

A. LAND USE AND PLANNING POLICY

This section evaluates the consistency of the East Bay Regional Park District's (EBRPD's) Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan (Plan) with existing applicable land uses and planning policies. This section provides a brief description of land uses within and around the Study Area as well as relevant plans and policies that apply to this area. Where potential impacts and inconsistencies that could result from implementation of the Plan have been identified, mitigation measures are recommended as appropriate.

1. Setting

This section describes the existing facilities and land use conditions at each park in the Study Area and a brief description of the lands surrounding the parks.

a. East Bay Regional Park District. EBRPD is a State-authorized independent special district operating 65 parks on approximately 98,000 acres in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The core mission of EBRPD is to acquire, develop, manage, and maintain a high quality, diverse system of interconnected park lands which balances public usage and education programs with protection and preservation of our natural and cultural resources.

The EBRPD parks included in the Study Area comprise 13 hillside parks and seven shoreline parks identified in Measure CC, which was approved by voters in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties in 2004. Hillside parks within the Study Area, from north to south, are: Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve; Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area; Wildcat Canyon Regional Park; Tilden Regional Park; Claremont Canyon; Temescal Regional Recreation Area; Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve; Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve; Roberts Regional Recreational Area; Redwood Regional Park; Leona Canyon Regional Open Space and Preserve; Anthony Chabot Regional Park; and Lake Chabot Regional Park. The seven shoreline parks within the Study Area, from north to south, are: Point Pinole Regional Shoreline; Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline; Brooks Island Regional Shoreline; Eastshore State Park; Middle Harbor Shoreline Park; Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach; and Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline.

Based on an evaluation conducted by the Plan consultants and EBRPD, only three shoreline parks were determined to have vegetation types that could support wildfire conditions and were included and evaluated in this EIR: Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, and Eastshore State Park. The portion of Eastshore State Park that includes potential fuels is the Berkeley Meadow, which supports coyote brush scrub and grassland fuels, the meadow is intensively managed for habitat and wetland restoration and is not included in a recommended treatment area. Accordingly, the Berkeley Meadow portion of Eastshore State Park is considered part of the Study Area. The other shoreline parks do not exhibit characteristics or vegetation conditions requiring wildfire hazard reduction activities and therefore were not included in the Plan or evaluated in this EIR.

b. Hillside Parks. The following discussion describes the various parks included in the Study Area, the park conditions, facilities, and surrounding uses. The 13 hillside parks within the Study Area are described below from north to south.

(1) Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve. Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve is approximately 277 acres and is located in the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County. The park serves as a preserve for Alameda manzanita habitat and other plant and animal species. Natural features within the park

include the Manzanita Grove, located along the western park boundary, and the Wildlife Refuge Pond which is located in the southeastern corner of the park.

Residential development is located along the park's eastern and western borders. Pinole Valley Park, within the City of Pinole, forms Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve's northern boundary and open space within Contra Costa County forms its southern boundary.

The preserve has approximately 2.5 miles of ridgetop trails, which are accessible from three points: the Coach Drive staging area, an equestrian staging area, and a parking area along Heavenly Ridge Lane. The trail system connects to trails in Pinole Valley Park. Benches and picnic tables are located along the trail and provide views of the hillsides. Figure IV.A-1 shows facilities and trails within Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve.

(2) Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area. The Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area is a 222-acre park located in the community of El Sobrante within unincorporated Contra Costa County. The park offers picnic and gathering venues, trails, volleyball areas, and horseshoe pits. Natural features include Kennedy Creek—a tributary of San Pablo Creek, which bisects the park and serves as the principal surface drainage for the park—and the Radach/Hill area. The Bay Area Ridge Trail, located adjacent to the park, connects the park with Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve and Pinole Valley Park to the north. The park entrance is located on San Pablo Dam Road; emergency vehicle and maintenance access is available from Hillside Drive and Patra Drive.

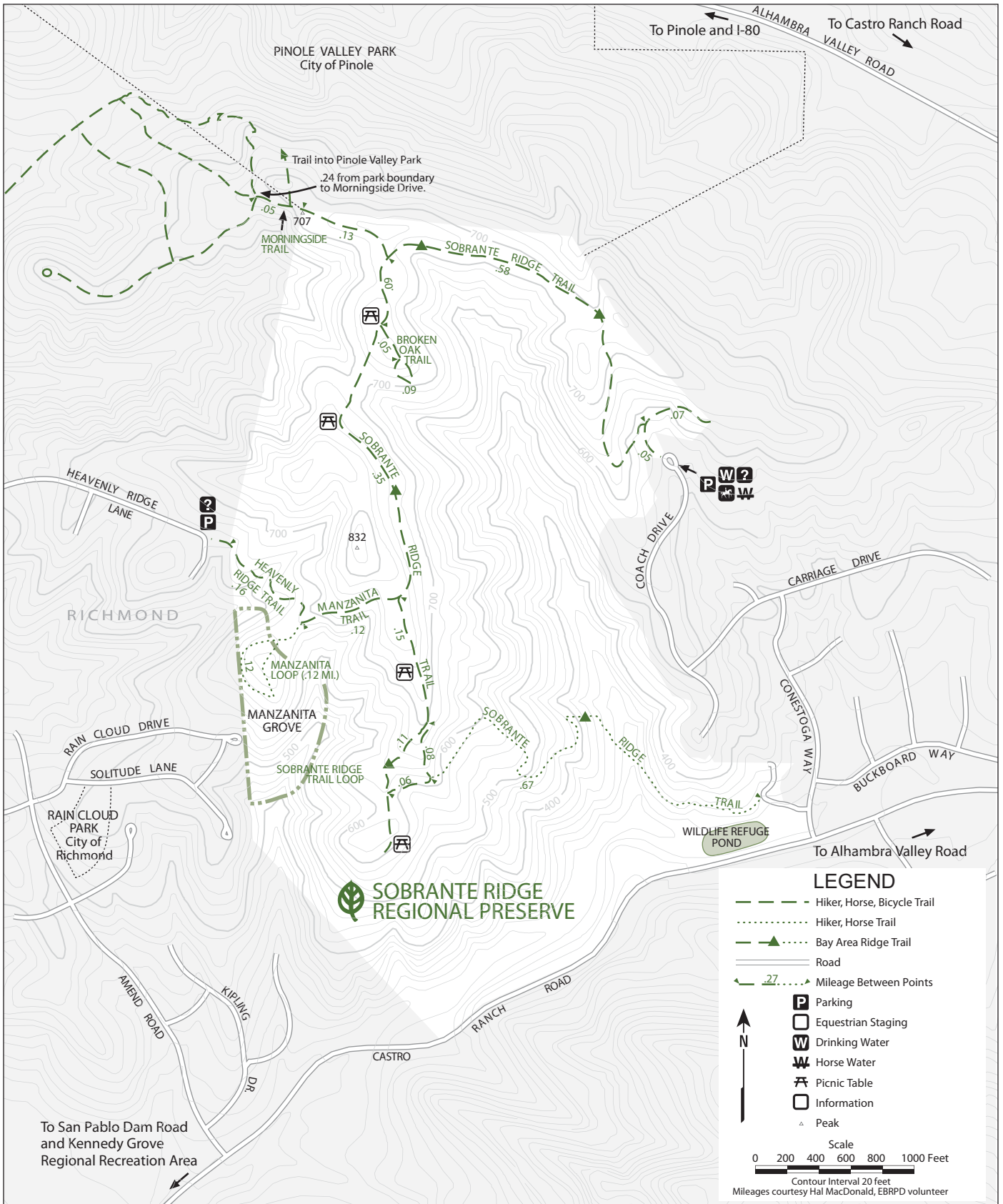
The park is located at the base of the San Pablo Dam and is bordered to the south by East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) lands and the San Pablo Reservoir. Residential land uses within unincorporated Contra Costa County are located adjacent to the park's western border and residential land uses in Richmond are located to the north. Privately-owned open space land is located to the east and west of the park.

Facilities in the park include an EBRPD park office, Fern Cottage, and a central lawn. Fern Cottage is an indoor/outdoor facility for events and gatherings which can accommodate 60 to 130 persons. The Senior Citizens' Center is located in the same building. A central lawn turf meadow provides volleyball, horseshoe, and picnic facilities encircled by a paved walking path. Two multi-use loop trails run through the park. Figure IV.A-2 shows facilities and trails within the park.

(3) Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Wildcat Canyon Regional Park is approximately 2,197 acres and is located in Contra Costa County. The park area consists of Alvarado Park, Wildcat Canyon, and several tributary canyons bordered by the Berkeley Hills to the west and the San Pablo Ridge to the east.

The Cities of El Cerrito and Richmond and unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County (including Kensington) form the western boundary of the park. With the exception of a golf course, small parks, and school uses, the majority of bordering uses to the west are residential in nature. Tilden Park is located to the south of the park, the City of Richmond borders the park to the north, and Contra Costa County is located to the east.

The majority of trails within the park are unpaved multi-use trails that are used as service roads for maintenance, fire protection, and as hiking and equestrian trails. Approximately 4 miles of trails are paved, including Nimitz Way (2.3 miles). There is no private vehicle access along Nimitz Way. Gates are located at various points throughout the park to prevent vehicle access. The northeast corner of the



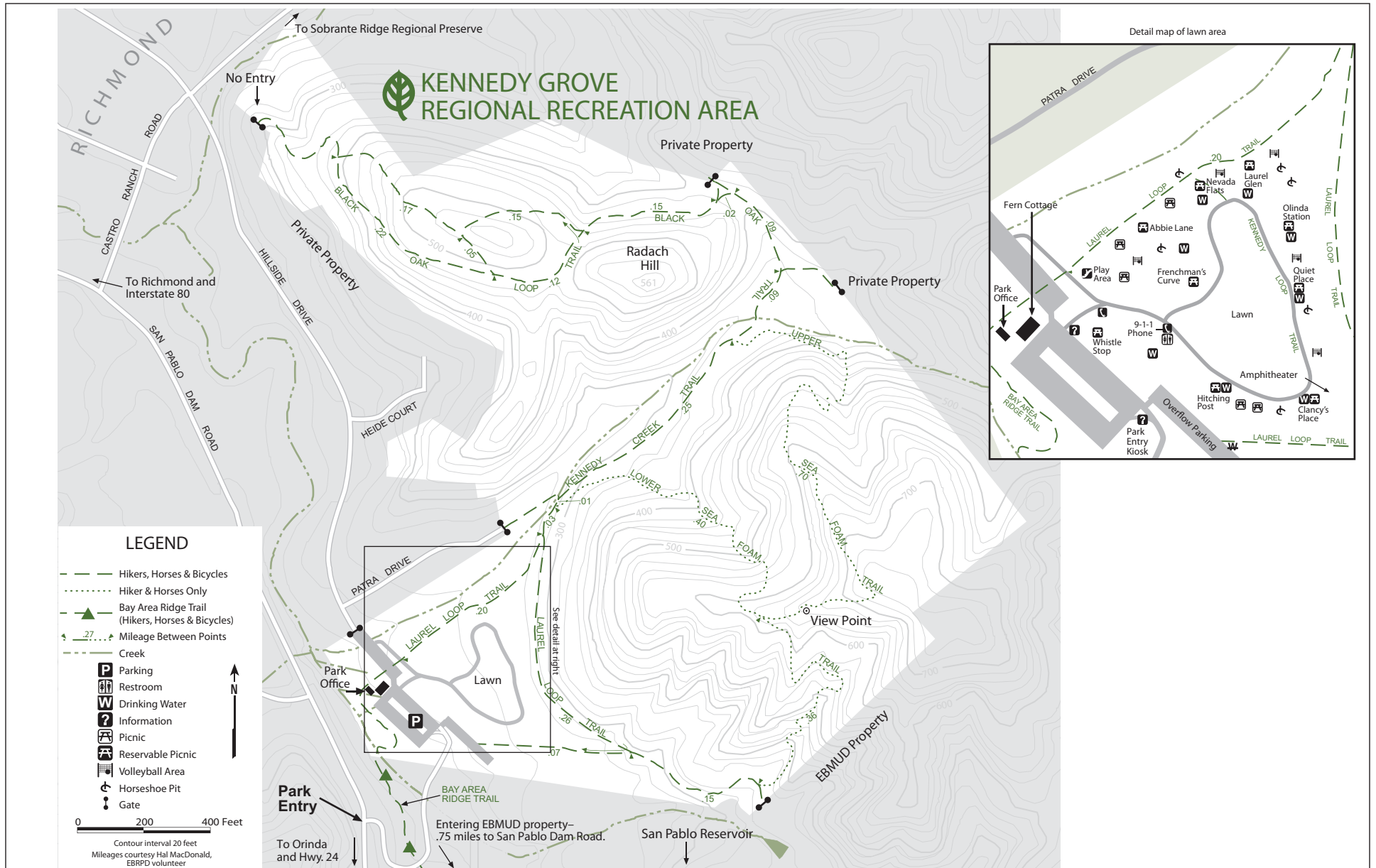
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FIGURE IV.A-1

*EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and
Resource Management Plan EIR
Sobranite Ridge Regional Preserve*

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007

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FIGURE IV.A-2

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and
Resource Management Plan EIR
Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.

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park is known as the Alvarado Area, and contains restrooms, picnic areas, a children's play area, and the Wildcat Canyon Staging Area. The only structure within the park, apart from restrooms, is the park office. Figure IV.A-3 shows facilities and trails within Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

(4) Tilden Regional Park. Tilden Regional Park is approximately 2,077 acres in size and is located in Contra Costa County. El Cerrito, Kensington, Berkeley and the Berkeley Hills border the park to the west and are developed with predominantly residential uses. Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and the City of Richmond are located north of the park; Contra Costa County and Orinda are located to the east of the park; and the UC Berkeley Campus, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, and unincorporated Alameda County are located south of the park.

There are a variety of facilities at Tilden Regional Park, including a steam train, an 18-hole golf course, a botanical garden, and a merry-go-round. The Tilden Nature Study Area and Little Farm are located in the northern portion of the park. Picnic facilities are located throughout the western and southern areas of the park. Group camping and equestrian camping facilities are located within the park. Lake Anza offers swimming and shower facilities. Figures IV.A-4a and 4b show trails and facilities at the park.

