### **APPENDIX H**

# SUMMARY OF CITY ADOPTED OR PENDING MANAGEMENT PLANS

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#### H.1 SAN LORENZO URBAN RIVER PLAN

The San Lorenzo River runs through the City for approximately 2.7 miles from Sycamore Grove to the Pacific Ocean. The lower 2.2-mile reach was channelized in 1958 for flood-control purposes by construction of a levee system, dredging of the riverbed and removal of vegetation. The river supports a wide variety of birds, animals and aquatic species. Fishery resources include steelhead trout, which are a federally-listed threatened species and a state-listed sensitive species. The San Lorenzo River has been designated as critical habitat for steelhead trout and coho salmon. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the San Lorenzo River supported coho salmon (another federally-listed threatened species) until the drought of 1976-77, though a study conducted in 1981 identified coho salmon in several tributaries (Swanson Hydrology & Geomorphology, 2001). Presently, coho salmon are found south of San Francisco in only Waddell Creek, Scott Creek and Mill Creek (northern Santa Cruz County); however, accessible reaches of the San Lorenzo River are included in the critical habitat designation for the species. The coho salmon south of San Francisco are also listed as an endangered species by the State of California under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

The San Lorenzo Urban River Plan (Urban River Plan) provides an update to the 1987 San Lorenzo River Design Concept Plan and the 1989 San Lorenzo River Enhancement Plan. These earlier plans guided flood control, vegetation restoration, and public access improvements along the San Lorenzo River and Jessie Street Marsh from 1989 through the late 1990s. In 1999, the Santa Cruz City Council requested that these plans be updated due to: the initiation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control improvement project; the listing of the steelhead trout and coho salmon as federally-threatened species; and federal designation of the San Lorenzo River as critical habitat for these species. The City Council appointed a citizen task force to update the plan, emphasizing community involvement as the foundation for plan development. The City Council adopted the Urban River Plan in 2003.

The *Urban River Plan* articulates a community vision for the corridor encompassing the lower San Lorenzo River, Branciforte Creek, and Jessie Street Marsh as a wildlife area as well as a public amenity for recreation, transportation, and open space. It contains recommendations for habitat enhancement, public access and trail improvements, public art, and community programs. It seeks to guide the City of Santa Cruz in re-establishing and improving its management of and relationship to this major, recently expanded landscape feature over the next 20 years. The primary goals of the *Urban River Plan* are to:

• Enhance and restore biotic values of the San Lorenzo River, Branciforte Creek and Jessie Street Marsh as habitat for fish and wildlife:

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- Maintain flood control capacity of the San Lorenzo River and Branciforte Creek;
- Improve the scenic and recreational value of the Riverfront;

- Improve public access and pedestrian/bicycle movement to and along the San Lorenzo River;
- Improve the urban and neighborhood interface with the San Lorenzo River, Branciforte Creek and Jessie Street Marsh; and
- Incorporate the San Lorenzo River, Branciforte Creek, and Jessie Street Marsh into the surrounding urban fabric and downtown and neighborhoods.

The Lower San Lorenzo River and Lagoon Management Plan comprises the biological restoration plan for the San Lorenzo River and Lagoon and is included in the Urban River Plan as an appendix. The primary management and restoration recommendations of the Lower San Lorenzo River and Lagoon Management Plan are to:

- Develop annual vegetation and sediment management plan for flood control maintenance;
- Develop a plan to manage summer lagoon water levels;
- Establish a streamflow standard for inflow into the lagoon and maintenance of a low flow channel:
- Enhance streambed aquatic cover and substrate in estuarine and transitional reaches;
- Enhance shoreline habitat in transitional and estuarine reaches;
- Enhance shoreline and riparian corridor vegetation; and,
- Develop planning for floodplain and marsh restoration in special planning areas.

#### H.2 NEARY LAGOON MANAGEMENT PLAN

Neary Lagoon is located in the central portion of the City. The lagoon is an important natural area within the urban matrix of the City. It provides important habitat for wildlife and a unique resource for the community. The lagoon has been encroached upon by residential development, industrial land uses (i.e., water treatment plant), the introduction of invasive, non-native plant and animal species, the receipt of urban runoff and increased public use. The lagoon and its environs, described as the Neary Lagoon Management Area, comprise about 44 acres, most of which is wetland, riparian and woodland habitats. Neary Lagoon is a well-known bird-watching area and has been featured in national birding magazines.

