
State of California – The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



NOTICE OF PREPARATION
of an Environmental Impact Report for the
Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update AND
Announcement of a Public Scoping Meeting

Date: November 2, 2023

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Interested Individuals and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
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California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), as Lead Agency, is preparing a General Plan Update and associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). State Parks has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This NOP informs agencies and the public that an EIR is being prepared to address potential impacts

resulting from implementation of the proposed Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update. Publication of this NOP provides an opportunity for public comment on the environmental impacts to be addressed in the EIR. Additional information about the Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update process, including documents synthesizing initial research and analysis, is available at the project website (www.planhungryvalley.com).

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent within the 30-day comment period (11/02/2023 - 12/01/2023). Please send your written responses, including the name of a contact person, to the following:

Contact: Katie Metraux, Project Manager
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 92496
Email: info@PlanHungryValley.com

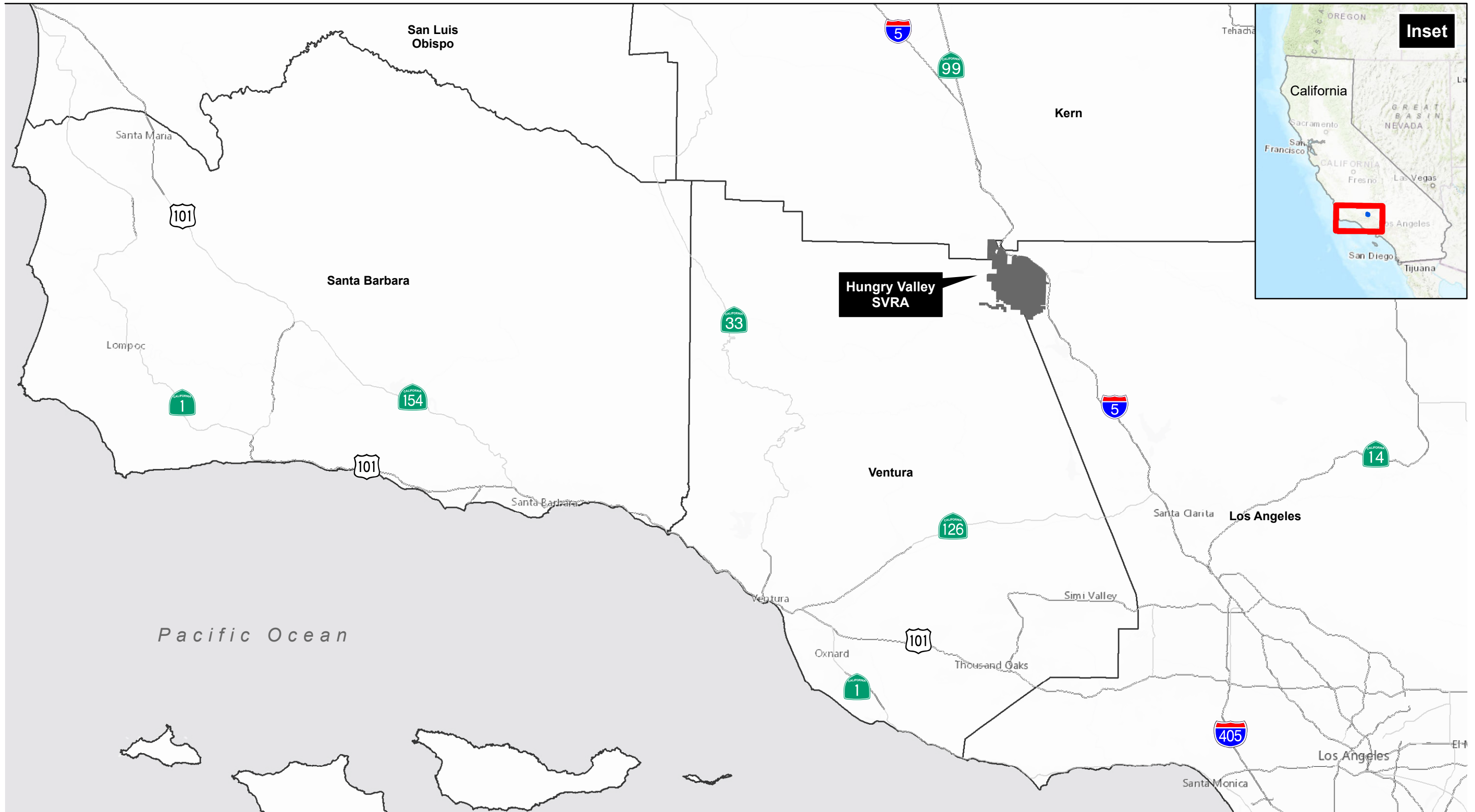
PROJECT TITLE

Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update

PROJECT LOCATION

Hungry Valley SVRA is an off-highway vehicle (OHV) park operated by State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. Hungry Valley SVRA is located within Los Angeles, Kern, and Ventura Counties near the communities of Gorman and Lebec, adjacent to Interstate 5 (I-5) at Tejon Pass. I-5 forms the northern and eastern boundaries of Hungry Valley SVRA. Los Padres National Forest is located along the western boundary, and Angeles National Forest is situated to the south and east of the park, both under jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). In total, Hungry Valley SVRA encompasses approximately 19,625 acres of land dominated by a desert environment. Hungry Valley SVRA has been in operation as an officially recognized SVRA since approximately 1980.