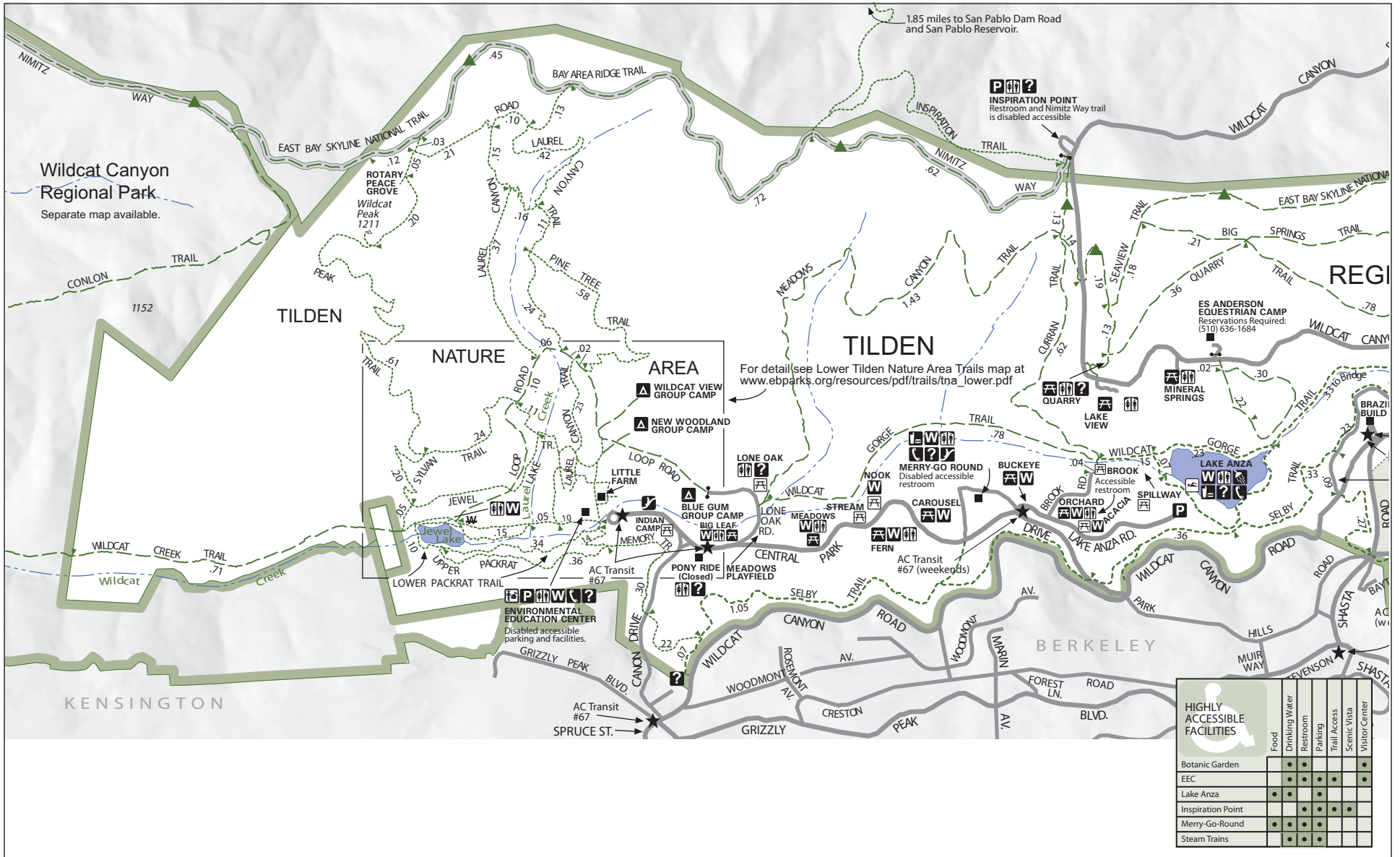
There are approximately 20 miles of hiking/equestrian trails and approximately 13 miles of service roads in Tilden Regional Park. Four miles of trails and service roads within the park are paved and connect to adjacent areas, including Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. There are several paved roads that allow vehicular access within the park, including South Park Drive, Wildcat Canyon Road, Canyon Drive, and Central Park Drive.

There are an estimated 2,500 parking spaces within the park. These include 1,600 formal parking stalls and 900 informal roadside spaces.

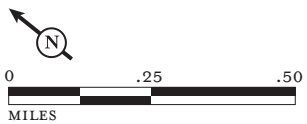
(5) Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve. The 205-acre Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve is bordered by the University of California's Clark Kerr Campus to the west and the University of California ecological preserve to the north and east. Residential uses are immediately adjacent to the park to the north and south. Claremont Avenue bisects the preserve.

There are no developed facilities within the preserve; it is kept in a natural state and provides extensive scenic vistas. A fire trail runs along Panoramic Ridge within the park. Figure IV.A-5 shows the general layout of the preserve.

(6) Temescal Regional Recreation Area. Temescal Regional Recreation Area is a 48-acre park located in Oakland at the junction of Highway 24 and Highway 13. The park contains a 13-acre man-made lake, created by the damming of Temescal Creek in 1868 to create a reservoir for the City of Oakland. The lake provides fishing and swimming opportunities and is surrounded by lawn areas for picnicking, a rose garden, and trails, including a paved multi-use trail. Temescal Creek empties into the lake from the southeast and drains to the northwest; Caldecott Creek enters the lake from the east. The Hayward Fault lies under the lake and the spillway end of the dam. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) facilities, including natural gas lines, are located underneath the west lake trail.



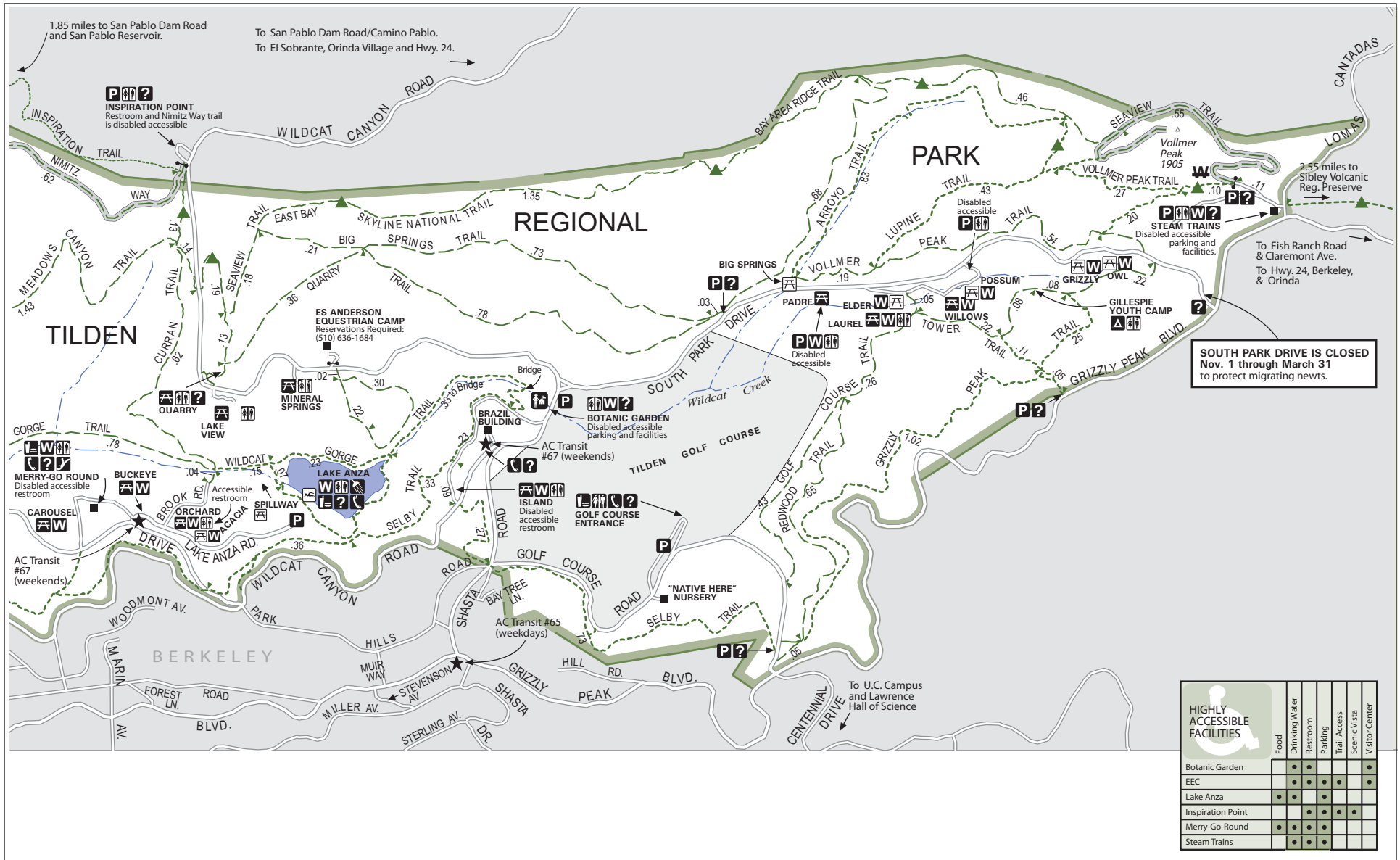
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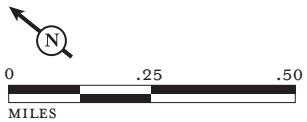
SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.
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FIGURE IV.A-4a

*EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan EIR
Tilden Regional Park*



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SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.

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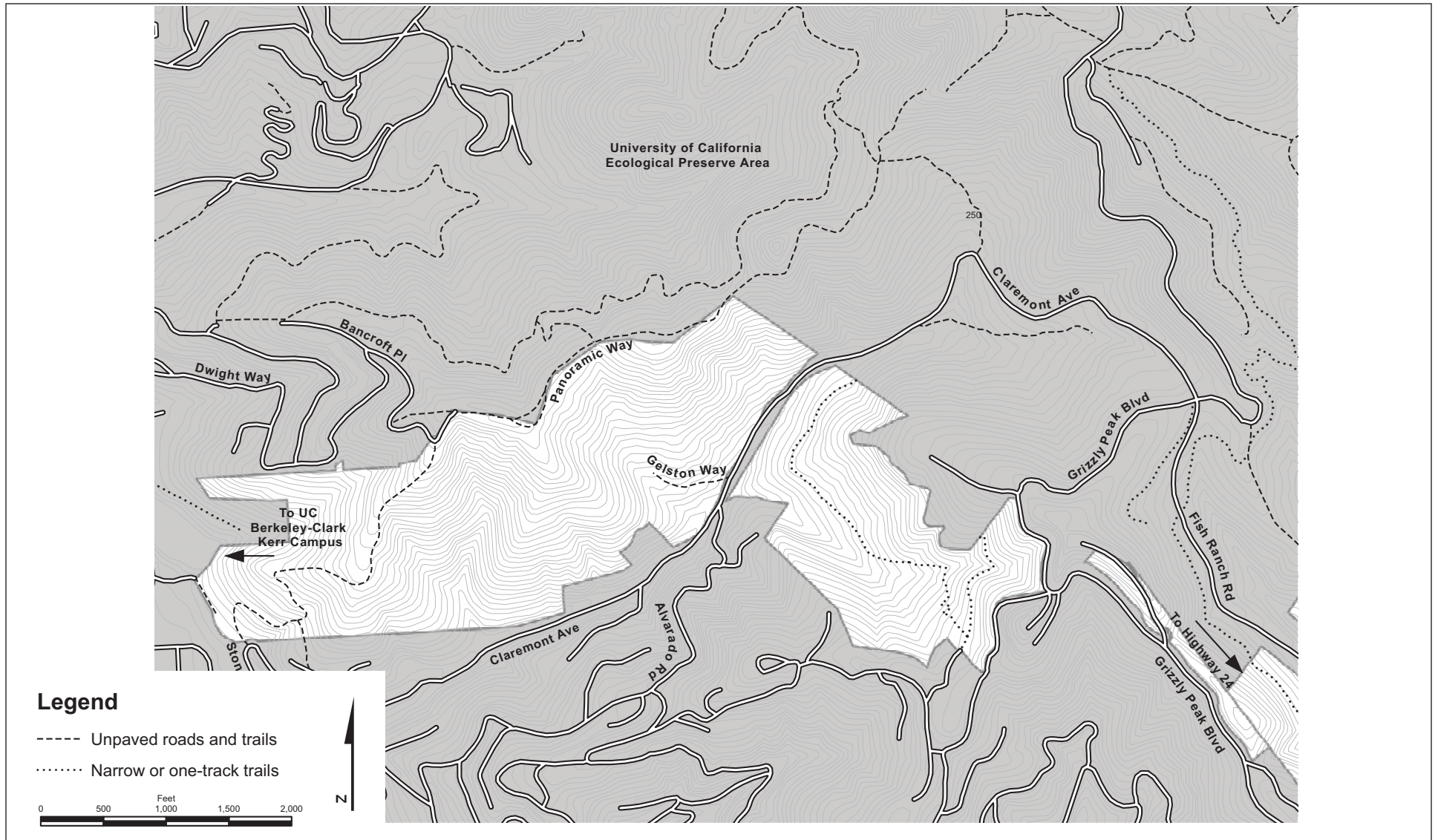
LEGEND

- Paved Roads
- Hikers, Horses & Bicycles
- Hikers & Horses
- Hikers Only
- Paved Trail: Hikers, Horses & Bicycles
- Stream
- Triangle on trail indicates Skyline National Trail & Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Mileage Between Points
- Parking
- Bus Stop
- Restrooms
- Drinking Water

- Horse Water
- Phone
- Information
- Tot Lot
- Swimming
- Food
- Picnic
- Reservable Picnic
- Visitor Center
- Group Camping (Reservations Only)
- Gate

FIGURE IVA-4b

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan EIR
 Tilden Regional Park



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FIGURE IV.A-5

*EBRPD Wildlife Hazard Reduction and
Resource Management Plan EIR
Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve*

Broadway forms the park's northern boundary, with Highway 24 located just beyond. A Caltrans right-of-way and Landvale Road form the park's eastern boundary, with PG&E substation K located beyond. Residential land uses within the City of Oakland are located along the park's western border.

Vehicular access to the park's north entrance is provided from Broadway; Broadway Terrace provides access to the south entrance. Park facilities include a Beach House, a park office, fishing piers, a sand beach, swimming area, and playgrounds. The Beach House is an indoor/outdoor facility available for events and can accommodate 80 to 130 persons. The Kiwanis Building, a rock structure built by the Works Progress Administration, is located at the southern end of the park. Figure IV.A-6 shows the trails and facilities at this recreation area.

(7) Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve (Sibley Preserve). The 660-acre Sibley Preserve is located on the crest of the East Bay Hills, at the boundary of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and between Tilden and Redwood Regional Parks. Sibley Preserve is bordered to the north by undeveloped Contra Costa County lands, and undeveloped Orinda and Contra Costa County lands are located to the east. The City of Oakland borders the park to the west and south.

Sibley Preserve is largely undeveloped, with an extinct volcano known as Round Top as its most prominent feature. There is a one-lane paved service road from the parking area to the summit of Round Top. This road is also used as a hiking trail. Limited recreational trails are found within the park.

Paved access to the park entrance is provided by Skyline Boulevard, immediately south of its intersection with Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Parking for 10 to 12 cars is provided off of Skyline Boulevard. Figure IV.A-7 shows the trails and facilities at Sibley Preserve.