The *Neary Lagoon Management Plan* (City of Santa Cruz, 1992) was prepared as both a guide and a directive for managing the lagoon area to ensure its long-term viability as an ecosystem and its value as a unique resource for the community. Goals, objectives and actions described in the plan are designed with the purpose of preserving and enhancing the lagoon's environmental integrity and quality while satisfying other purposes for public recreation and safety. The *Neary Lagoon Management Plan* is intended to guide all aspects of operation, maintenance, protection, improvement and monitoring consistent with these purposes.

The *Neary Lagoon Management Plan* provides direction for creating a balance between the lagoon's various purposes for wildlife values, public use and safety, flood protection, water

quality, and mosquito control. Achieving this balance of purposes requires a detailed level of ongoing management that is comprehensive and adaptive to changes. Without such management, the lagoon could eventually have adverse impacts on wildlife, people, or both, and valuable resources may be diminished or lost as a result. The specific goals, policies and programs of the *Neary Lagoon Management Plan* have been incorporated into the General Plan/LCP; these goals are listed as an appendix to the plan. As part of the 1992 *Neary Lagoon Management Plan, Phase 1*, the Coastal Commission approved a 100-foot wide wetland buffer zone/reserve, which is included in the Neary Lagoon Management Plan area. Figure H-1 depicts riparian and wetland vegetation at Neary Lagoon.

The primary goals of the Neary Lagoon Management Plan are:

- Manage lagoon hydrology for flood protection, and enhancement of wildlife, vegetation, water quality, mosquito control, and aesthetics;
- Improve water quality at Neary Lagoon;
- Improve and maintain native vegetation diversity and health in the management area;
- Protect and improve opportunities for maintaining and increasing populations of native wildlife at Neary Lagoon;
- Maintain important views and visual features of the management area and provide enhanced viewing opportunities;
- Manage land uses to preserve and protect the lagoon's character and resources;
- Maintain access and avoid damage to infrastructure in the management area;
- Provide improved, high-quality and safe public access, recreation, and environmental education opportunities consistent with other purposes of the management area; and

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• Protect important cultural resources at Neary Lagoon.



FigureH-1. View of riparian and wetland vegetation at Neary Lagoon.

#### H.3 MOORE CREEK CORRIDOR ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Moore Creek is an intermittent stream that lies at the western boundary of the City. Moore Creek originates on the UCSC campus and flows, via Antonelli Pond, into a coastal lagoon at Natural Bridges State Park. The creek includes east and west branches; the West Branch of Moore Creek traverses Moore Creek Preserve, a City-owned greenbelt. Its watershed is largely undeveloped, and the creek's physical isolation from the surrounding urban area by steep slopes gives the Moore Creek Corridor a unique wilderness feeling, unmatched in the City limits. Flora and fauna are abundant in the canyon, which provides an important wildlife corridor and ecological link between the open lands of the University and Natural Bridges State Park.

The Moore Creek Corridor Access and Management Plan was developed in 1987 to provide the policy and action plan necessary to ensure the protection of this unique natural area while making it more accessible to passive recreational uses. Due to existing development patterns and physical accessibility, the plan focuses on providing access, and applying management programs to the east branch of Moore Creek. Management issues focus on improving water quality and reducing soil erosion, sedimentation and vegetation removal. Improving access to the Moore Creek corridor is based on the goal of keeping the corridor undeveloped. Toward this end, paved pathways and prominent signs are not recommended for the east branch. The specific goals and policies of the Moore Creek Corridor Access and Management Plan (which have also been incorporated into the General Plan/LCP) are listed as an appendix to the plan. The plan does not cover development on adjacent parcels.

The primary goal of the *Moore Creek Corridor Access and Management Plan* is:

• The existing vegetation along the Moore Creek Corridor shall be retained and protected to the maximum extent feasible.

#### H.4 MOORE CREEK PRESERVE INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Moore Creek Preserve is a 246-acre natural area located on the western edge of the City. The City acquired the preserve, an area designated as one of the City's greenbelt lands, in 1998. The majority of the property lies within the Moore Creek watershed (west branch of Moore Creek); a portion of the preserve lies within the watershed of the east branch of Wilder Creek. The preserve supports a diversity of habitats as well as several threatened and endangered plant and animal species. Two federally-listed species occur on the preserve: the Ohlone tiger beetle (a federally-listed endangered species) and San Francisco popcorn flower (a federally-listed endangered species) (City of Santa Cruz, 2001). The preserve also supports locally unique species, such as roost sites for the monarch butterfly.

