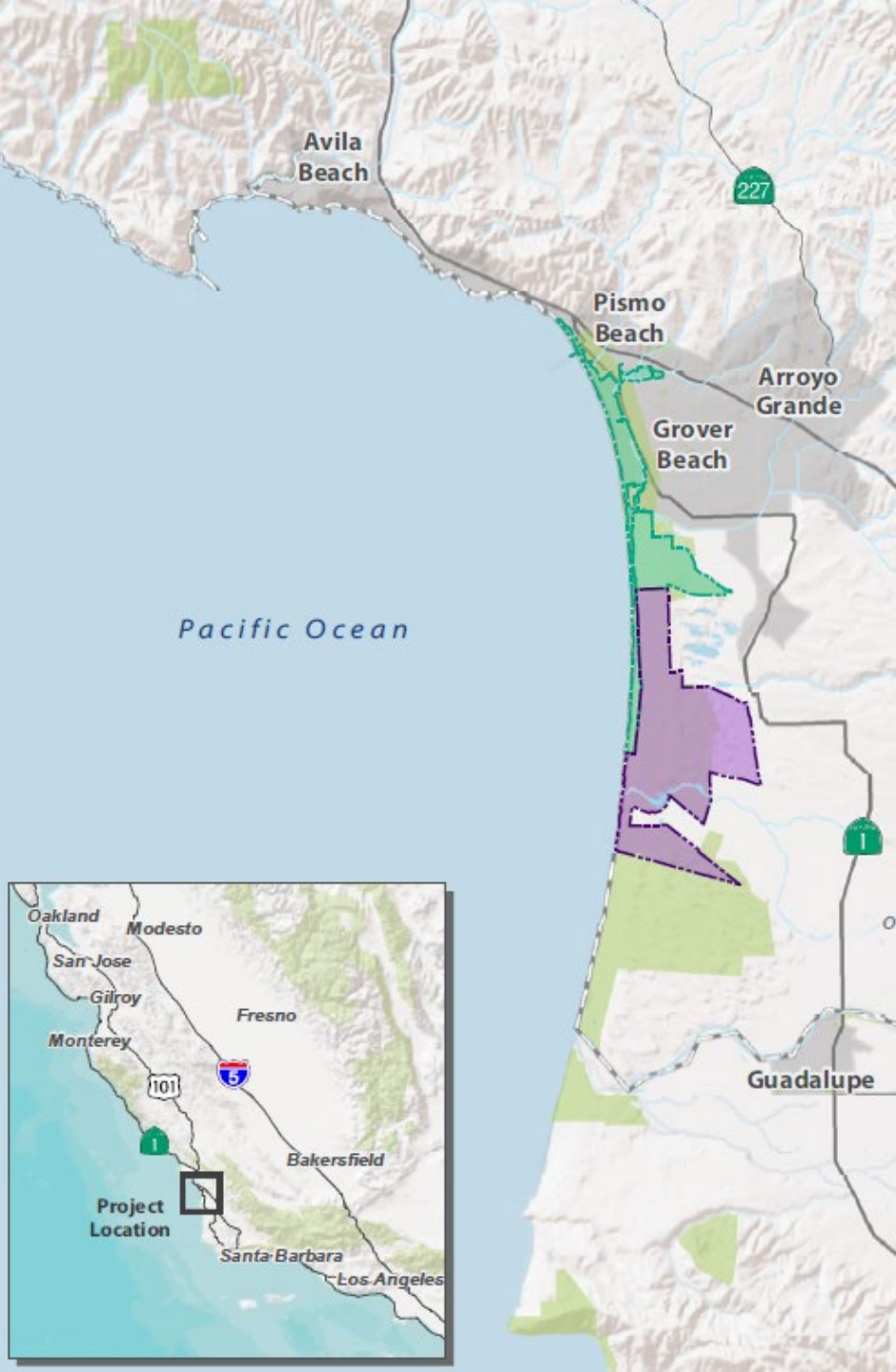
HCP Area = 5,005 acres

Pismo State Beach

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

Oceano Dunes SVRA

- 3,490 acres



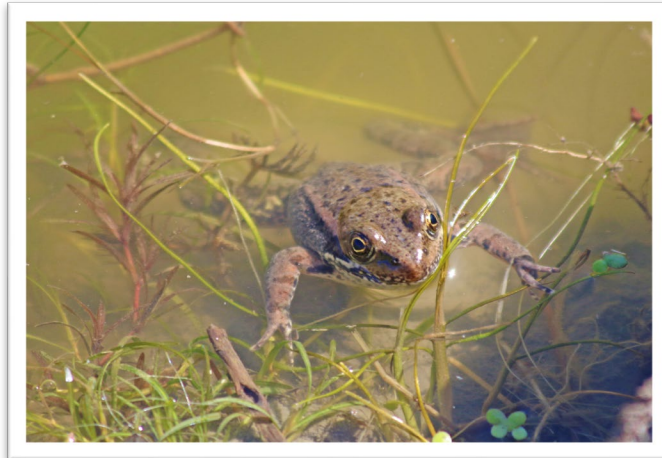
Covered Species



Western snowy plover (FT)