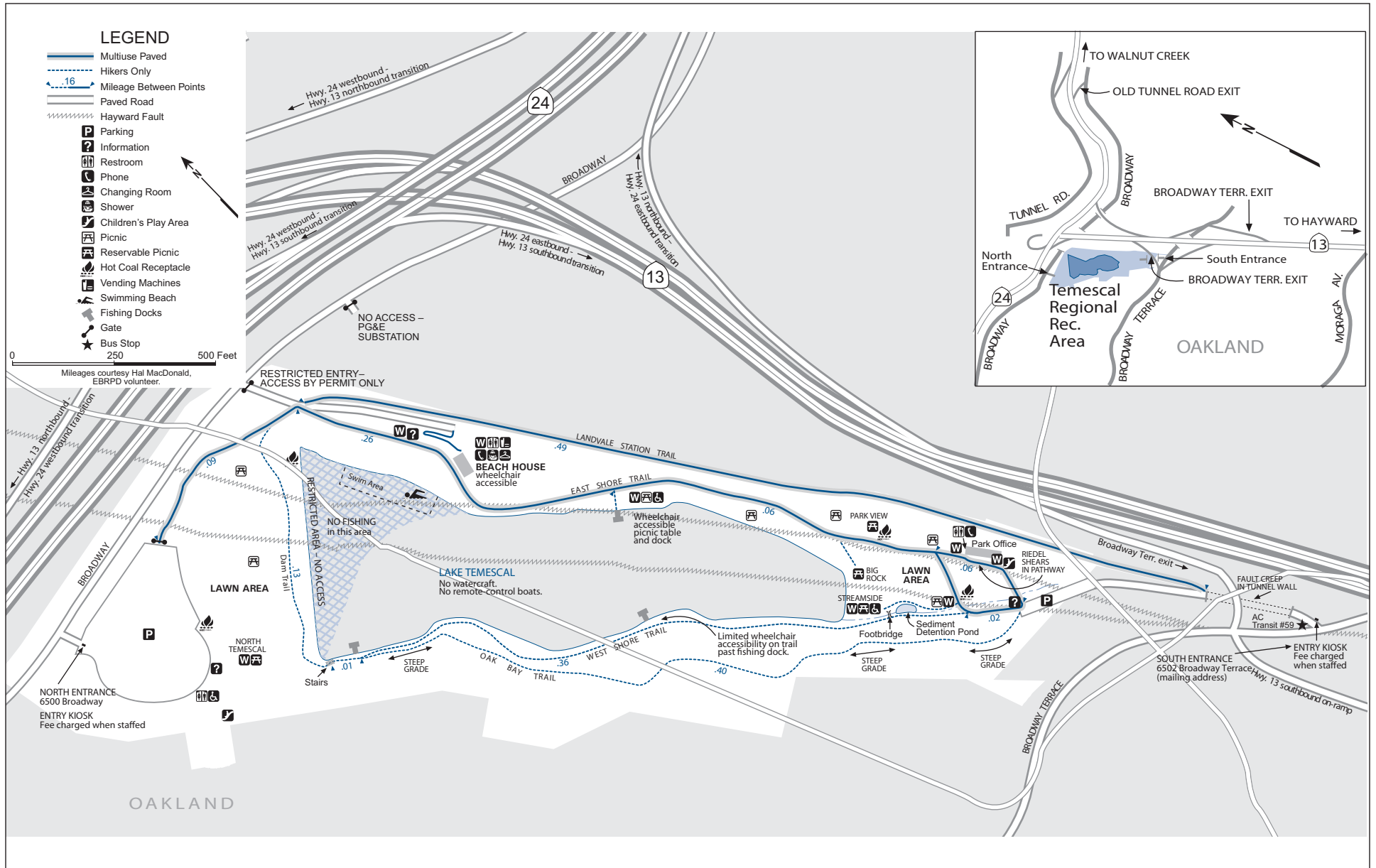
(8) Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve. Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve is a 130-acre park on Huckleberry Ridge east of Skyline Boulevard in Oakland. This park is located on three separate parcels.

Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve is located to the north of the park. Unincorporated Contra Costa County is located to the east. The City of Oakland and residential uses are located to the west, and Redwood Regional Park is located to the south.

Hiking trails are located within the preserve. The East Bay Skyline National Recreation Trail traverses the preserve and coincides with the lower portion of the Nature Path within the preserve. There are no paved roads or vehicle access within the park. A parking/staging area at Skyline Boulevard provides parking for 10 to 12 cars. Figure IV.A-8 shows the trails and facilities at Huckleberry Preserve.

(9) Roberts Regional Recreation Area. The 100-acre Roberts Regional Recreation Area is located within Alameda County. Redwood Regional Park is located to the north and east, Joaquin Miller Park, owned by the City of Oakland, is located to the west, and Alameda County is located to the south.

This park contains a variety of recreation facilities including a baseball field, picnic areas, volleyball courts, a pool complex, and play areas. Trails are provided throughout the park. Access to the park is provided off of Skyline Boulevard. Figure IV.A-9 shows the trails and facilities at this recreation area.



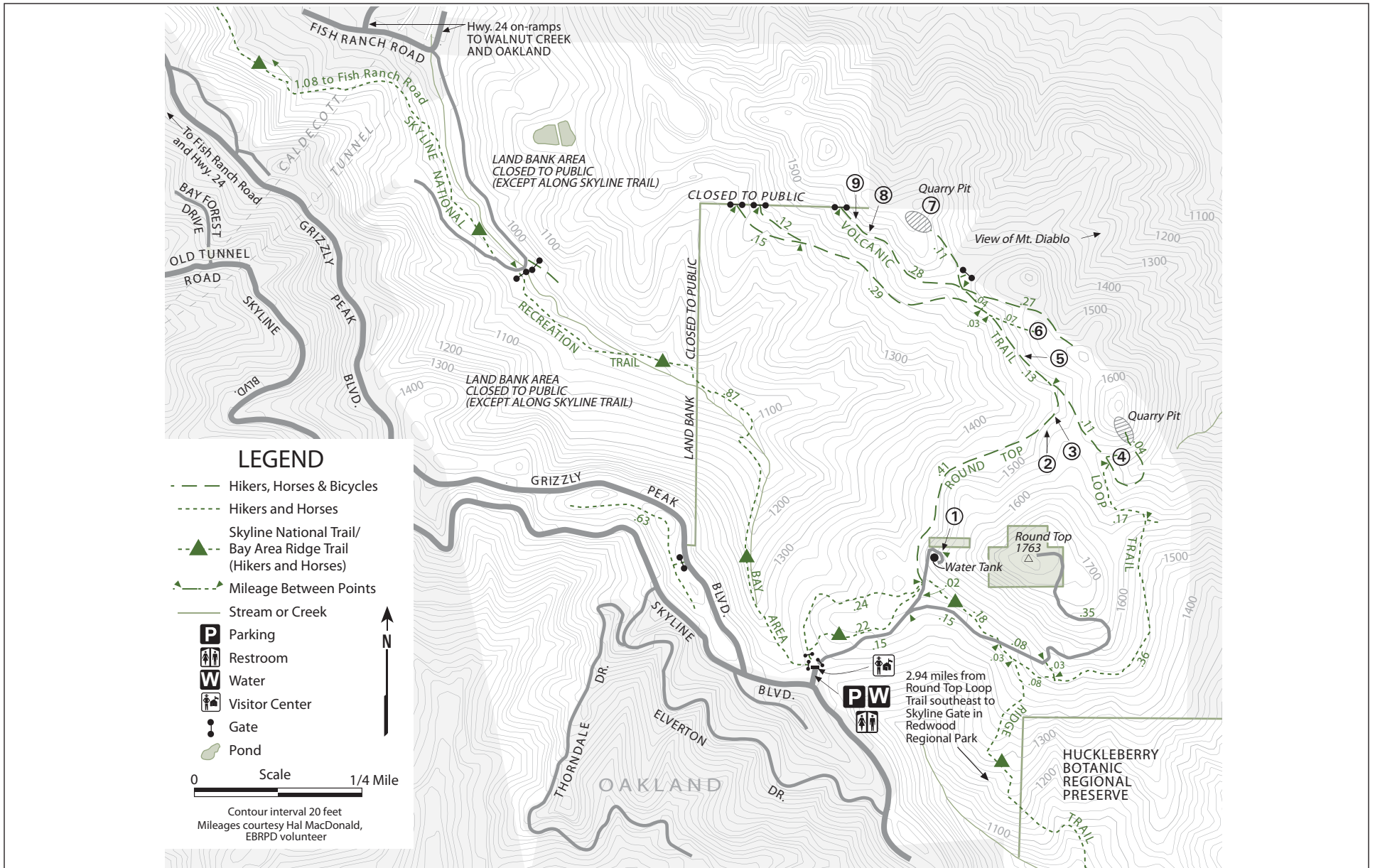
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FIGURE IV.A-6

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan EIR
 Temescal Regional Recreation Area

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.

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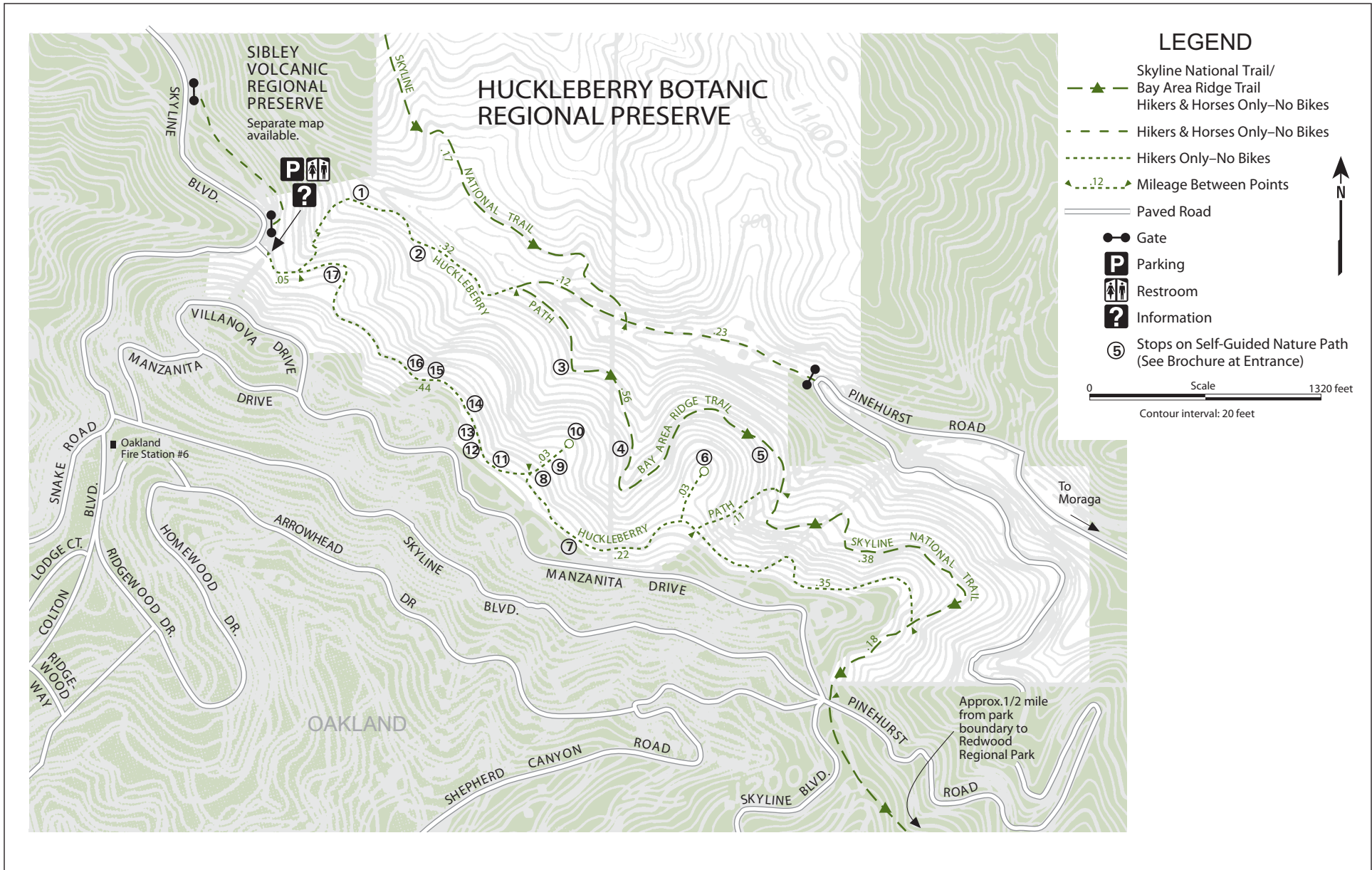
FIGURE IV.A-7

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and
Resource Management Plan EIR

Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.

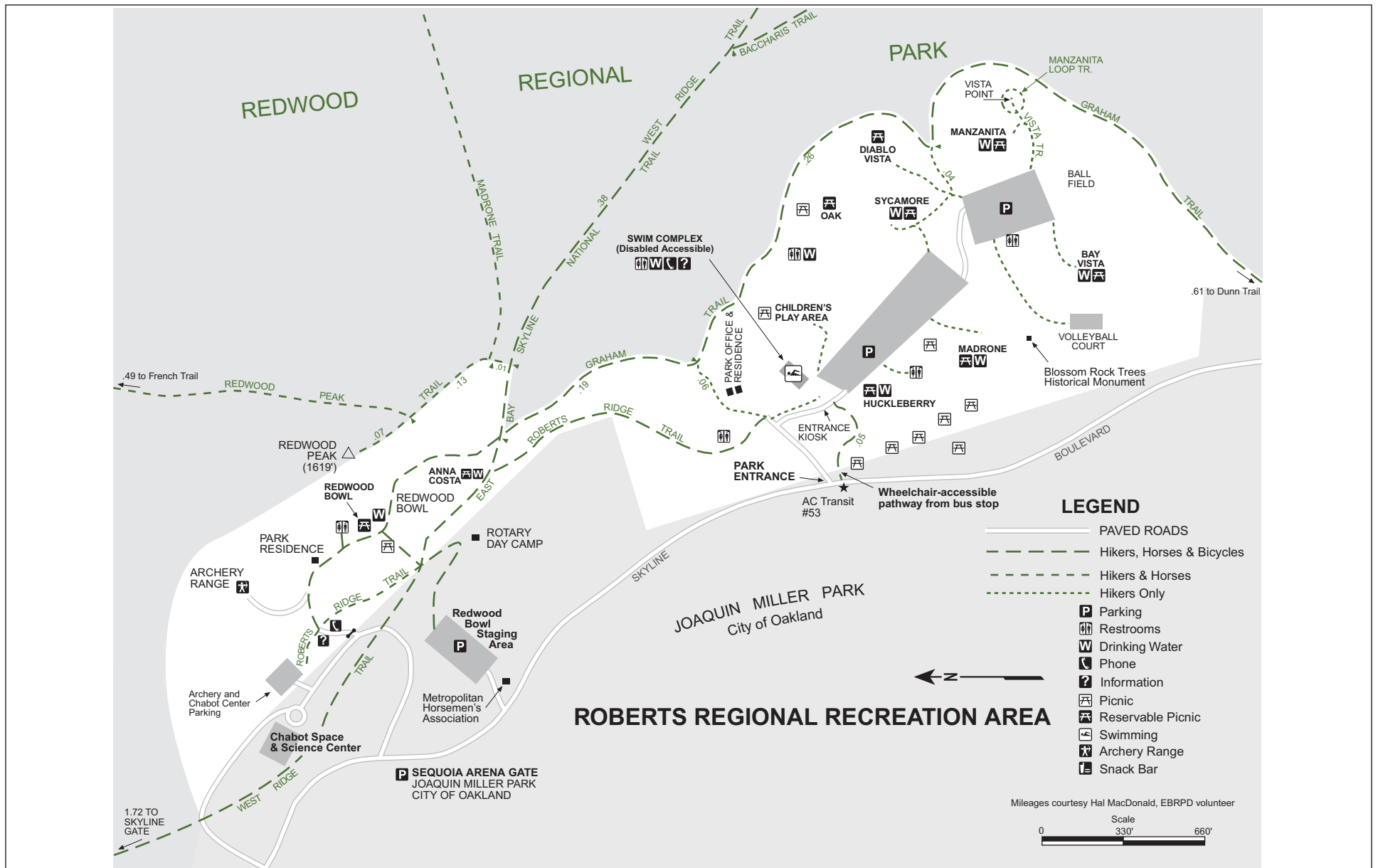
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FIGURE IV.A-8

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and
Resource Management Plan EIR
Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve



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FIGURE IV.A-9

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and
 Resource Management Plan EIR
 Roberts Regional Recreation Area

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.
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(10) Redwood Regional Park. The 1,831-acre park is located in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Redwood Road forms the southern border of the park, with Anthony Chabot Regional Park to the south. Joaquin Miller Park (operated by the City of Oakland) and residential and public (school) uses within the City of Oakland are located along the western side of the park. Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve is located to the north. Undeveloped and unincorporated portions of Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, in addition to the Upper San Leandro Reservoir and land owned by EBMUD, are located to the east.