The draft *Moore Creek Preserve Interim Management Plan* was approved by the City Council in 2002. Since a portion of the money used for the preserve's purchase were derived from the California Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, development of the plan was guided by conservation

and resource protection objectives in accordance with easements held on the land by the State of California. The proposed uses and infrastructure improvements addressed in the interim plan include:

- Hiking trails (dogs prohibited);
- Cattle grazing;
- Study, preservation, enhancement and protection of native species and their habitat;
- Installation of interpretive, regulatory and directional signs;
- Fencing for grazing and property boundaries; and
- Erosion control measures.

#### H.5 ANTONELLI POND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Antonelli Pond is an artificial impoundment on lower Moore Creek, just upstream from where Delaware Avenue crosses Moore Creek. It is owned by the Santa Cruz County Land Trust. It was created in the early 1900's when Moore Creek was dammed to form a millpond. Although Antonelli Pond is man-made, this artificial impoundment serves as an ecologically beneficial feature. The pond provides additional freshwater marsh habitat to augment the greatly diminished amount of natural freshwater wetlands along the Central Coast. Antonelli Pond provides habitat for numerous freshwater-dependent bird and animal species, including threatened species such as the California red-legged frog (Bulger, John, pers. comm., 2000).

A draft Antonelli Pond Interim Management Plan was prepared in 1980. In 1995, a draft Antonelli Pond Conceptual Management Plan was prepared. These two existing studies have shown siltation in the pond to be a significant problem. These two documents are to be revised and updated by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, which owns the site (Bernie Goldner, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, pers. comm., 2000). The updated plan will be submitted to the City and Coastal Commission for adoption. Major components of the plan are expected to include: assessment of impacts of surrounding land uses; site planning for the pond area; hydrologic and water quality analyses; surveys and a protection plan for the threatened California red-legged frog and other sensitive species; and strategies to enhance interpretive and educational opportunities (Bernie Goldner, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, pers. comm., 2000).

#### H.6 JESSIE STREET MARSH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jessie Street Marsh is located in the lower Ocean Street section of the City of Santa Cruz. The marsh is bounded by the San Lorenzo River and levee system to the west and south, Broadway to the north, and the Branciforte bluff to the east. Historically, the marsh was part of a large tidal estuary that was open to the San Lorenzo River and encompassed much of the lower Ocean Street and downtown areas. Construction of the levee system after the 1955 flood blocked most tidal and river flows from entering the marsh and significantly limited water circulation. The marsh has thus been converted to a less ecologically valuable

brackish and freshwater system that is currently fed by limited tidal inflow, hillside springs, groundwater, and urban runoff. Figure H-2 depicts riparian and wetland vegetation that has established in the upper portion of the marsh.

In 1998, the City prepared a management plan for Jessie Street Marsh. The plan, and accompanying environmental document, was approved by the City in 1999. The plan was incorporated as an appendix to the *San Lorenzo Urban River Plan*. The *Jessie Street Marsh Management Plan* identifies actions to preserve and enhance the natural resources of the marsh, improve water quality, manage floodwaters and provide for public access and environmental education in appropriate areas of the marsh. The plan proposes to create a combination of salt and freshwater habitat within the marsh by making structural modifications to allow for increased tidal exchange with the San Lorenzo River. Installation or repair of a new slide gate at the San Lorenzo River is proposed to allow tidal exchange between the marsh and the river lagoon during non-storm periods. Low-impact construction plans are currently being prepared to implement the plan actions under direction of the City Parks and Recreation Department.

The major goals of the management plan are:

- Preserve, enhance and restore the natural resources values of the marsh and adjacent upland areas to maximize biological resource values;
- Reduce the impacts of human activities (including water quality, sedimentation, and erosion) on marsh resources;
- Provide passive recreational uses of the marsh and adjacent habitat where compatible with natural resource management and adjacent land uses;
- Increase surface water exchange between the marsh and the San Lorenzo River;
- Develop Best Management Practices (BMP's) for the marsh and immediate vicinity; and,
- Provide natural resource interpretation for the residents of, and visitors to, the Jessie Street Marsh area.



Figure H-2. View of wetland and riparian vegetation that has established in the upper portion of Jessie Street Marsh.