Figures 1 and 2 attached to this NOP show the regional location and local context, respectively, of Hungry Valley SVRA. A Planning Area has been established around Hungry Valley SVRA to provide a comprehensive management perspective for all lands within or adjacent to Hungry Valley SVRA, regardless of ownership or planning status (see Figure 2). Land within the Planning Area has been identified as within the sphere of influence for Hungry Valley SVRA.



Source: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community
 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, CA State Parks, Statsgo, AOCB, CA Department of Water Resources 2019; Kern County 2016; LA County 2016; Ventura County 2014; BLM 2018

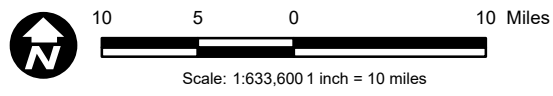
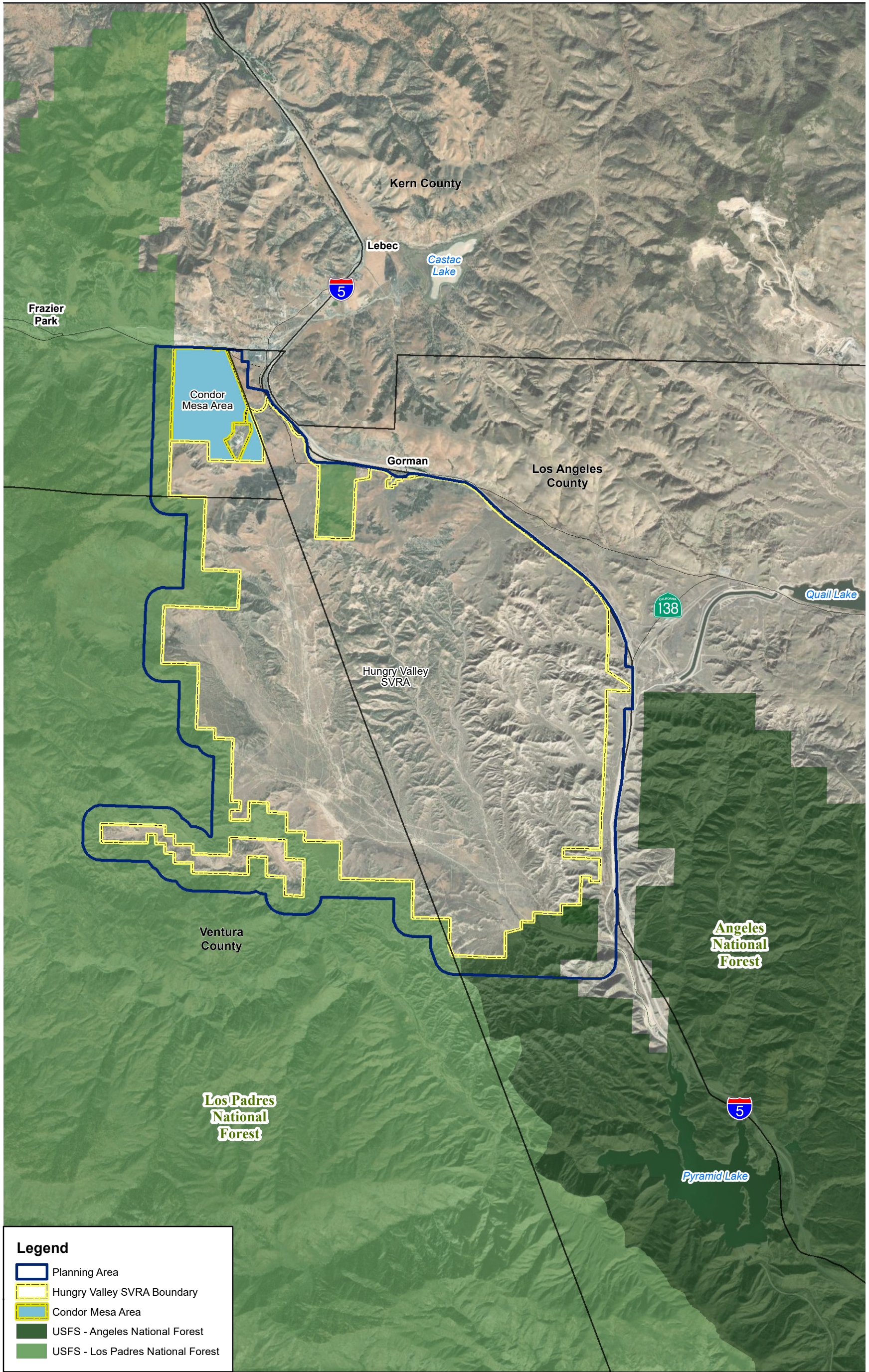