There are approximately 12 miles of trails within this park; redwood forest, canyons, and open rolling ridges are the principle features. Picnic locations and restrooms are located off the trails in various spots throughout the park. Paved roads within the park include Skyline Boulevard, Redwood Road, and Pinehurst Road. There are approximately 17 miles of service roads used for maintenance, fire protection, and hiking and equestrian trails.

There are four staging areas within and adjacent to the park which provide parking and access to adjacent trails. Piedmont Stables is located in the western part of the park and is a private boarding stable. An archery range is located in the northwestern portion of the park. Figure IV.A-10 shows the existing facilities at this park.

(11) Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve. The 271-acre Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve is located within a wooded canyon and is surrounded by residential development in Oakland, except to the northeast, where the Merritt College campus is located. The Leona Quarry is within the vicinity of the park, located to the east.

Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve includes hiking, equestrian, and bike trails. Parking is provided off of Canyon Oaks Drive and the park can be accessed from Skyline Boulevard and Campus Drive. Figure IV.A-11 shows the facilities and trails at Leona Canyon Preserve.

(12) Anthony Chabot Regional Park. Anthony Chabot Regional Park is a 4,674-acre park located in the Oakland/San Leandro Hills, east of Oakland and San Leandro, and north of Castro Valley. Residential uses are located along the western and southern boundary. Undeveloped land and the Upper San Leandro Reservoir are located to the east. Redwood Regional Park is located to the north. Lake Chabot is located in the southern portion of the park.

A variety of amenities are located throughout the park, including hiking, biking, and equestrian trails; picnic areas; fishing; boat rentals; and camping areas. There are approximately 37.5 miles of unpaved service road, 40 miles of trails, and 4.5 miles of paved roads serving the marina and the family and group camps. Lake Chabot Road, Marciel Road, Skyline Boulevard, and Redwood Road provide access to the park. Figures IV.A-11 and IV.A-12 show the facilities and trails at Anthony Chabot Regional Park.

(13) Lake Chabot Regional Park. Lake Chabot Regional Park includes the 315-acre lake surrounded by 35 acres of park land, located in unincorporated Alameda County. The lake serves as a standby emergency water supply and uses of the lake are restricted to preserve the purity of the water.

The park is bounded to the north by Anthony Chabot Regional Park, open space within the City of Oakland, and the Lake Chabot Municipal Golf Course. Knowland Park (City of Oakland) and

Oakland Zoo are also located adjacent to the park. The park is bounded to the east by open space in Alameda County. The park is bounded to the south by primarily residential development within the unincorporated community of Castro Valley. To the west, the park is bounded by open space in the City of Oakland and Alameda County and residential development in San Leandro. Parking and staging areas are located along Redwood Road, Skyline Boulevard, and Lake Chabot Road.

Activities at the park include fishing, golfing, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. The park contains over 20 miles of trails, a boat rental facility, a marksmanship range, Lake Chabot Public Golf Course, a café, and campground facilities. Figure IV.A-12 shows the facilities and trails at the park.

c. Shoreline Parks. The three shoreline parks within the Study Area are described below from north to south.

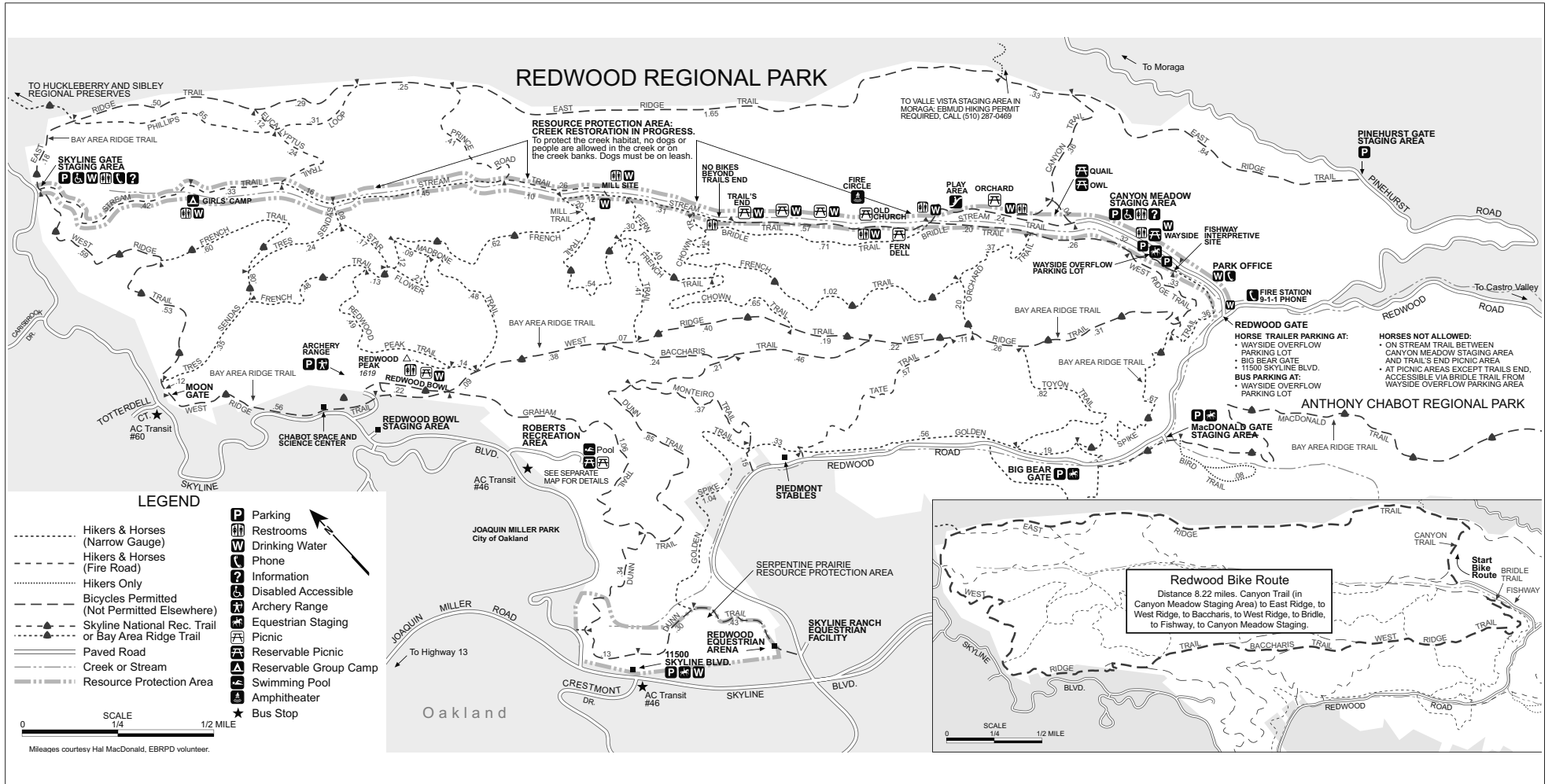
(1) Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. Point Pinole Regional Shoreline is a 2,315-acre park located in the City of Richmond. Natural features include meadows, bluffs, and beaches on San Pablo Bay, marshes, and eucalyptus groves. The park is relatively flat with an elevation of approximately 5 to 10 feet above sea level.

The park consists of Point Pinole Peninsula and adjacent lands to the north and south. The peninsula is surrounded by the San Pablo Bay on three sides and urban uses. Residential uses and institutional uses, including the West County Justice Center and the Richmond Country Club, are adjacent to the park's southernmost border. Residential uses in unincorporated Contra Costa County are adjacent to the northern portion of the park's landward border. Generally, either the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad or the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad forms the eastern boundary of the park.

The park is accessible from Giant Highway, and a UP railroad crossing provides access to the majority of facilities within the park. An approximately 400-vehicle staging area is located east of the UP railroad lines. Private vehicles are prohibited from entering the park beyond the staging area but a shuttle van carries visitors to the fishing pier for a nominal fee.

The park contains 12 miles of trails, a 1,230-foot fishing pier, picnic areas, a children's play area, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts, a softball field, and basketball courts. The park contains remnant facilities of previous activities on the park land, including the Dynamite Blast and Burning Bunker and Black Powder Press (from the former Granite Powder Works, an explosives manufacturing company) and remnants of Giant Park (a private park). Figure IV.A-13 shows the facilities and trails at the park. Wilson Point, part of the San Pablo Bay Regional Shoreline, is located northeast of park.

(2) Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline. The Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline is a 263.4-acre park located in the City of Richmond on Point Richmond. The park contains a segment of the Potrero Hills, a ridgeline with an elevation of approximately 350 feet, and contains a lagoon and landfill area to the west of the hills.



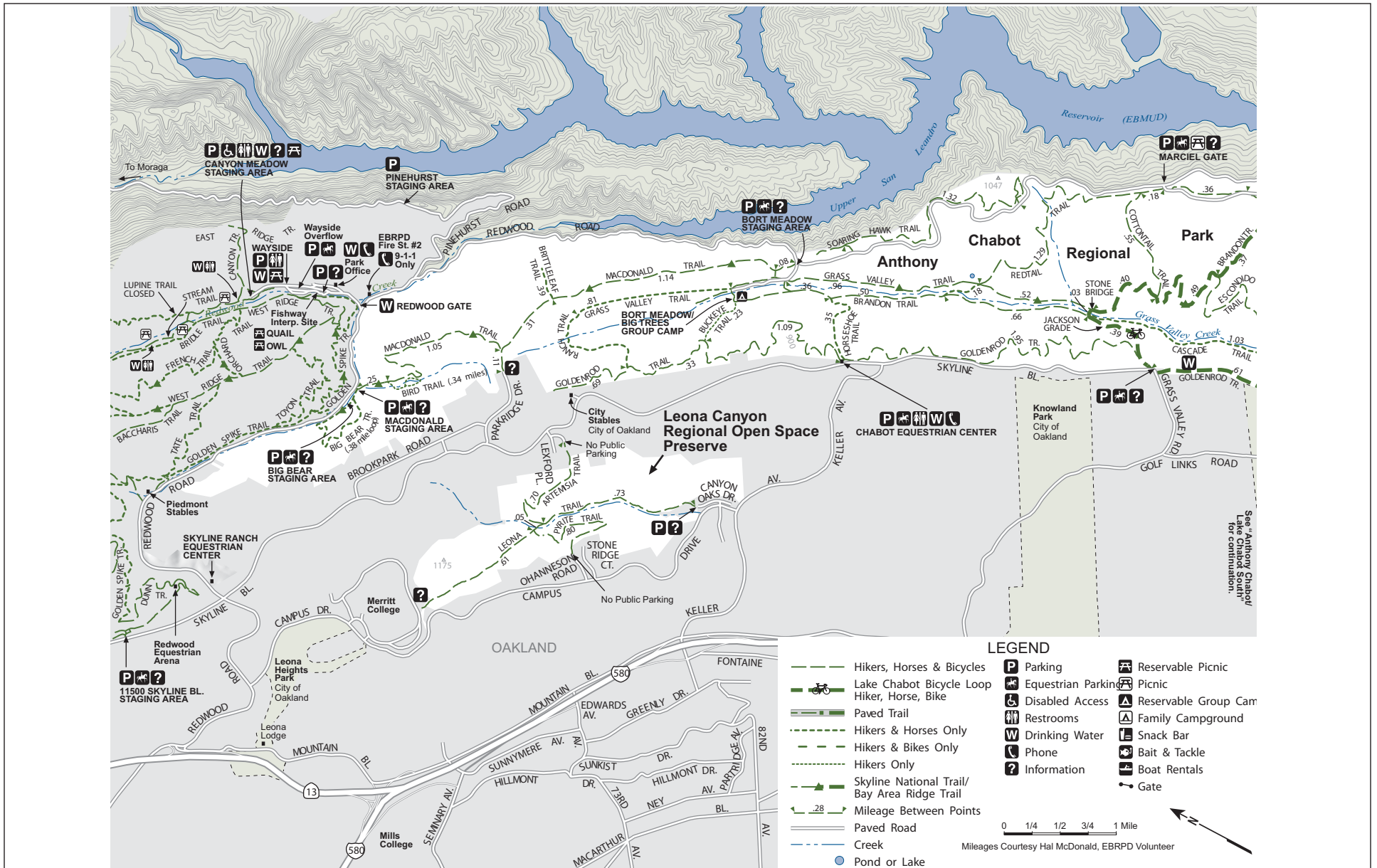
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FIGURE IV.A-10

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan EIR
Redwood Regional Park

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.
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FIGURE IV.A-11

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan EIR
Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve and Anthony Chabot Regional Park