#### H.7 LIGHTHOUSE FIELD STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

Lighthouse Field State Beach is located on the north coast of the City along West Cliff Drive. The property is bounded by Monterey Bay and Pelton Street. The State of California acquired the property in 1978 as part of the State Park System, and responsibility for its operation and maintenance is shared between the City and County of Santa Cruz, with the City acting as the lead agency. The *Lighthouse Field State Beach General Plan* was prepared in 1984. Plan objectives include: provide a park with minimum development and minimum maintenance costs; preserve and protect the open space and enhance the natural qualities of the field; preserve and enhance coastal views; provide limited recreational development; protect the neighborhood; improve access from the cliffs; and improve the amenities at the State Beach: benches, trash receptacles, signing, fencing, lighting, picnic facilities.

#### H.8 ARANA GULCH INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Arana Gulch is a 63-acre, City-owned parcel located on the eastern portion of the City north of the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. In 1994, the City purchased the property and developed an Interim Management Plan. The Interim Plan provides guidelines for maintenance and management of existing conditions. It allows for continued hiking and bicycle trail use and resource protection, including management of the Santa Cruz tarplant population. A Master Plan is currently being prepared for the area, which would establish long range uses and specific resource management measures.

#### H.9 POGONIP MASTER PLAN

Pogonip is a 630-acre open space area, which lies between UCSC, Henry Cowell State Park, Highway 9, the Harvey West area and two residential areas. The Pogonip property was purchased by the City in 1988. In 1994, the City developed an interim management plan as part of the *Greenbelt Master Plan*. The *Pogonip Master Plan* was adopted by the City in 1998 and identified the following public uses: protection of views, habitats and watershed areas; protection and management of sensitive habitat areas; hiking trails; nature preserve areas; nature trails; a bike trail; homeless garden site, and informal picnic areas. The specific objectives for the long-term use and management of Pogonip are to:

- Foster appreciation and understanding of the natural environment;
- Rehabilitate the historic clubhouse to serve as a staging area for educational programs, a meeting and retreat center and a site for special events;
- Create an outdoor youth education camp;
- Provide a permanent garden site for the Homeless Garden Project;
- Enhance existing trails. Provide trail connections to other destinations, such as the UCSC campus and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, and loop trails for Pogonip visitors:

- Identify Resource Management Areas to enhance and protect sensitive natural resources;
- Preserve and interpret historic structures, features, and sites; and
- Encourage use of alternative transportation and off-site parking to minimize parking and road improvement needs within Pogonip.

### H.10 LONG MARINE LABORATORY COASTAL LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Long Marine Laboratory Coastal Long Range Development Plan area is an approximately 98-acre tract of land fronting along the coast on the City's far-west side, located west of De Anza Mobile Home Park. The project site includes the existing Long Marine Laboratory as well as adjacent lands owned by UCSC. The eastern half of the site (previously known as Terrace Point) is mostly undeveloped except for the Seymour Marine Discovery Center and the NOAA building. The undeveloped portion of the property consists primarily of non-native grassland habitat and coyote brush shrub-grassland habitat (UCSC, 2001). Seasonal wetlands also exist on this portion of the site. Figure H-3 depicts the grassland and seasonal wetland vegetation that occurs in this area. In 2001, UCSC prepared a Coastal Long Range Development Plan. As part of this plan, UCSC has proposed to preserve the wetland resources on the site (UCSC, 2001). As the land is owned by UCSC, a State agency, the City of Santa Cruz does not have approval authority.



Figure H-3. View of the non-native grassland and seasonal wetlands within the Long Marine Laboratory Coastal Long Range Development Plan Area.

#### H.11 YOUNGER LAGOON NATURAL RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Younger Lagoon Natural Reserve is a 15-acre brackish marsh that is fed by the drainage of an approximately 180-acre watershed just west of UCSC's Long Marine Lab. The lagoon is part of the University of California's Natural Reserve System and provides habitat for numerous native plant and wildlife species (particularly birds). An adaptive management plan for Younger Lagoon has been in place since 1977. Long-term management of the reserve is incorporated into UCSC's Long Marine Laboratory Coastal Long Range

Development Plan.. As the land is owned by UCSC, a State agency, the City of Santa Cruz does not have approval authority.

#### H.12 NATURAL BRIDGES STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

Natural Bridges State Beach is located on the north coast of the City along West Cliff Drive. The property is bounded by Monterey Bay and Delaware Avenue. The State Department of Parks and Recreation prepared a general plan for the State Beach. The *Natural Bridges State Beach General Plan* identifies actions to preserve and enhance the natural resources of the area and provide for public access in appropriate areas.

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