California least tern (FE, SE, SP)

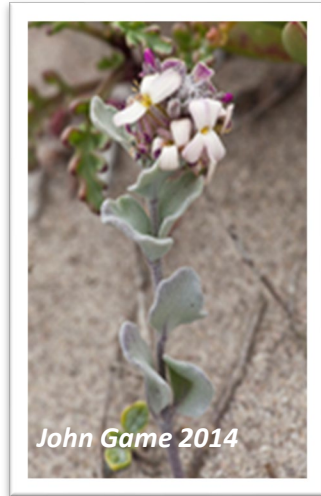


California red-legged frog (FT)



Tidewater goby (FE)

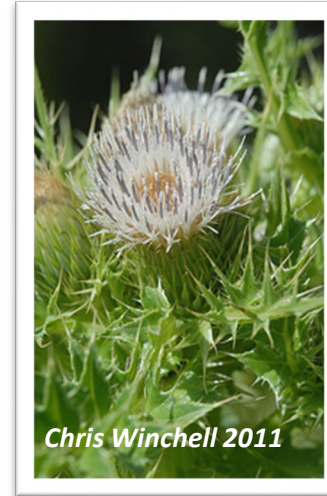
Covered Species



Beach spectaclepod
(ST)



Marsh sandwort (FE,
SE)



La Graciosa
thistle (FE, ST)



Surf thistle (ST)



Nipomo Mesa
lupine (FE, SE)



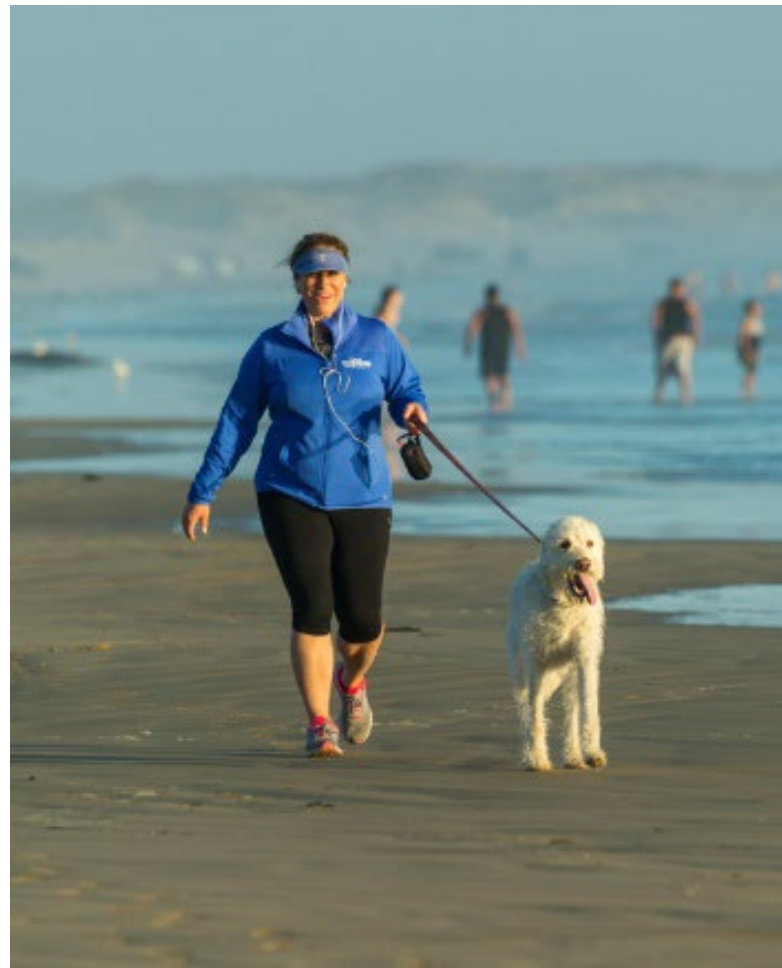
Gambel's watercress
(FE, ST)