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.
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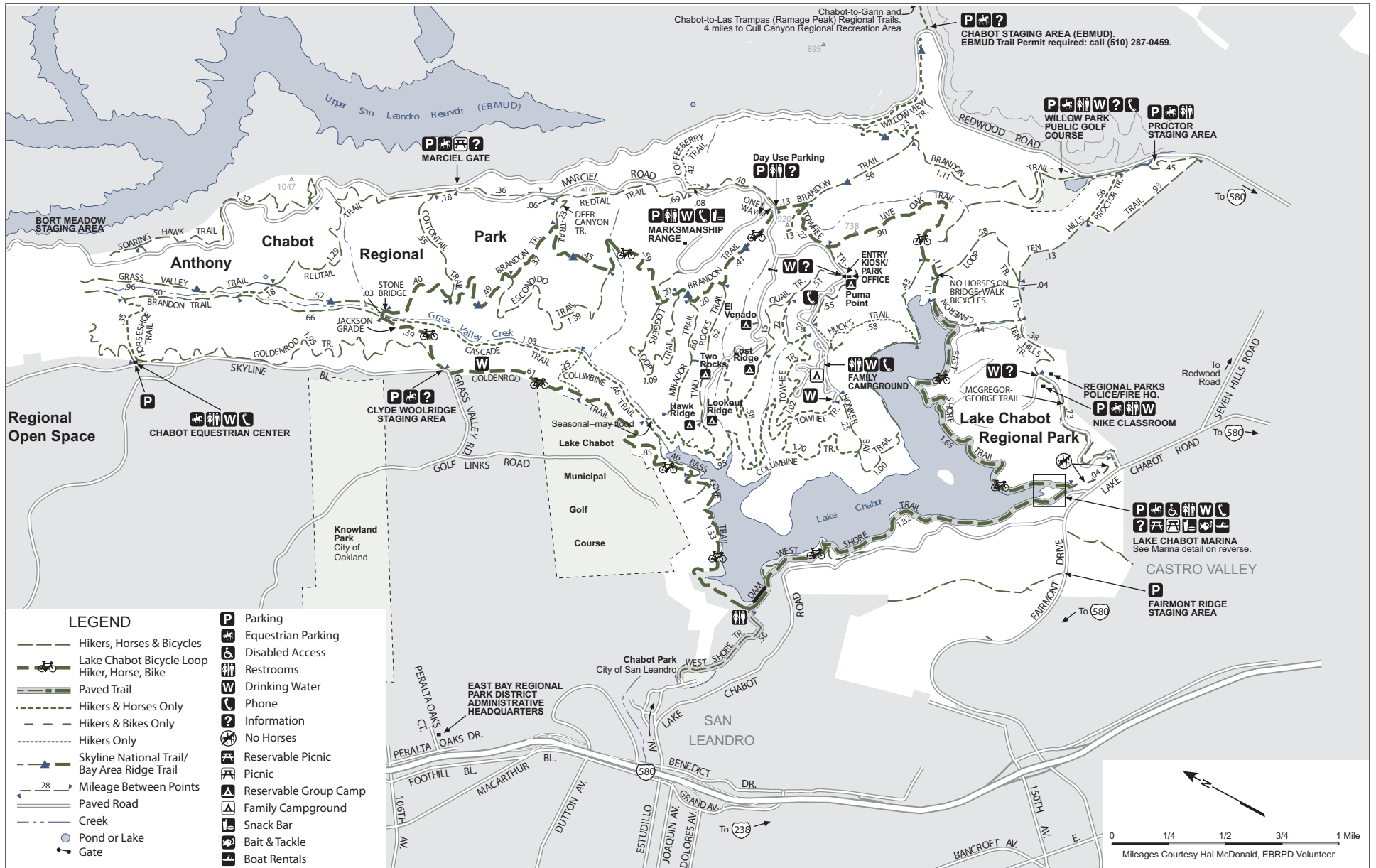


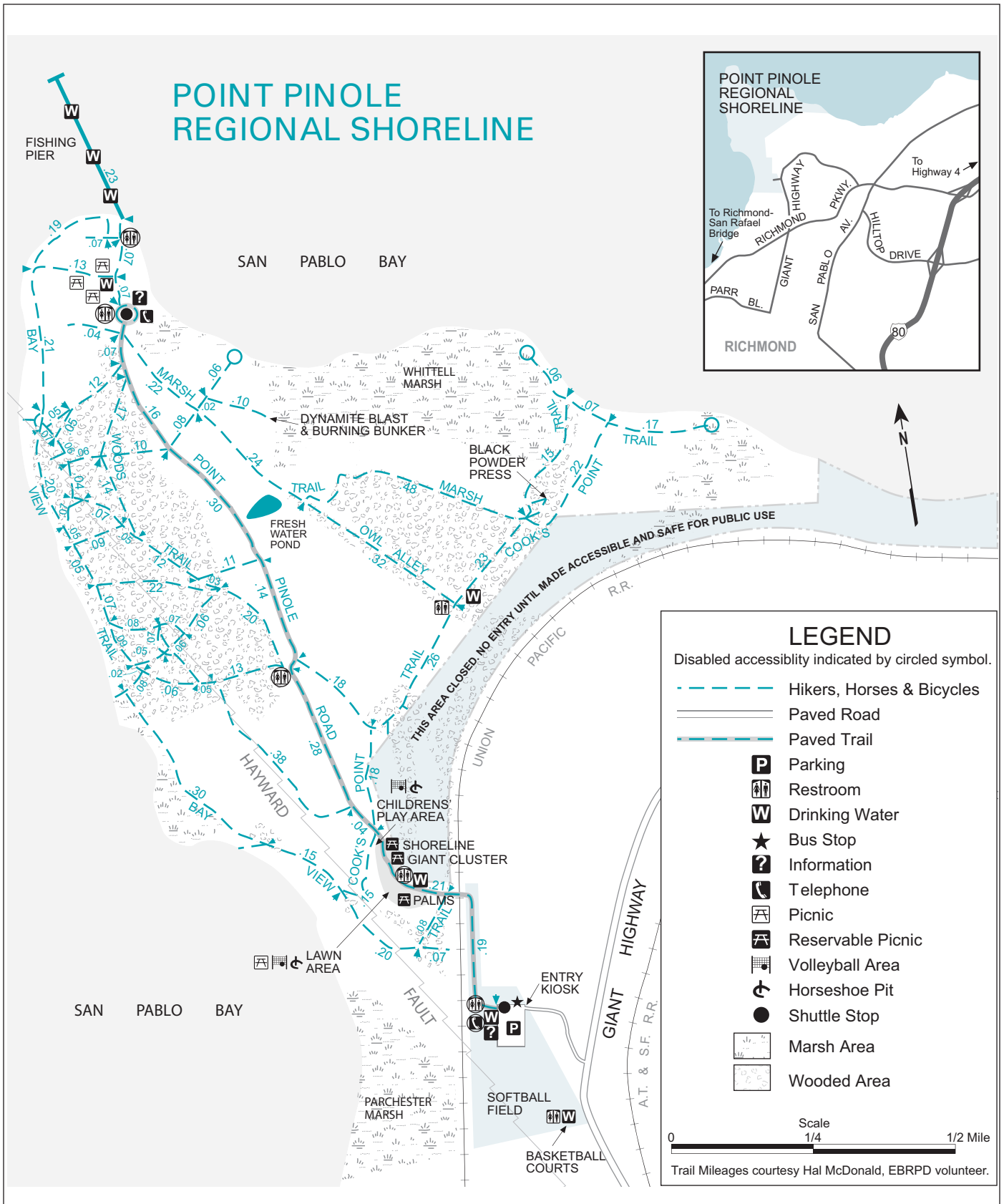
FIGURE IV.A-12

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan EIR

Anthony Chabot Regional Park and Lake Chabot Regional Park

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007.

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FIGURE IV.A-13

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan EIR
 Point Pinole Regional Shoreline

The park is bounded by the San Francisco Bay to the east and the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way; Harbor Channel and Brickyard Cove Road to the south; residential uses to the north; and industrial and harbor uses to the east and south, including a wastewater treatment plant, the Richmond Yacht Club, the Brickyard Cove Marina, a PG&E natural gas storage tank, and an inactive quarry. Primary access to the park is provided from Dornan Drive via the Garrard Tunnel, which bisects the park. The park has four parking areas along Dornan Drive. A paved service road off Crest Avenue extends to Nicholl Knob and the Crest Trail, an unmaintained paved service road, provides pedestrian access from Canal Boulevard to the park.

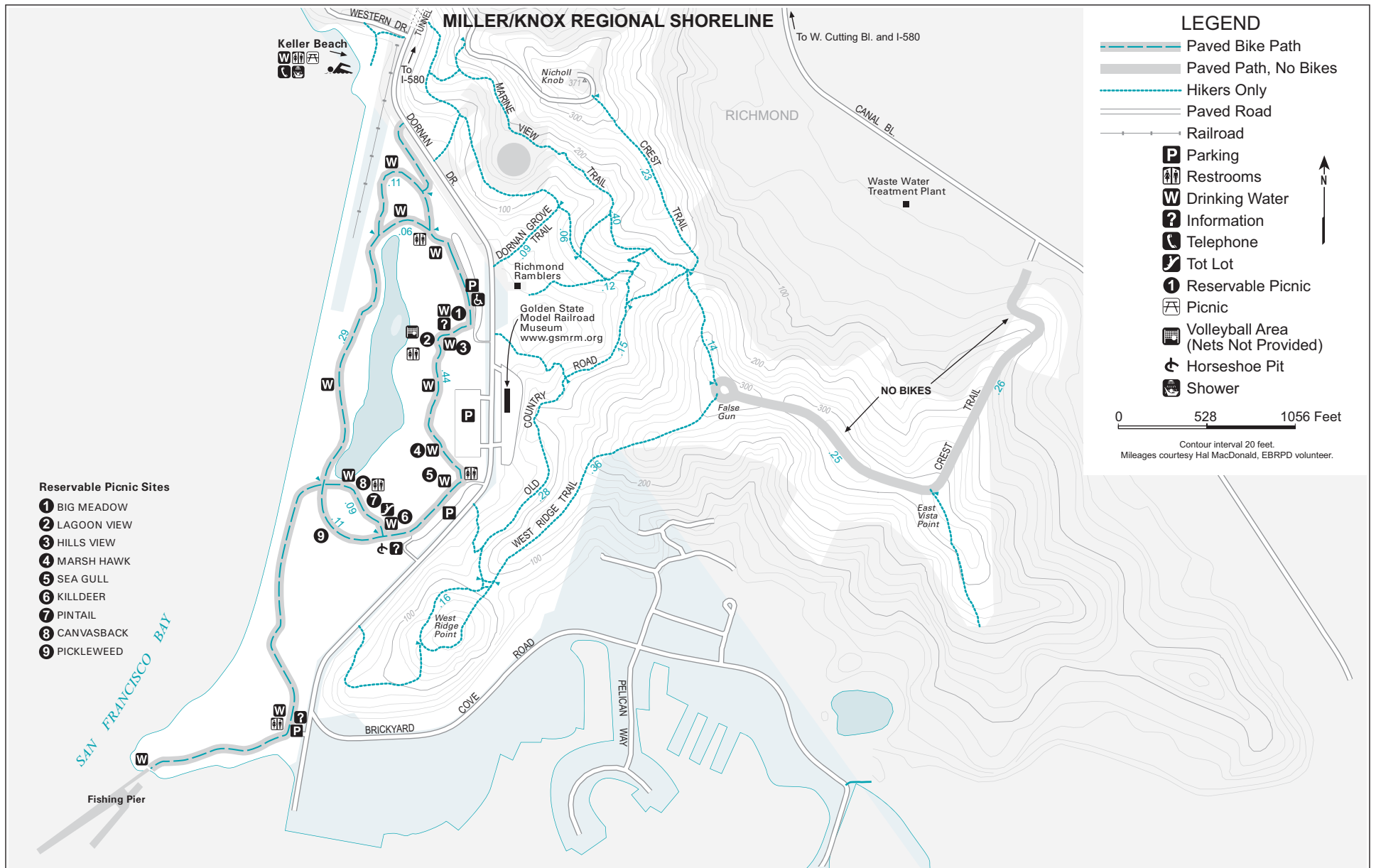
Park amenities include trails in the hills east of Dornan Drive. A paved bike path encircles the lagoon and provides access to the fishing pier on the point. Picnic sites are located around the lake and facilities include a volleyball area, horseshoe pit, and tot lot. Keller Beach, located adjacent to the northern end of the park, has a swimming area, picnic area, and showers. The Golden State Model Railroad Museum is also located in the park. Figure IV.A-14 shows the facilities and trails at the park. While the park is owned in fee by the District, there are several parcels that remain in private or agency ownership including the Richmond Rambler's parcel, EBMUD parcels, and City of Richmond parcels.

(3) Eastshore State Park. Eastshore State Park includes approximately 8.5 miles of bay shoreline, west of U.S. Interstate 580 and U.S. Interstate 80, extending from the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge to the Shoreline Trail in Richmond. The park is approximately 1,854 acres of uplands and tidelands along the waterfronts of the Cities of Richmond, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland. Areas in the park include: North Point Isabel, Point Isabel Regional Shoreline, and the Outer Hoffman Marsh, located in the City of Richmond; Albany Mudflats, Albany Plateau, and Fleming Point, adjacent to Golden Gate Fields and U.S. Highway 580 in the City of Albany; the North Basin, Berkeley Meadow, Brickyard, and Berkeley Beach, located in the City of Berkeley; and Point Emery, Emeryville Frontages, Davenport Mini Park, and Emeryville Crescent in the City of Emeryville.

Open space lands adjacent to Eastshore State Park that are not part of the park include: Brooks Island; Point Isabel; Albany Bulb; Cesar Chavez State Park; Berkeley Aquatic Park; Golden Gate Fields; the Emeryville and Berkeley Marinas; the Bay Trail; Radio Point Beach; the University of California, Berkeley, Richmond Field Station; and park lands along U.S. Interstate 80.

Adjacent land uses primarily include freeway and transportation uses, commercial and industrial uses, parks and open space, and some residential uses. Major entrances to the park are located at Central Avenue, Buchanan Street, Gilman Street, University Avenue, Ashby Avenue, Frontage Road, and Powell Street.

Open space along the East Bay shoreline provides recreational opportunities including: hiking, jogging, biking, dog walking, fishing, bird watching, kite flying, kayaking, sailing, and windsurfing. Activities are primarily informal due to the absence of facilities for other types of recreation. Point Isabel, however, has a greater degree of improvements including an off-leash dog park and picnic facilities. The Bay Trail connects many of the areas along Eastshore State Park. Figure IV.A-15 shows the facilities and trails at Eastshore State Park.