Figure 1
Regional Location Map

Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update



Legend

- Planning Area
- Hungry Valley SVRA Boundary
- Condor Mesa Area
- USFS - Angeles National Forest
- USFS - Los Padres National Forest

Source: Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, CA State Parks, Statago, AQCB, CA Department of Water Resources 2019; Kern County 2016; LA County 2016; Ventura County 2014; BLM 2018

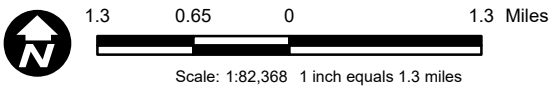


Figure 2
Local Context Map

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed General Plan Update, which is considered the Proposed Project for purposes of CEQA, establishes the long-range purpose and vision for Hungry Valley SVRA and would update the current General Plan which was adopted in 1981. The purpose of Hungry Valley SVRA is to provide a destination for OHV recreation use and to offer a unique experience for visitors in and around the Southern California region. Hungry Valley SVRA includes six land use areas with different characteristics, activities or allowable uses, resources, and related management mandates. The proposed General Plan Update would maintain the existing land use designations while modifying allowable OHV recreation boundaries of select areas. State Parks would manage natural, cultural, and physical resources to protect the resources' integrity in alignment with the goals and guidelines established in the proposed General Plan Update.

Land Use Areas

The six land use areas included in the proposed General Plan Update are described below:

Distributed Riding Area: Hungry Valley SVRA offers approximately 2,400 acres of distributed riding area, which provides a unique opportunity of open off-trail riding throughout the main portion of the park. The Distributed Riding Area generally follows Gold Hill Road and Hungry Valley Road and allows access to main camping areas and visitor facilities. The boundaries of these riding areas have been delineated to protect sensitive resources in Hungry Valley SVRA, such as unique habitats or cultural preserves.

Trails Only Area: Large areas throughout the central portion and along the northern boundary are traversed by a system of well-marked trails. In both the Trails Only Area and the Native Grasslands Management Area, OHV use is limited to designated trails. The southern portion of the Trails Only Area includes existing motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) training tracks for riding practice and challenges.

Native Grasslands Management Area: Hungry Valley SVRA currently includes a unique 6-square-mile area along the northern boundary that is covered by native valley grasslands. A management plan formulated in 1981 created the Hungry Valley Native Grasslands Management Area. Visitors can travel through the area on OHVs but must stay on clearly identified trails, established by Hungry Valley SVRA staff to protect this sensitive plant community. These trails are marked on the Hungry Valley SVRA visitors' map and identified in the field by signs and trail markers. The recently acquired 845-acre Condor Mesa Area is proposed for inclusion in the Native Grasslands Management Area and would be managed accordingly. With the inclusion of this new area, the Native Grasslands Management Area would increase to almost 8 square miles in size. Camping is not permitted in the Native Grasslands Management Area except in the proposed recreational vehicle (RV) campground in the Condor Mesa Area along Frazier Mountain Park Road, as discussed below under Site Elements).

Quail Canyon Special Event Area: The Quail Canyon Special Event Area features three tracks: motocross, pee-wee, and grand prix. The public can reserve the facilities for special events and activities, and the facilities are open daily, except when closed for maintenance. Vendors and concessions can be operated from this area. Quail Canyon includes the Ed Waldheim Activity Center, which provides restrooms with running water for visitor use and a separate section for storing Hungry Valley SVRA staff tools and vehicles. As of the release date of this NOP, this area is temporarily closed due to a well failure, and infrastructure repairs are needed to make the area operable.

Oak Woodland Natural Preserve: The 60-acre Oak Woodland Natural Preserve in the northwestern area of Hungry Valley SVRA protects an oak woodland habitat and natural seep that provides water for immense valley oaks, with an understory of native grasses. This extremely rare and unique habitat is closed permanently to motorized recreation. The Oak Woodland Natural Preserve can be accessed on foot by a 0.5-mile hike. Camping is not permitted in the Oak Woodland Natural Preserve. The State Park and Recreation Commission designated this subunit in August 1983.