Covered Activities

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

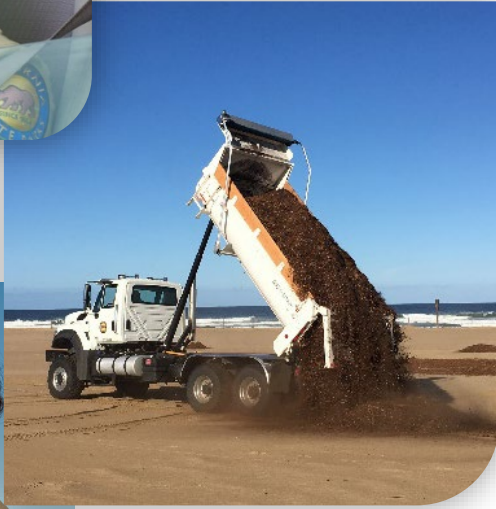


Park Visitor Activities



- CA-1: Motorized recreation
- CA-2: Camping
- CA-3: Pedestrian activities
- CA-4: Bicycling and golfing
- CA-5: Fishing
- CA-6: Dog walking (on leash only)
- CA-7: Equestrian recreation
- CA-8: Boating/surfing
- CA-9: Aerial/wind-driven activities, including kiteboarding
- CA-10: Holidays
- CA-11: Special events

Natural Resources Management



CA-12a: SNPL/CLTE habitat protections/fencing

CA-12b: SNPL/CLTE monitoring and management including ongoing programs

CA-13: Tidewater goby and salmonid surveys

CA-14: CRLF surveys and associated management

CA-15: Listed plant management

CA-16: Habitat restoration program

CA-17: Invasive plant and animal control

CA-18: Habitat Monitoring System (HMS) implementation

CA-19: Water quality monitoring projects

Park Maintenance

CA-20: Campground maintenance

CA-21: General facilities maintenance

CA-22: Trash control

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

CA-24: Sand ramp and other vehicular access maintenance

CA-25: Street sweeping

CA-26: Routine riparian maintenance



Park Maintenance

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

CA-28: Cable fence maintenance and replacement

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

CA-30: Minor grading (i.e., less than 50 cubic yards)