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FIGURE IV.A-14

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and
Resource Management Plan EIR
Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline

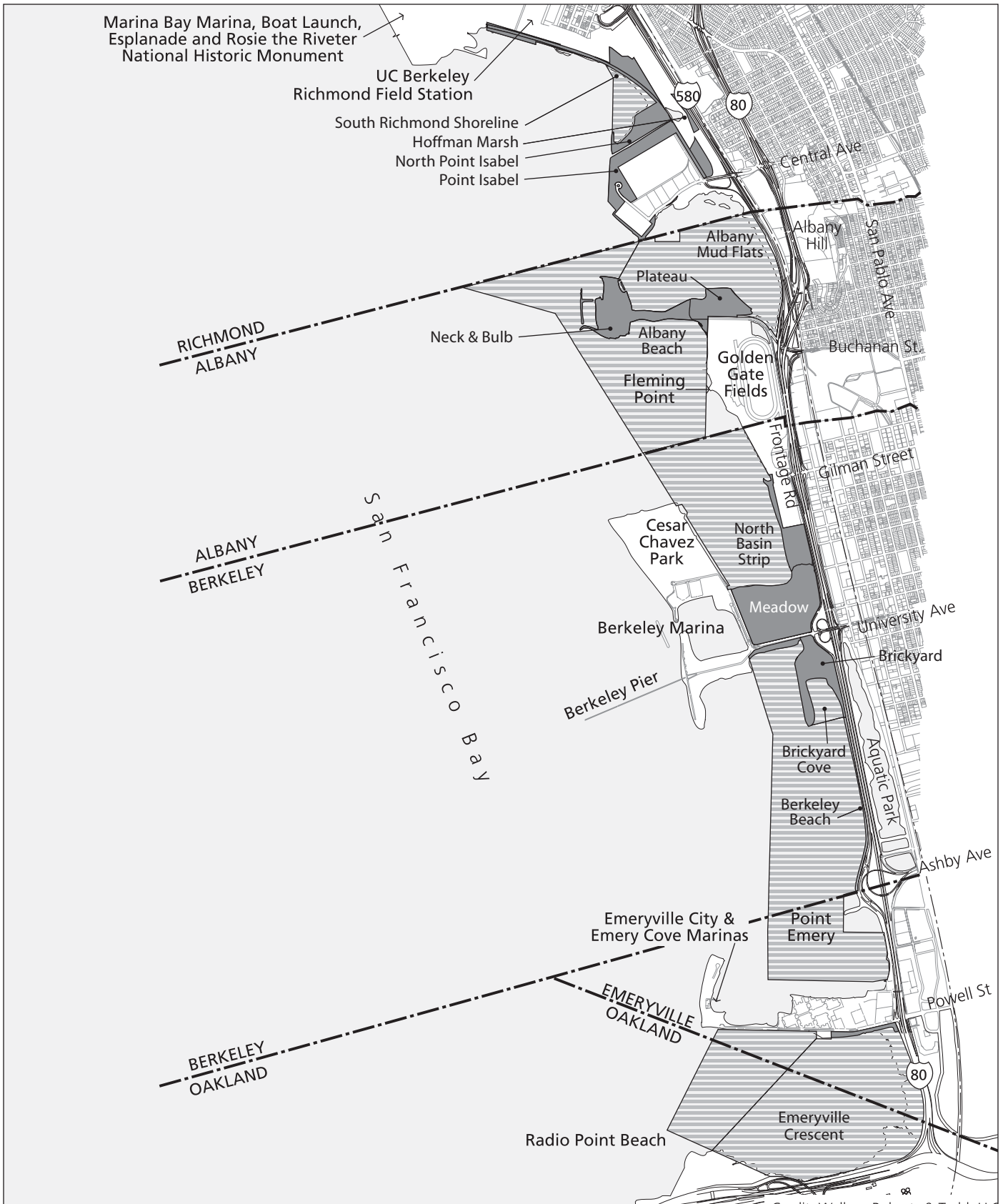


FIGURE IV.A-15

EBRPD Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan EIR
 Eastshore State Park

LSA

- Upland Parklands
- Aquatic Parklands
- City Boundaries

0 900 1800
 FEET

SOURCE: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, 2007

d. Regulatory Context. This section describes the regulatory context for the parks within the Study Area. This discussion focuses on general land use issues as well as policies relevant to fire management. Documents relevant to this discussion include the Fire Hazard Mitigation Program and Fuel Management Plan for the East Bay Hills,¹ the East Bay Regional Park District 1997 Master Plan,² and each park's land use development plan.

EBRPD is an independent special district under the State Public Resources Code. As such, EBRPD-jurisdiction park lands, including all hillside and shoreline parks contained in the Study Area, are consistent with local zoning but are otherwise independently managed. Because of the regional nature of the lands under EBRPD's jurisdiction, however, and because open space preservation and wildfire hazard reduction are concerns that transcend political boundaries within the greater San Francisco Bay region, EBRPD maintains direct relationships with other public agencies that have common interests through formal liaison committees, participation in joint powers agreements, and participation in a wide range of special purpose committees and study groups. One such group is the Hills Emergency Forum (HEF), which was created following the Oakland-Berkeley Firestorm of 1991 to coordinate the collection, assessment, and sharing of information on East Bay Hills fire hazards, and to provide a forum for building interagency consensus on developing fire safety standards and codes, incident response and management protocols, public education programs, multi-jurisdictional training, and fuel reduction strategies. The HEF currently includes members from the Cities of Berkeley, El Cerrito, and Oakland; the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; the Moraga Orinda Fire District; EBRPD; the East Bay Municipal Utility District; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; and the University of California, Berkeley.

Under designation by the State of California, EBRPD lands within the Study Area are predominately State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) for fire protection. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has the legal responsibility to provide fire protection on all SRA lands. Portions of the Study Area, such as Pt. Pinole, Wildcat Canyon, Claremont Canyon, Leona Open Space and land immediately northwest of Lake Chabot, are designated as Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs). Local fire jurisdictions, such as the Richmond or Berkeley Fire Departments, have the legal responsibility to provide fire protection on LRA lands. The EBRPD Fire Department provides a strong secondary wildland fire response in support of CAL FIRE on SRAs and to the local fire jurisdiction on LRAs. In actuality, EBRPD fire suppression resources are often the first "on scene" to parkland fires, and many times are the only resources used. In addition to state regulations regarding fire protection on EBRPD lands within the study area, EBRPD enforces District fire ordinances such as those listed in Appendix B of the Plan.

(1) Fire Hazard Mitigation Program and Fuel Management Plan for the East Bay Hills.

In 1993, nine public agencies came together to form the Vegetation Management Consortium (VMC) with the goal of reducing the common danger of fire by mitigating hazards in areas where urban development mixes with wildlands. The VMC identified a Study Area of approximately 37,000 acres spanning from the northern city limits of Berkeley to the southern boundary of Oakland, which covers approximately 58 square miles and includes EBRPD lands.

¹ Amphion Environmental, Inc, 1995. *Fire Hazard Mitigation Program and Fuel Management Plan for the East Bay Hills*, May.

² East Bay Regional Park District, 1996. *Master Plan 1997*, December 17.

The VMC ultimately developed the Fire Hazard Mitigation Program and Fuel Management Plan for the East Bay Hills, which provides unified management prescriptions and treatment standards as well as coordinated methodologies that can be used throughout the region. The Fire Hazard Mitigation Program and Fuel Management Plan for the East Bay Hills also provides a series of tools and methods regarding how to reduce fire hazards.

(2) Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the East Bay Regional Park District Vegetation Management Projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California, 2003.

EBRPD currently conducts vegetation management actions on 36 sites within 7 regional parks through funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These ongoing fuel reduction activities were identified and evaluated for environmental effects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the EA. As defined in the EA, the purpose of projects conducted through FEMA funding is to reduce the threat of property damage, personal injury, and other impacts to public health and safety caused by future fires in the East Bay Hills. Fuel reduction actions are required to create defensible spaces and safe fire-fighting access routes to better protect the wildland-urban interface. The EA provides detailed descriptions of each vegetation management method, including equipment requirements, application methods, timing, and maintenance procedures as well as identified impacts and proposed mitigation measures for those impacts. The vegetation management polygons and actions were identified and included in the Plan (see Chapter III. Project Description and Table III-2).

(3) East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan. The 1997 East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan (Master Plan) defines the vision and mission of EBRPD and sets priorities for a 10-year period (1997-2007). The Master Plan provides policies and guidelines for achieving the highest standards of service in resource conservation, management, interpretation, public access and recreation. Those policies applicable to implementing the Plan are as follows:

Natural and Cultural Resources

- The District will maintain, manage, conserve, enhance, and restore park wildland resources to protect essential plant and animal habitat within viable, sustainable ecosystems.
- The District will maintain and manage vegetation to conserve, enhance, and restore natural plant communities; to preserve and protect populations of rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species and their habitats; and, where possible, to protect biodiversity and to achieve a high representation of native plants and animals.
- The District will evaluate eucalyptus, pine and cypress plantations, and shrubland or woodland areas occurring along the wildland/urban interface on a case-by-case basis for thinning, removal, and/or conversion to a less fire-prone condition. The District will construct and maintain fuel breaks, as necessary, to manage hazardous fuels and contain wildfires. The District will minimize the widespread encroachment of monotypic stands of coyote brush, poison oak, and broom on park land.
- The District will manage agricultural sites and cultivated areas in accordance with appropriate agricultural and landscaping practices and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods; control noxious weed infestations, broom, and other invasive, non-native shrubs; and eventually replace these invasive plants with desirable native species.
- The District will identify, evaluate, conserve, enhance, and restore rare, threatened, endangered, or locally important species of plants and animals and their habitats, using scientific research, field experience, and other proven methodologies. Populations of listed species will be monitored through periodic observations of their condition, size, habitat, reproduction, and distribution. Conservation of rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants and animals and their supporting habitats will take precedence over other activities, if the District determines that the other uses and activities would have a significant adverse effect on these natural resources.
- The District will identify existing and potential erosion problems and take corrective measures to repair damage and mitigate causative effects. The District will manage the parks to assure that an adequate cover of vegetation remains on

the ground to provide soil protection. Where vegetative cover has been reduced or eliminated, the District will take steps to restore it, using native or naturalized plants adapted to the site. The District will minimize soil disturbance associated with construction and maintenance operations and avoid disruptive activities in areas with unstable soils, whenever possible. The District will arrest the progress of active gully erosion, where practical, and take action to restore these areas to stable conditions. The District will notify adjacent property owners of potential landslide situations on District lands to warn of potential risks and conform with applicable law, and will protect important geological and paleontological features from vandalism and misuse.

- The District will conserve, enhance, and restore biological resources to promote naturally functioning ecosystems. Conservation efforts may involve using controlled grazing, in accordance with Wildland Management Policies and Guidelines, prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, integrated pest management, and/or habitat protection and restoration. Restoration activities may involve the removal of invasive plants and animals or the reintroduction of native or naturalized species adapted to or representative of a given site.
- The District will manage park wildlands using modern resource management practices based on scientific principles supported by available research. New scientific information will be incorporated into the planning and implementation of District wildland management programs as it becomes available. The District will coordinate with other agencies and organizations in a concerted effort to inventory, evaluate, and manage natural resources and to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the region.

Planning and Acquisition

- The District will identify important natural resources in the parks and develop measures for protecting them. Based on its evaluation, the District will make recommendations and take appropriate action. The District will consider the needs of potential park users along with resource information and recreational policies in determining future recreational facilities.
- The District will participate in efforts to protect scenic or cultural resources, develop larger, multi-agency open space preserves, provide recreational opportunities, protect agricultural use, avoid hazards, and plan for appropriate urban growth boundaries. The District will work with other jurisdictions to develop open space preservation plans and policies that recognize the District's public interests in open space preservation and that are consistent with Board policy.
- The District will prepare system-wide plans, as needed, to create strategies for land use, facilities, services, programs, and resource management projects that improve service to the region. The system-wide plans will be consistent with resource protection policies and may establish Land Use Designations for parklands. System-wide plans will be flexible enough to accommodate existing LUPs, which will take precedence unless amended.
- The District will provide access and staging opportunities for fire prevention, police, maintenance, and public use. Natural Units will generally not be crossed or disturbed by public roads. However, roadways that exist when land is acquired may have to remain open. A parkland may contain narrow rural roads which the District may use for trails, public safety, or maintenance, or may abandon if not needed. The District will limit its road construction to the minimum necessary. As part of its Natural Unit preservation policy, the District will acquire and manage open space view sheds to preserve the intrinsic natural and historic qualities of state and locally designated scenic highway corridors. The District will not permit motorized vehicles off designated roads other than emergency or maintenance vehicles, unless identified in the individual park plan. The District will oppose the development of new public roads through its parklands by other public agencies and will not construct scenic roads. Bicycle use will be regulated through Ordinance 38.
- The District may need to alter the environment or conduct extensive maintenance to facilitate intensive public recreational and interpretive use of a Regional Recreation Area. Alterations may include creating habitat areas, ponds, artificial lakes, and playing fields.

Park Types. The Master Plan discusses the types of parks within the EBRPD system. Types of parks include: regional parks, regional preserves, regional recreation areas, regional shorelines, and regional trails. Table IV.A-1 identifies the park types within the Study Area and a brief description of each type of park is provided below:

Table IV.A-1: Park Type Classifications

Classifications	HILLSIDE PARKS													SHORELINE PARKS							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	Sobrante Ridge	Kennedy Grove	Wildcat	Tilden	Claremont Canyon	Temescal	Sibley Preserve	Huckleberry	Roberts	Redwood	Leona Heights	Anthony Chabot	Lake Chabot	Point Pinole	Miller/Knox	Brooks Island	Eastshore State Park ^a	Middle Harbor	Crown Beach	Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline	
PARK TYPE																					
Regional Park			•	•						•		•	•								
Regional Preserve	•				•		•	•			•										
Regional Recreation Area		•				•			•												
Regional Shoreline														•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Regional Trail			•	•			•	•		•											

^a This park is formally designated as a regional shoreline as of January 2009.

Source: EBRPD, 2009 and LSA Associates, 2009.

- *Regional Park.* A Regional Park must be 500 acres or more, including land and water. It must have scenic or natural resources in at least 70 percent of its area. A Regional Park must have the capacity to accommodate a variety of recreational activities; however, these activities, in a designated Recreation/Staging Unit, may not take place in more than 30 percent of its area.
- *Regional Preserve.* Regional Preserves are further subdivided into four categories: Natural, Cultural, Wilderness, and Open Space preserves.³ The primary objective of a Regional Preserve is to preserve and protect significant natural or cultural resources. A Regional Preserve must have great natural or scientific importance (for example, it may contain rare or endangered plant or animal species and their supporting ecosystems, significant fossils, unique geologic features, or unusual topographic features) or be of such significant regional historic or cultural value as to warrant preservation.

The size of a Natural or Cultural Preserve must be sufficient to ensure that its significant resource(s) can be managed so as to be protected and enjoyed. The significant resource(s) will consist of botanical, wildlife, geologic, topologic, archaeological, historic, or other features. The Recreation/Staging Unit(s) providing public access and services will comprise no more than 5 percent of the area.

An Open Space Preserve will generally consist of at least 200 acres of undeveloped open space land within or bordering an urban area. An Open Space Preserve may be used for agriculture or for passive recreational activities that do not require substantial facilities or improvements.