CA-31: Boardwalk and other pedestrian access maintenance





Visitor Services

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

CA-33: Emergency response by CDPR staff

CA-34: Access by non-CDPR vehicles

CA-35: American Safety Institute (ASI) courses

CA-36: Beach concessions

CA-37: Pismo Beach Golf Course operations

CA-38: Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center

CA-39: Natural history and interpretation programs



Other HCP Covered Activities

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

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

CA-42: Riding in 40 Acres

CA-43: Replacement of the Safety and Education Center

CA-44: Dust control activities

CA-45: Cultural resources management

CA-46: CDPR management of agricultural lands

CA-47: Maintenance of a bioreactor on agricultural lands

CA-48: Oso Flaco Lake boardwalk replacement

CA-49: Special projects

CA-50: Reduction of the Boneyard and 6 exclosures

CA-51: Use of pesticides

CA-52: CDPR UAS use for park activities

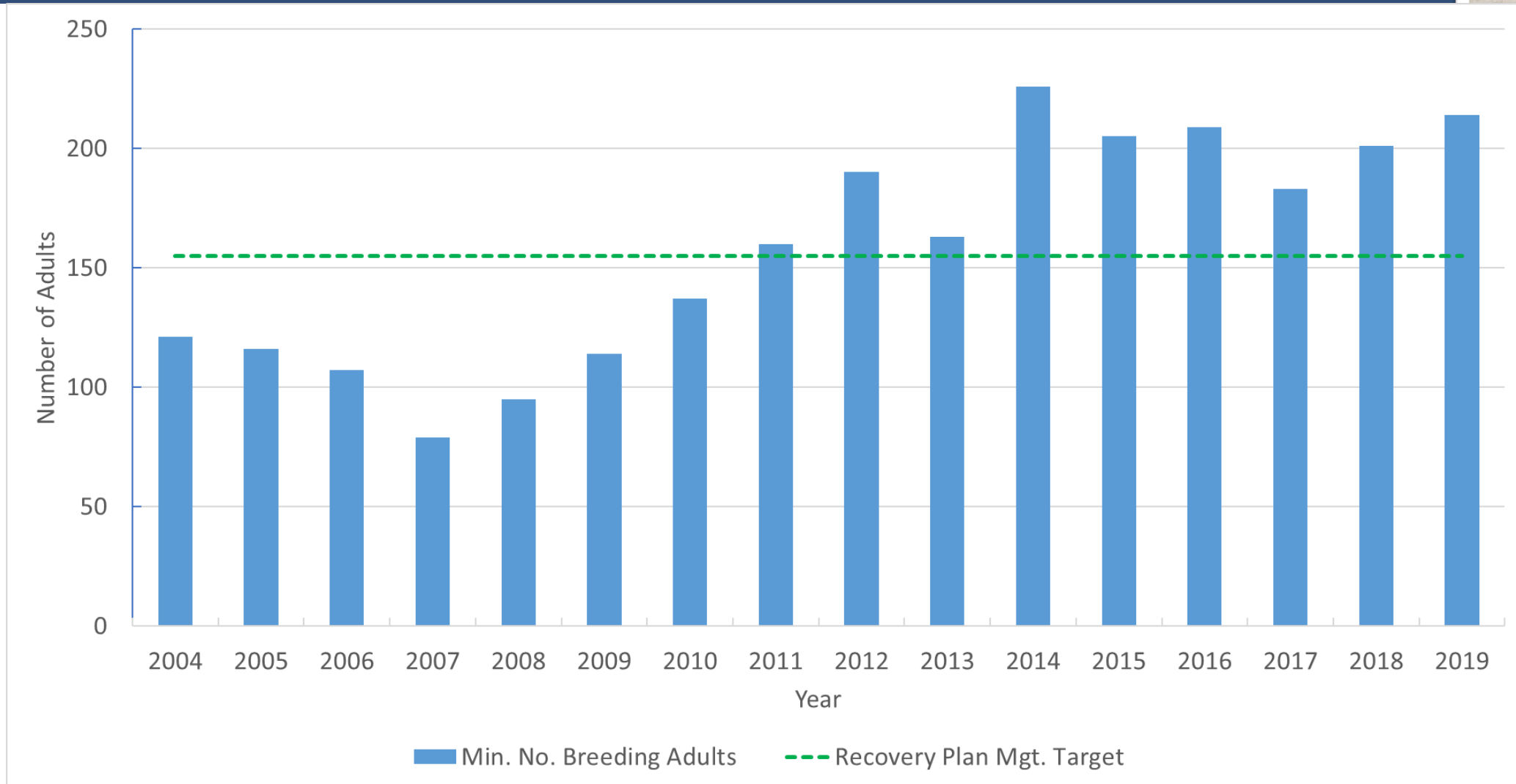
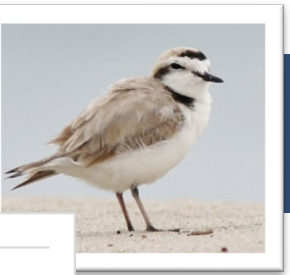
Conservation Program

Key Elements:

- Built on 20+ years of survey data
- Includes Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- Utilizes adaptive management
- Identifies permit take limits
- Commitment to secure funding for 25-year permit term

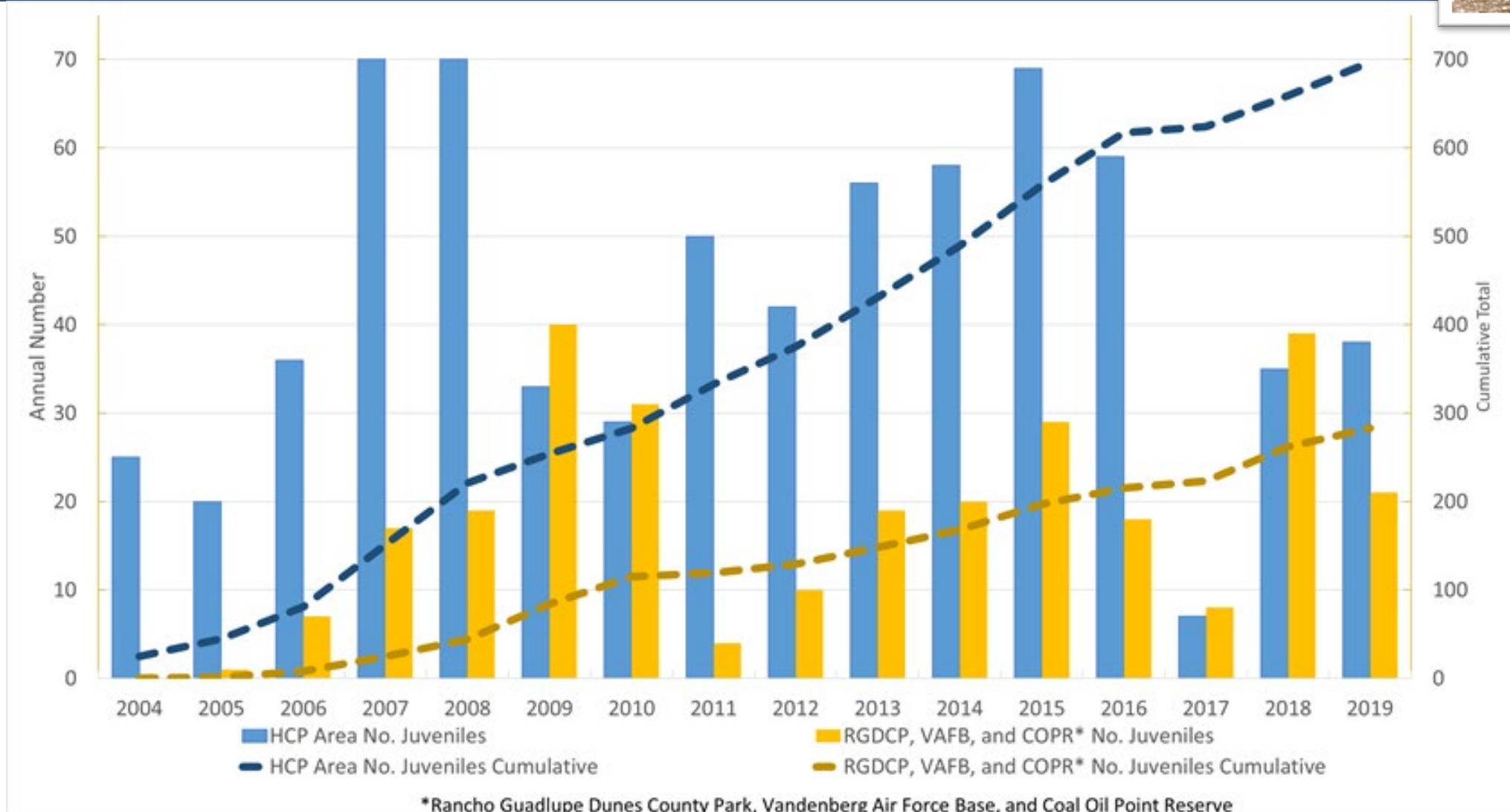


Population Data – Snowy Plover



Number of breeding adult snowy plovers in the HCP area from 2004-2019 with Recovery Plan management target

Population Data – Least Tern



Number of least tern juveniles produced in the HCP area and reference sites from 2004-2019

Example of AMMs

Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) for Snowy Plover

Park Visitor Activities: Motorized recreation (CA-1)

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

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



Take Permit Request

- Take numbers broadly split into categories
 - Park operations, recreation, and other non-covered species management
 - Covered species management
- Take numbers quantified as follows (HCP Tables 4-1 – 4-6):
 - Snowy plover and least tern: 1- and 5-year limits
 - Red-legged frog: annual and 25-year limits for aquatic and upland habitat
 - Tidewater goby: annual survey numbers + 5-year and 25-year take limits



Program Funding - What does it cost?

Estimated Annual Cost

Snowy plover/Least tern	\$2,213,101.24
Tidewater goby	\$21,195.18
Red-legged frog	\$34,236.12
Listed plants	\$48,923.96
Reporting	\$122,668.50
Other items of expense	\$45,204.86
	\$2,485,329.86

Estimated Cost
over 25-year Life of HCP

\$79,600,000 to \$90,600,000



A wide-angle photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, a wide, sandy beach stretches across the bottom. The middle ground shows the ocean with gentle waves breaking onto the shore. In the distance, a range of low mountains or hills is visible under a vast, cloudy sky. The clouds are white and fluffy, with some darker patches, suggesting an overcast but bright day. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, whites, and tans.

Draft Environmental Impact Report

Scope of Analysis

Existing Activities (Baseline Conditions)

- Park Visitor Activities (11 CAs)
- Natural Resources Management (8 CAs)
- Park Maintenance (12 CAs)
- Visitor Services (7 CAs)
- Other Activities (6 CAs)

Environmental review (CEQA) not required for existing activities



Scope of Analysis continued

Potential Future Activities

- SNPL Adult Banding (CA-12-b)
- Listed Plant Propagation and Outplanting (CA-15)
- Cable Fence Replacement (CA-28)
- **Grover Beach Lodge (CA-38)**
- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge (CA-41)
- Riding in “40 Acres” (CA-42)
- Safety and Education Center Replacement (CA-43)
- **Dust Control Activities –New PMRP (CA-44)**
- Oso Flaco Lake Boardwalk Replacement (CA-48)
- Special Projects (CA-49)

Potential future activities considered in EIR cumulative analysis





Scope of Analysis continued

Proposed New Activities

- Plover chicks and eggs captive rearing (CA-12b)
- Mechanical trash removal (CA-21)
- Reduction of Seasonal Exclosures (CA-50)
- CDPR use of unmanned aircraft systems (CA-52)