- *Regional Recreation Area.* A Regional Recreation Area will be at least 40 acres in size including both land and water area. The area must have established regional recreation facilities or the potential to provide the opportunities for regional facilities supporting activities such as picnicking, swimming, fishing, camping, and boating. The area must lend itself to development for a variety of uses that meet recreational needs and it must be able to withstand intensive public use. The Recreation/Staging Unit providing public access and services may comprise no more than 90 percent of a Regional Recreation Area.
- *Regional Shoreline.* A Regional Shoreline (one area or a group of smaller shoreline areas that are connected by trail or water access) must contain a variety of natural environments and manageable units of tidal, nearshore wetland, and upland areas that can be used for scientific, interpretive, or environmental purposes; and/or contain sufficient land and water to provide a variety of recreational activities, such as swimming, fishing, boating, or viewing. The Recreation/Staging Unit providing for public access and services may comprise no more than 30 percent of the Regional Shoreline.
- *Regional Trails.* Regional Trails will connect regional parks or trails to each other; parks and trails of other agencies; areas of unusual scenic beauty; vista points, San Francisco Bay, Delta, or lake shoreline; natural or historic resources; or similar areas of regional significance. Regional Trails may also connect regional parks and trails to important destinations such as transit centers, schools, colleges, civic centers, other major institutions, employment centers, large commercial complexes, or residential areas. A regional water trail may provide a water connection with launching and landing sites for small watercraft to points along the San Francisco Bay shoreline and/or the Sacramento/San Joaquin River and Delta.

³ None of the parks within the Study Area are designated as wilderness preserve.

Land Use Designations. The District established Land Use Designations, also known as unit designations, to indicate various levels of resource protection and recreational intensity in the parks. Park lands include both Natural Units and Recreation/Staging Units. The District identifies areas needing special protection or management as Special Protection Features (SPF) or Special Management Features (SMF). A brief description of each designation is located below:

- *Natural Units.* Natural, open space, or wildland areas with lower intensity recreational uses and facilities (primarily trails) will be designated as Natural Units. Natural Units will generally comprise the majority of park land acreage, except in Regional Recreation Areas. Park lands will be designated as Natural Units to maintain open space and significant features in a cohesive area. A Natural Unit may contain Special Protection Features and Special Management Features.
- *Recreation/Staging Units.* Areas of higher-level recreational use and concentrations of service facilities will be designated as Recreation/Staging Units. Where possible, these areas will be clustered and located along the edges of the park.
- *Special Protection Features.* Areas of unique or fragile features will be designated as Special Protection Features to preserve and enhance them through specialized management. Special Protection Features may be closed seasonally or permanently to public access, if public access will endanger them.
- *Special Management Features.* Areas and facilities that have special requirements, such as fields and dams, will be designated as Special Management Features.

a. Park-Specific Land Use-Development Plans. The purpose of park-specific Land Use-Development Plans is to direct future park land development by outlining expected levels of use and development, delineating general park land character, planning access points and circulation systems, and dividing the park land into zoning units which will preserve the natural resources of the specified park land.

The following parks have specific Land Use-Development Plans that have been developed and adopted by EBRPD:

- Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area
- Wildcat Canyon Regional Park
- Tilden Regional Park
- Temescal Regional Recreation Area
- Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve
- Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve
- Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve
- Redwood Regional Park
- Anthony Chabot Regional Park (including Lake Chabot Regional Park)
- Point Pinole Regional Shoreline
- Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline

Eastshore State Park has a General Plan developed for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, EBRPD, and the California State Coastal Conservancy. Policies and objectives relevant to fire suppression and resource management for each of these parks, as included in the identified land use-development plans, are discussed below.

(1) Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area Interim Land Use Plan, 1998.⁴ The land use plan identifies actions to protect park resources and to provide public access to the Radach/Hill property, a 119-acre parcel addition to the Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area. The interim plan does not establish new fire suppression or resource management policies, but instead implements the policies of the 1997 EBRPD Master Plan, as described above. The specific action identified in the plan for wildfire hazard reduction and resource management is listed below:

- Vegetation management activities on the property will be carried out, as needed, in accordance with wildland management methods outlined in the EBRPD Master Plan. Conservation efforts may involve the use of controlled grazing, prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, integrated pest management and/or habitat protection and restoration. These methods will also be used as part of the EBRPD fire management program.

(2) Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, Final Land Use – Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report, 1985.⁵ Wildcat Canyon is designated as a Regional Park by the District Master Plan. The purpose of a Regional Park is to provide a spacious area with outstanding natural features where a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities can be provided for the enjoyment and education of the public.

The following general land use-development plan objective relates to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management in Wildcat Canyon:

- To minimize hazards to users, neighbors and facilities from unstable slope areas, and heavy fire fuel loading.

Specific objectives and policies related to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management in the Wildcat Canyon Regional Park Land Use-Development Plan are listed below and grouped by vegetation type or condition.

Brushlands Objectives and Policies

- To maintain brushland areas in a way which reduces the potential for wildfires spreading from them into adjacent developed areas.
- The District will implement the findings and proposals of the 1982 Blue Ribbon Urban Interface Fire Prevention Committee in areas as outlined in their report and as shown on Figure IV.A-10 of this document. These proposals and fuel break areas shall be subject to the review and approval of geological field studies which are currently underway and further fuel flammability studies as outlined below.
- The District will conduct further investigations regarding the susceptibility of the brushland fuel to fire. These include:
 - a. Temperature and humidity monitoring studies to be carried out from instruments located at the Environmental Education Center beyond the Park's southern edge;

⁴ East Bay Regional Park District, 1998. Radach/Hill Kennedy Grove Interim Land Use Plan. Adopted February 17. Resolution No. 1998-2-26.

⁵ Dillingham Associates, 1985. *Wildcat Canyon Regional Park Final Land Use-Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report*, September 10.

- b. Monitoring of fuel moisture content at various locations within the brushland and eucalyptus forest and comparison of these figures with fuel moisture content at previous fire sites within the District such as Point Pinole and Anthony Chabot Regional Parks.
- If the studies outlined above indicate that fuel loadings are hazardous, the District will modify the vegetation pattern to reduce that hazard using one or several of the following methods:
 - a. Prescribed Burn: This is the preferred method for reasons of cost, visual appearance and ease of access. Prescribed burns shall be used in areas where there are no resources requiring special protection, and when the safety and suitability of a prescribed burn are specified by the District Fire Chief.
 - b. Mechanical Removal: This method shall be used when prescribed burn is not suitable and access for equipment is available.
 - c. Removal by Goats: This method shall be used in maintenance of cleared areas rather than clearing itself. Its applications are limited because of a need for fencing, lack of effectiveness in thick brush and goats' lack of appetite for common target plants.
 - d. Hand Removal: This method, the slowest and most expensive, shall be used in areas of difficult access, in areas requiring protection of special resources, and/or where prescribed burn is not suitable.
- Areas that may be cleared for fuel break, if approved by further studies outlined above, shall be subject to this plan's policies regarding soil erosion and sedimentation.
- The District will use prescribed burning and/or hand and mechanical means to limit brush spread in areas that are not vulnerable to hazardous earth slides in order to allow easier hiker and/or cattle circulation.
- When resources are available, the District will use mechanical and/or hand means to remove French broom, acacia and Scotch broom.

Mixed-Broadleaf Forest/Riparian Woodland Objectives and Policies

- To manage the mixed-broadleaf forest to minimize fire danger in applicable areas.
- To thin lower branches of trees in or below fuel break areas in order to minimize the danger of ground fire spreading and becoming a crown fire.
- When resources are available, the district will use mechanical and hand removal to control French broom, Scotch broom, English ivy and German ivy.

Eucalyptus Groves Objectives and Policies

- To establish and maintain conditions in all eucalyptus groves which prevent or minimize uncontrollable wildfires.
- If fuel moisture and climate monitoring studies suggest that existing eucalyptus stands near the Environmental Education Center and at Alvarado recreation unit are susceptible to dangerous fire, the District will reduce the wildfire hazard as outlined under the brushland policies section of this report.
- The District will thin these eucalyptus groves by removal of trees to enhance their wildlife value and as an initial stage for replacement of these groves by indigenous plants. Mechanical and hand methods will be used. Debris disposal will be accomplished by a combination of chipping, stack and burning and removal in that order of preference.

(3) Tilden Regional Park Land Use-Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report, 1988.⁶ The Plan divides Tilden Park into seven major areas: Fuelbreak Area; Upper Berkeley Hills; Upper San Pablo Ridge; Sweetbriar Canyon/Willow Canyon/Wildcat Gorge; Laurel Canyon; Oak Canyon; Golf Course. The Fuelbreak Area is approximately 150 acres and generally located parallel to the wildland/urban interface. Policies for the Fuel Break Area include:

⁶ East Bay Regional Park District, 1988. *Tilden Regional Park Land Use-Development Plan/Environmental Impact Report*, July 19.

- Provide a relatively open (i.e., grassy or sparsely wooded) area where a fire originating within the Park could be safely stopped before reaching adjacent urban areas.
- The visual impact of the fuelbreak will be ameliorated by planting fire resistant trees and shrubs in appropriate areas.
- Animal habitat features in the fuelbreak will be maintained provided they do not conflict with fire control strategies.

(4) Temescal Regional Recreation Area Land Use-Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report, 1993.⁷ The Plan divides the park into land use zoning units including recreation units (Beach Unit, Lake Unit, South Unit, Landvale Unit), a natural unit, special protection units (Temescal Dam, Bath House, Kiwanis Hut), and special management units (Sedimentation Pond, Lake Edge, and Creek Riparian Zone). The Plan provides policies related to recreation development, natural resource management, and public safety. Policies relating to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management are listed below:

Objectives

- 1.4 - The District will provide for the safety and protection of Temescal Regional Recreation Area users and staff and for the protection of natural resources, structures and facilities. This public safety responsibility will include police, fire and lifeguard services.
- 4.4 - The District shall maintain lawn areas and horticultural beds for efficient use of irrigation water and selection of drought tolerant and fire resistant plant materials.
- 8.4 - Interpretive facilities at Temescal Regional Recreation Area may include seismic geology, dam, history, railway history, rustic style park architecture and masonry, fisheries management, a fire-resistant parking demonstration area and other District-related topics.
- 9.4 – The District shall maintain planting and vegetation management that favors slope stability, species with a high moisture content and fire resistant species in Temescal Regional Recreation Area.

Vegetation Management for Recreation Units

- Use of indigenous native vegetation, as well as hardy, low-maintenance, water-efficient and fire resistant non-indigenous species.
 - New planting areas around structures (i.e., Service Unit) shall use a combination of the above and planting selections will avoid fuel buildup, vertical or horizontal fuel ladders. (Operations)
 - Replacement planting will be consistent with the original planting plan, using water efficient and fire resistant selections as preferred choices. (Design)

Vegetation Management for the Historic Special Protection Units

- Maintain historic vegetation context for the Bath House.
 - Maintain firescape management principles that: encourage high moisture content in plantings and fire-resistant plant selections; avoid fuel build-up and fuel ladders; and remove overhanging branches.

Vegetation Management Policies- Natural Unit

- Regularly monitor the west slope vegetation to establish an overview of maintenance needs and to maintain a park record of vegetation management actions and their results.
 - Monitor and remove exotic species, including eucalyptus, acacia and French broom. (Operations)

⁷ East Bay Regional Park District and Environmental Science Associates, Inc., 1993. *Temescal Recreational Area Land Use-Development Plan & Environmental Impact Report*. June.

- Determine priority areas for vegetative debris removal. (District Fire Marshal/Operations)
- Document fuel removal projects by date, volume and vegetation type removed for Fire Marshal records. (Operations/Fire Dept.)
- Locate any slash accumulation from District maintenance projects away from the urban intermix. (Operations)
- Include Temescal Regional Recreation Area and adjacent neighborhoods in the East Bay Hills Vegetation Management Plan as a mechanism for funding any fuel build-up removal on the west slope. (Operations)
- The Integrated Pest Management Plan for the park land will be updated as required to address the need for removal of eucalyptus and other exotic species on the west slope. (Operations)
- Areas of continuous brush shall be modified to achieve a natural appearing brush mosaic, maintain species diversity, and avoid excessive brush crown cover.
 - Convert brush to woodland with planting of trees that will grow to shade out the brush layer. (Operations)
 - Periodically maintain all brush areas to reduce the fuel load to levels acceptable to the District Fire Marshal. (Operations)
- Woodland areas shall be managed to minimize both vertical and horizontal fuel ladders.
 - Remove all eucalyptus trees from the west Temescal slope, except for isolated specimens, and manage the stumps to control regrowth. (Operations)
 - Leave the tree canopy of mature oak-bay woodland relatively undisturbed. (Operations)

This section of the vegetation management policies addresses the District owned portion of the 100' zone from structures that occur adjacent to District property.

- Maintain areas of open grassland or low groundcover during the dry season (May to October) at a height of 18" or less. (Operations)
- Remove live tree branches to a height of 6 feet above grassland and/or groundcover below 18"; or to height of 10 - 12 feet above bushy areas, providing that not more than 1 /3 of the live tree crown or height of the tree is removed. (Operations)
- Plan and operate Temescal Regional Recreation Area to minimize fire hazards consistent with park activities being provided.
 - Limit barbecues to use only in Recreation Units in irrigated zones or immediately adjacent to the lake. (Operations)
 - Close Oak Bay Trail and post no fires, no smoking restrictions during high fire danger period.
- Plan and operate Temescal Regional Recreation Area for ease of emergency communication of both staff and the public.
- Plan and operate Temescal Regional Recreation Area for ease of emergency function, access and egress.
- Maintain an up-to-date Park Disaster Plan.
- Assist the City of Oakland Fire Department and other emergency response agencies (Mutual Aid System) with necessary facilities.

(5) Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, and Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve, Land Use-Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report, 1985.⁸ This plan and EIR includes three preserves within the EBRPD system: the Sibley Preserve, Huckleberry Preserve, and Claremont Canyon Preserve. Unless otherwise stated, the

⁸ Royston, Hanamoto, Alley & Abey; Larry Seeman Associates, Inc., 1985. *Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve Land Use-Development Plan/Environmental Impact Report*, September 26.

wildfire hazard reduction and resource management objectives and policies apply to all preserves and are arranged by vegetation type.

Grasslands Objectives and Policies

- a. The existing distribution of “native” vegetation types will be retained and not managed except where necessary for fuel reduction adjacent to residential areas and for viewshed protection.
- a. In Claremont Canyon Preserve, the District will maintain grassland as the primary vegetation type on the south-facing slope above the University of California’s Dwight-Derby facility and the upper south-facing slopes above Claremont Creek and will expand the grassland along Panoramic Ridge. In Sibley Preserve, the District will maintain grasslands in the main unit in the area between Round Top, West Canyon, and the north and south quarries and expand grassland on the south side of Round Top.

The three primary methods of grassland maintenance will be livestock grazing, mechanical manual clearing and use of prescribed fire. Grazing will be the primary method of maintaining existing grassland in Sibley and it will be expanded to new areas as stands of brush are reduced. Where the safe use of prescribed fire is not possible, mechanical equipment, the introduction of livestock and/or hand labor will be used initially to remove the brush. The District will develop specific criteria for determining where the use of fire would be safe before any action is taken.

Perennial grassland species occur in the grassland on the south-facing slope above the University’s Dwight-Derby facility. The perennial grass species present in this grassland are assumed to occur there because of the combined effects of freedom from heavy grazing, steep slopes, thin soils, and frequent fire. The District will encourage scientific investigations of vegetation dynamics in this grassland area and determine what management actions are necessary to increase the coverage of the perennial grassland species now present.