Proposed new activities subject to CEQA review in HCP EIR

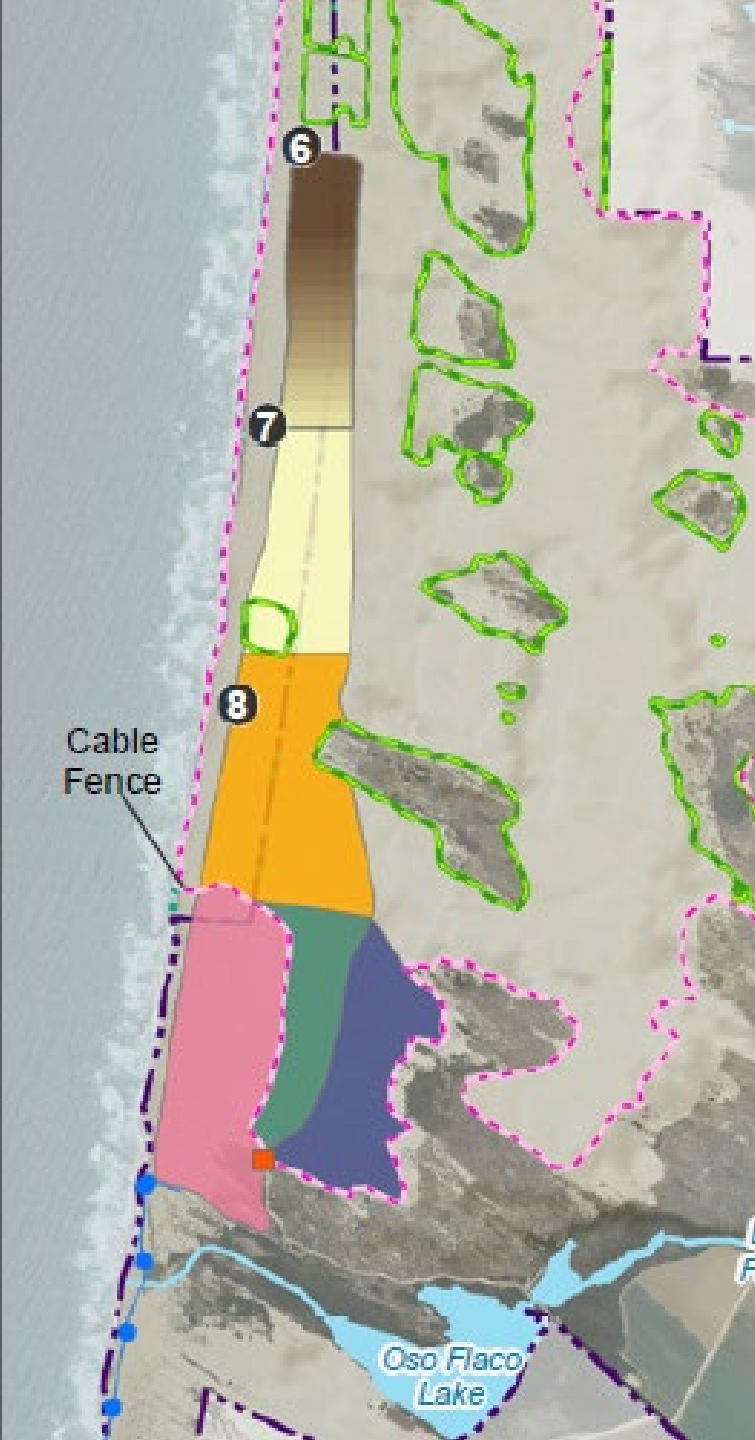
Scope of Analysis continued

Seasonal Exclosure Changes (CA-50)

- Elimination of East Boneyard Exclosure (49 acres)
- Phased reduction 6 Exclosure (up to 60 acres)

Criteria for Reducing 6 Exclosure

- Breeding SNPL population size ≥ 155 for 3 consecutive years, including the year before the 6 Exclosure is reduced in size
- SNPL fledge rate ≥ 1.0 fledglings per male for same 3 consecutive years, including the year before the 6 Exclosure is reduced in size
- Breeding CLTE population size \geq a 5-year running average of 35 nesting pairs, including the year before the 6 Exclosure is reduced in size.
- CLTE fledge rate averages ≥ 1.0 fledglings per pair over the same 5 consecutive years, including the year before the 6 Exclosure is reduced in size.
- Operational criteria



Environmental Impact Analysis

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



Analysis Conclusions

- Land Use: No significant changes
- Air Quality: Potential dust increases offset by mitigation
- Biological Resources: AMMs sufficient to avoid significant effects
- Cultural and Tribal Resources: No significant impact
- Recreation and Public Access: Increased opportunity on 109 acres



Project Alternatives

Considered and Rejected Alternatives

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

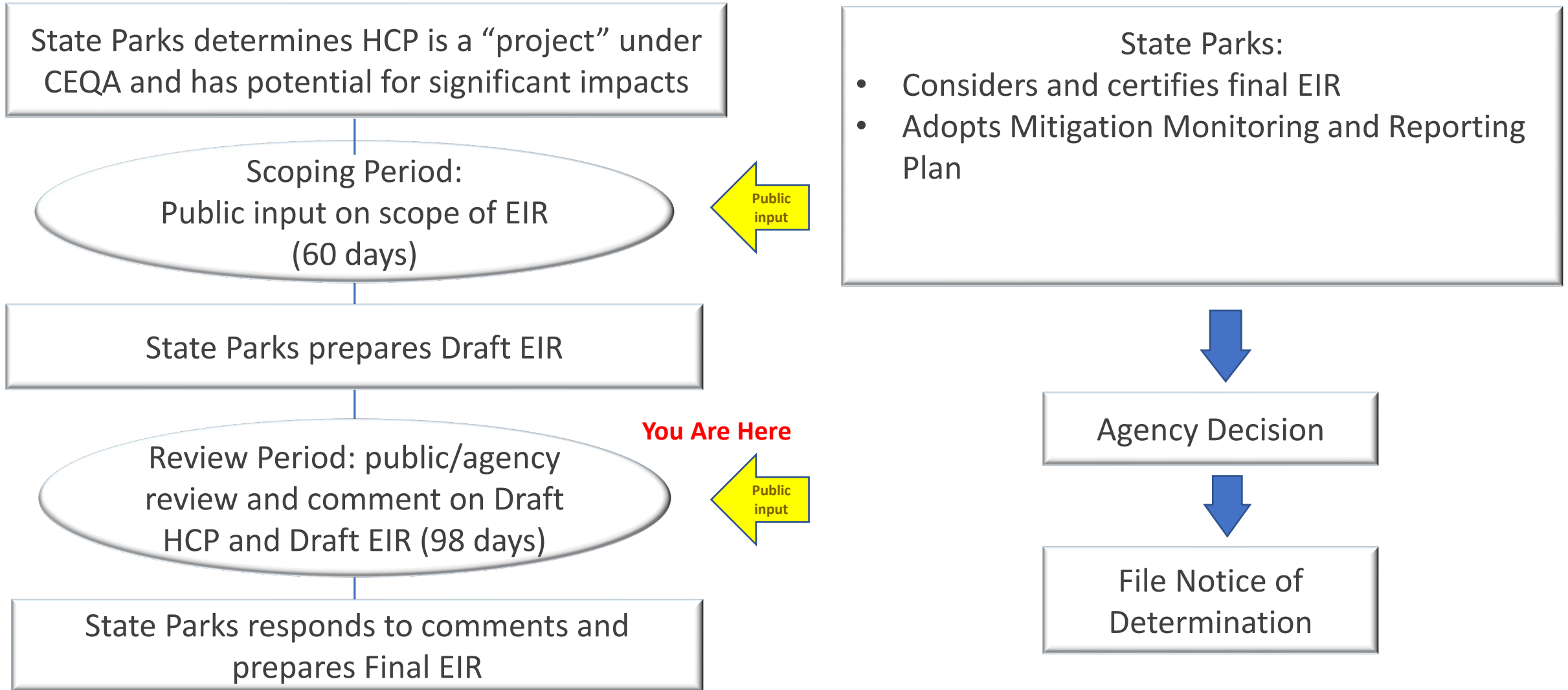


Project Alternatives

- Alternatives Considered in Detail
 - No Project Alternative
 - Reduced Disturbance in High PM10 Emissivity Areas
 - Permanent Year-Round Enclosures
 - Reduced Vehicle Limits
- Environmentally Superior Alternative



CEQA Process



Status of Draft HCP and Take Permit

- USFWS still reviewing HCP and preparing separate EA
- USFWS release of Draft HCP and EA in Summer 2020
- 45-day public review
- Estimated Take Permit issuance Early 2021



Clarifying Questions

A scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore under a vast, cloudy sky. The text "Clarifying Questions" is overlaid in the center.