Eucalyptus Plantations Objectives

- a. To reduce fuels in all eucalyptus plantations and thereby create conditions which mitigate against uncontrollable wildfires.

(6) Redwood Regional Park, Final Land Use-Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report, 1977.⁹ The 1977 land use plan contains both Redwood Regional Park and Roberts Regional Recreation Area. The plan provides actions to be undertaken to maintain the natural vegetation distribution by eliminating exotic plantings, where feasible and appropriate. Policies relating to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management are listed below.

Vegetation

Grassland Preservation and Restoration

- The most significant change in the vegetation of Redwood Park which has occurred in the last 40 years is the invasion of coyote brush into large areas of grassland. In the absence of grazing and with highly successful fire prevention, it is estimated that since 1935, 75 percent of the grassland in the park has been covered by coyote brush, and the remaining grassland is expected to be lost within 10 to 15 years. The loss of grassland will result in a loss of wildlife, increased fire hazard, loss of plant diversity and reductions of recreational and scenic values. Restoration and maintenance program is therefore proposed in selected areas... Brush removal would be accomplished by crushing and burning, followed by reburning 1 to 3 years later, and an on-going burning program at 7 to 10 year intervals. Spray treatments will be undertaken if burning does not work. Restoration to 1935 status is not considered appropriate.

One area near the Administration Building, including Hunt Field, contains an unusually rich stand of native grasses. This area of serpentine rock has resisted encroachment by exotic grass species. It is crossed by several trails, including shortcut trails, which increase disturbance and thus favor the exotics. Hunt Field has been modified resulting in spread

⁹ East Bay Regional Park District, 1977. *Redwood Regional Park Land Use Development Plan & Environmental Impact Report (and 2001 Amendments)*. August.

of annuals at the expense of the native perennials. Native grassland in California is relatively rare and should be protected; it is therefore proposed to eliminate further disturbance to this area by closing unnecessary trails and restricting further development.

Chaparral Maintenance

- Chaparral is a fire dependent community requiring a burn every 20 to 40 years for continued health. Some of the areas on East Ridge have not experienced fire for at least 40 years and their health is declining. Controlled burning of these areas is proposed.

Eucalyptus Removal

- Two species of eucalyptus were planted in Redwood Park in the early 1900s. Blue gum groves on West Ridge, near Piedmont Stables and in Redwood Canyon, total about 10 acres and are associated with old homesites or stock structures. Red gum was planted in a dense stand on the northeastern area of the park, occupying about 150 acres. Both these species were heavily damaged in the 1972 freeze. In most cases, native understory beneath the eucalypti is very rich and capable of replacing the removed exotics in a short time. It is proposed to have an ongoing, small-scale removal program within the red gum woodland to assist the naturally occurring conversion of this area to native woodland. Blue gums will be removed except for individual trees retained for historic, landscape or wildlife values.

Monterey Pine Forest

- Monterey pine has been planted over a fairly large area of Redwood Park, particularly on the north where the park abuts residential areas, and in groves elsewhere. In recent years, the older plantings have come under attack by bark beetles. Native understory, chiefly oak and madrone, has developed vigorously under many of the pines. It is proposed to manage the groves to favor their conversion to native vegetation types. This will include removal of diseased trees (estimated to be 10 to 20 trees per year), thinning or removal of groves in areas of native grassland, and a halt to new plantings of this species.

Other Exotic Plantings

- Minor stands of acacia and other exotic plants occur on West Ridge and around Redwood Bowl. In addition, remnants of orchards and "residential" plantings are scattered along Redwood Canyon. Many of the acacia were killed in the 1972 freeze. It is proposed to maintain those plants which have historical or landscape significance and to remove unsightly or hazardous plants.

(7) Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Final Land Use-Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report, 1984.¹⁰ This Land Use Plan includes Anthony Chabot and Lake Chabot Regional Parks.¹¹ Policies relating to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management are listed below.

Grassland Objectives and Policies

- The District will maintain grassland as the primary vegetative cover in the southeasterly portion of Grass Valley (See Fig. 19). The primary method of brush removal will be by the repeated use of prescribed fires or by mechanical crushing plus prescribed fires; however, where the safe use of prescribed fire is not possible, mechanical equipment, the introduction of goats and/or hand labor will be used initially to remove the brush. The District will develop specific criteria for identifying such areas. The District will develop specific criteria for identifying such areas. This area will be maintained as grassland by fencing it, developing water sources and introducing livestock.
- The District will preserve other existing grassland areas as shown in Figure IV.A-19, by the use of prescribed fires, the introduction of livestock, or by the institution of haying operations.

¹⁰ East Bay Regional Park District, 1984. *Anthony Chabot Regional Park Land Use-Development Plan/Environmental Impact Report*, February 21.

¹¹ Fire suppression strategies were created for the Lake Chabot Eucalyptus Plantation and are contained in the Fire Management Plan (1980).

- The District will set aside certain grassland areas where ecological succession from grassland to brushland is occurring for the scientific study of this phenomenon. These reserved areas are within the northerly and southerly educational use units (see Fig. 7). Vegetation management will include reduction of fuel levels on slopes with urban development on the ridgecrest above, using prescribed fires.

Brushland Objectives and Policies

- To maintain brushland areas in a way which reduces the potential for wildfires spreading from them into adjacent developed areas.
- The District will cooperate with other adjacent land owners to extend a variable-width fuelbreak using mechanical equipment, the introduction of goats and/or hand labor along the crest of Skyline Ridge from its present northerly terminus north to Redwood Road. Maintenance of the fuelbreak will be carried out in accordance with the EBRPD Fuelbreak Maintenance manual.
- The District will reduce the fuel levels on brushland slopes, which have residential or other structures on the crest above, using prescribed fires.
- The District will conduct occasional prescribed fires in the brushland areas for the purpose of long-term preservation and enhancement of plant association.
- The District will set aside certain brushland areas where ecological succession from brushland to mixed-broadleaf forest is occurring for the scientific study of this phenomenon. These reserved areas are within the northerly and southerly educational use units (see Fig. 7). Vegetation management will be limited to the reduction of fuel levels on slopes with urban development on the ridgecrest above using prescribed fires.

Eucalyptus Groves Objectives and Policies

- To establish and maintain conditions in all the eucalyptus groves which mitigate against uncontrollable wildfires.
- The District will establish a series of fuel and fire breaks between the eucalyptus groves, as shown in Fig. 19. This may be accomplished with a license between the District and a private timber operator. The remaining stumps will be treated with a chemical, approved by the District, to kill them. Maintenance of the fuel breaks will be carried out in accordance with the EBRPD Fuelbreak Maintenance manual.
- The District will reduce fuel levels in all eucalyptus groves using prescribed fires and in groves numbered 7, 8, and 9 selective thinning may be used on an occasional basis.
- The District will set aside eucalyptus grove number 4 for the scientific study (see Fig. 19). Vegetation management will be limited to the use of prescribed fire to reduce the accumulation of fuel on the forest floor to desirable levels, and the removal of vegetation which may present a hazard to park users.

(8) Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, Land Use Plan Amendment, 1998.¹² The Plan does not contain policies related to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management.

(9) Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, Final Land Use-Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report, 1983.¹³ Policies relating to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management for Miller/Knox are listed below and arranged by vegetation type.

Native Grasslands Objectives and Policies

- To reduce the dense fuel build-up of brushland to inhibit uncontrolled wildfire.

¹² East Bay Regional Park District, 1998. *Point Pinole Regional Shoreline Land Use Plan Amendment*. Adopted August 18. Resolution No. 1998-8-196.

¹³ The Planning Collaborative, Inc., 1983. *Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, Final Land-Use Development Plan/Environmental Impact Report*. Adopted December 20, Resolution No. 1983-12-319.

- The basic policy regarding grasslands is to use a combination of management techniques including hand clearing, prescribed burning, livestock grazing (e.g., sheep), and mulching/reseeding within the grassland management zone to control brush encroachment and maintain native grasslands.
- Hand Clearing. Brush within a native grassland area would be removed using hand tools, modified chain saws and manual labor to carry material away. Disposal options include stacking and burning or lopping and scattering on site, removal to a land fill site or chipping. If the debris were chipped, it could be dried and used as a fuel, spread along trails and in erosion areas as a mulch, or composted. Generally a combination of the two principal grassland management techniques, hand clearing and prescribed burning, will be necessary. The grassland areas on the eastern and southern boundaries of the park, near existing and planned development, will probably require hand clearing, while grassland areas in the center of the park may be appropriate for prescribed burning.
- Prescribed Burning. Grassland areas would be divided into units designed to facilitate the containment of a fire within each particular unit. Hand brush removal would be used to establish fuel breaks. Once fuel breaks were established, fires would be set in accordance with the prescription of experienced fire ecologists. Because of the possible hazards of prescribed burning, including safety to adjacent homes, visual impact and air quality degradation, it should only be undertaken under special circumstances with careful supervision from experienced fire crews.
- Pre-attack Fire Planning. In conjunction with local fire districts, the District has instituted pre-attack planning for accidental fires. This involves allowing an accidental fire to burn up the fuel breaks which have been developed. In this way, accidental fires may serve as a prescribed burn in isolated parts of the park land commensurate with risk to persons and property.

Brushlands Policies

- Avoid hand clearing and prescribed burning in the brushland management zones.

b. Eastshore State Park General Plan, 2002.¹⁴ The 2002 Eastshore State Park General Plan contains goals and guidelines for the park. Goals and guidelines relating to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management are listed below.

- A maintenance plan, consistent with guidelines and protocols of the operating agency, should be developed as soon as possible after park operation begins to guide the maintenance and operations procedures and practices for the Eastshore park project.
- Procedures, techniques, and timing of fuel modification and fire prevention activities in upland habitat areas.

2. Impacts and Mitigation Measures.

The following section discusses potential effects related to land use in the Study Area that could result from implementation of the Plan. The section begins with the criteria of significance, establishing the thresholds to determine whether an impact is potentially significant. The latter part of this section presents the impacts and mitigation measures, if required.

a. Criteria of Significance. Implementation of the Plan would have significant impacts on land uses if it would:

- Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community.
- Introduce new land uses that would fundamentally conflict with established land uses.
- Fundamentally conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan or zoning

¹⁴ Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC. 2002. *Eastshore State Park General Plan*. December.

ordinance), adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect, and where such conflict would actually result in an adverse physical change in the environment.

b. Less-Than-Significant Land Use Impacts. Less-than-significant land use impacts are discussed in this section.

(1) Physically Divide an Established Community. The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a physical feature (such as an interstate highway or railroad tracks) or removal of a means of access (such as a local road or bridge) that impairs mobility within an existing community or between a community and outlying areas. The construction of an interstate highway through an existing community, for example, may make it harder for people to travel from one side of the community to another; similarly, such construction may also impair the ability of community members to travel easily to areas outside the community.

The Plan is intended to reduce the risk of wildfire in identified high hazard areas on EBRPD park lands through the implementation of fuel reduction actions that are conducted in a manner that reduces adverse environmental effects and implements resource and habitat management goals. These wildfire reduction strategies would not result in the construction of any physical features and would not remove a means of access that would inhibit mobility in or around the Study Area. In addition, the Plan would not introduce any new land uses to the Study Area.

The purpose of the Plan is to reduce fire hazards on District-owned lands in order to protect established communities located in the wildland-urban interface. The Plan would reduce fire hazards in order to protect and preserve surrounding communities. As a result, implementation of the Plan would not physically divide an established community and any potential impacts would be less-than-significant.

(2) Land Use Conflicts. The Plan focuses on the wildland-urban interface along the western edge of the East Bay Hills parks and the shoreline parks of Point Pinole and Miller/Knox, where wildfire hazards and fuel loads are of greatest concern. As previously described, existing land uses within the hillside parks include a wide variety of recreational uses including trails, botanic gardens, picnic areas, fishing, camping, and other recreational uses. Urban uses in the vicinity of the Study Area are primarily residential and institutional in nature, and are generally located along the western edge of the East Bay hillside parks. The shoreline parks are generally more developed and managed for higher-intensity recreational uses than the hillside parks; similarly, the land uses adjacent to the shoreline parks are also more urban and built up and include industrial, office, commercial, and residential uses.

The Plan would not introduce any new land uses to the hillside or shoreline parks. The Plan would reduce the risk of wildfire in identified high hazard areas on EBRPD park lands through the implementation of fuel reduction and vegetation management actions. These actions include hand labor, mechanical treatment, chemical treatment, prescribed burning, grazing, and other alternative methods but would not require the conversion of any park land to new land uses. As such, implementation of the Plan would not create land uses conflicts within the Study Area and any potential impacts would be less-than-significant.

(3) Conflict with Applicable Land Use Plans. As previously described, EBRPD has several policies specifically related to wildfire hazard reduction and vegetation management included in its 1997 Master Plan. The Plan would comply with and implement the Master Plan policies, but the goals of the Plan include reducing fire hazards in a manner that reduces adverse environmental effects while maintaining and enhancing ecological values for plant and wildlife habitat. These goals are consistent with established fire reduction goals and those policies relating to land use in the Study Area; as such, the Plan is consistent with EBRPD's Master Plan.

In addition, the Plan would generally be consistent with the fire management-related policies and goals of each park's land use-development plan. For example, the Plan would be consistent with the brushland objective of the Wildcat Canyon Regional Park Land Use Development Plan, which is to maintain brushland areas in a way that reduces the potential for wildfires spreading from them into adjacent developed areas. During preparation of the Plan, the park-specific Land Use-Development Plans previously noted in Section A.2(c) of this chapter and their policies and guidelines were identified, reviewed, and incorporated where appropriate into the Plan. As a result, the Plan would generally be consistent with previously described goals, policies, and actions of the existing park-specific plans.

As previously noted, EBRPD is an independent special district under the State Public Resources Code. As such all EBRPD-jurisdiction parklands, including all hillside and shoreline parks contain in the Study Area, are consistent with local zoning but are otherwise independently managed. Because EBRPD's parklands are located within the wildland-urban interface and border many urban jurisdictions, however, and because wildfire hazard reduction is a concern that transcends political boundaries, EBRPD maintains direct relationships with other public agencies that have common interests. In particular, the EBRPD Fire Department maintains cooperative working relationships with fire agencies on the urban side of the interface through the HEF. While it is EBRPD's responsibility to maintain vegetation in its parklands to avoid the spread of wildfire from parklands onto adjacent residential areas, the cooperative effort of municipal fire departments to enforce existing vegetation ordinances and of homeowners to maintain their homes and landscape vegetation in a fire-safe condition is vital to the success of this Plan.

Because the Plan is consistent with existing goals and policies of the EBRPD Master Plan and park-specific land use-development plans currently in place, and because the operation and maintenance activities proposed as part of the Plan are not subject to the jurisdiction of the cities and counties within which they are physically located, the Plan would not substantially conflict with any applicable plan or policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect, and any impacts would be considered less-than-significant.

c. Significant Land Use Impacts. The proposed project would not result in any significant impacts to land use or planning policy.