Public Comment

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

Public Comment

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

Examples:

- Adequacy of EIR in identifying significant environmental effects of proposed new activities
- Ways environmental impacts can be avoided or significantly reduced
- Changes in project through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures

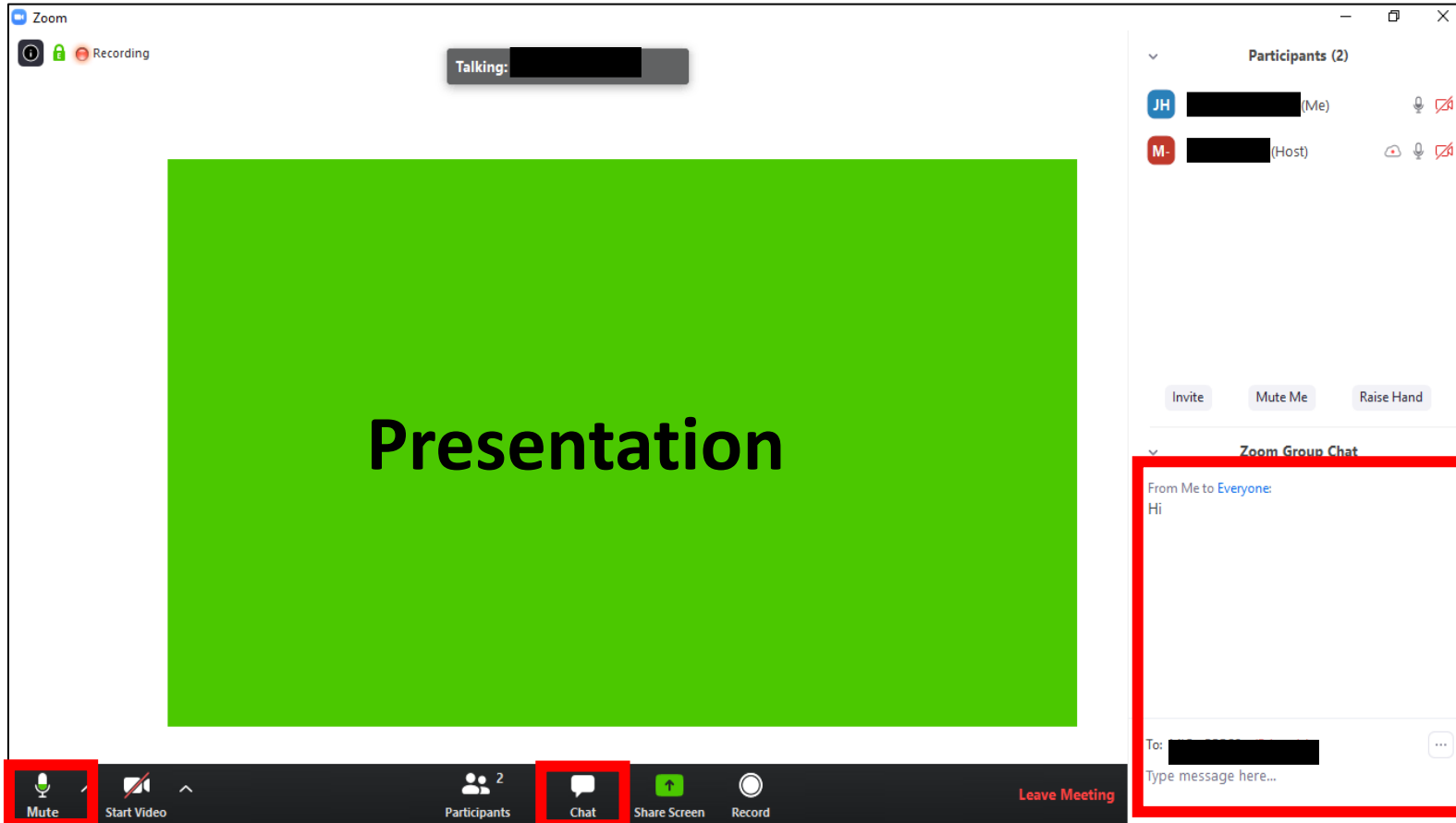


Verbal Public Comment Instructions

- Send your full name to “Joan Chaplick – Public Comment”
- If you are using your phone for the audio, please provide your phone number so we can unmute you when it is time to speak
- Chat is only visible to the Host
- Moderator will call out names in groups of 3 so you know if your turn is coming up
- Each speaker will get up to 2 minutes for their comments



How to Use Chat



Chat: Will act like a speaker card, participants who want to make public comment. Please type in your name and organization (if any).

Audio: Participant voice and video will be muted. Moderator will call out the names of those seeking to comment.

Ways to Provide Comments

- 1) Provide verbal comment now
Submit your name using chat feature.
- 2) Mail written comments to:
California State Parks, Oceano Dunes District
340 James Way, Suite 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
Attn: Ronnie Glick
- 3) E-mail comments to:
Oceano Dunes District
OceanoDunesHCP@parks.ca.gov

**Submit written comments by:
Monday, June 1, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**





Time for
Public Comments
on Draft EIR