Cultural Preserves: Hungry Valley SVRA contains three cultural preserves within its limits, which were designated in 1983 by the State Park and Recreation Commission following adoption of the original General Plan. These cultural preserves consist of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest, established to protect features such as sites, buildings, or zones that represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California. Due to the sensitivity of resources contained within cultural preserves, these land use areas are not identified on mapping or other location-specific data as part of the General Plan Update.

Tataviam Cultural Preserve

The Tataviam Cultural Preserve encompasses approximately 450 acres and is the largest cultural preserve within Hungry Valley SVRA. The Tataviam Cultural Preserve contains a combination and configuration of sites which are important aspects of the prehistoric culture of Hungry Valley.

Freeman Canyon Cultural Preserve

The Freeman Canyon Cultural Preserve is approximately 210 acres in size and is important because of the grouping of sites within the preserve and its potential for future study.

Gorman Cultural Preserve

The Gorman Cultural Preserve is approximately 170 acres in size and contains a grouping of sites related to a local spring. This preserve is important because of the grouping of sites within the preserve and its potential for future study.

Site Elements

In addition to the land use areas, which would guide overall use within the park, discrete improvements throughout Hungry Valley SVRA are envisioned with the proposed General Plan Update. These improvements were identified through a robust public outreach process, including surveys, newsletters, community meetings, and other forms of community engagement. Figure 3 shows the Preferred Alternative identified as a result of the planning and outreach process, and the proposed site elements are described below:

Access and Connections

The Preferred Alternative recommends keeping the existing North and South Entrance Stations (A1 and A2, respectively, as shown in Figure 3) in their current locations. An additional vehicular access entry (A3) is proposed from Frazier Mountain Road to the proposed Condor Mesa RV Campground (G3) in the northwestern corner of Hungry Valley SVRA. Trail connections exist with USFS lands in Los Padres National Forest west and southwest of Hungry Valley SVRA. The Preferred Alternative will formalize existing trail connections to Los Padres National Forest and establish new trails in the Condor Mesa Area (T1). A trail connection will be formalized at Stipa Trail (C1), to connect the trails in the main body of Hungry Valley SVRA to the proposed new trails in the Condor Mesa Area. Trail connections are proposed to be formalized from Sterling Canyon Trail to East Frazier and Tejon Trails (C2 and C3, respectively), to improve connectivity between Hungry Valley SVRA and Los Padres National Forest. A new connection to Road Runner Trail (C4) is proposed in the southwestern corner of Hungry Valley SVRA, for connectivity between the main body of Hungry Valley SVRA and the isolated parcel of State Parks land surrounded by Los Padres National Forest. Additionally, a new maintenance-only connection to the park is proposed from the proposed office buildings at the northern boundary (C5).

Circulation

The Preferred Alternative includes repaving Gold Hill Road (R1) and paving Hungry Valley Road (R2) and Quail Canyon Road (R3) to improve circulation through Hungry Valley SVRA. Permanent erosion control measures will be implemented where necessary to address historical erosion issues along these roadways and maintain access and connectivity throughout Hungry Valley SVRA during severe weather events.

Facilities

The Preferred Alternative proposes to make various improvements to existing facilities and construct new facilities in Hungry Valley SVRA. New operational support office buildings would be constructed at the northern boundary adjacent to the Gorman House (F1) to support operations in Hungry Valley SVRA. The existing maintenance and administration buildings (F2) are proposed for upgrades to meet current accessibility and safety standards. All upgrades will occur within the existing building footprint, and buildings that are not able to be upgraded to meet current standards will be demolished. The Gorman House (F3) is proposed to be upgraded to comply with accessibility standards.

The Preferred Alternative also proposes to construct new facilities in Hungry Valley SVRA. A new Visitor Center (V1) is proposed at the Smith Forks Campground. The current Visitor Center at the North Entrance will be repurposed into a storage facility, and the new location will be more accessible to visitors during their stay in Hungry Valley SVRA.

A community event area (E2) is proposed for local, community-oriented or State Parks events in the Condor Mesa Area along Frazier Mountain Park Road. The existing Quail Canyon Special Event Area, including the Ed Waldheim Activity Center (E1) and the Spike Camp/CCC Dorm (H1), will remain in their current locations.

Camping

All campgrounds, including the Honey Valley Group Campground (G1), will remain in their respective locations and conditions under the Preferred Alternative. A reservable group campground is proposed near the Smith Forks Campground (G2), along with the addition of Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible restrooms. A new RV campground with full hookups (G3) is proposed in the Condor Mesa Area along Frazier Mountain Park Road.

Recreation

The Preferred Alternative proposes a designated unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) area (U1) within the Quail Canyon Special Event Area. Geofencing (i.e., a virtual perimeter for a real-world geographic area) will be implemented to restrict UAV use to the designated area. UAV use also will be scheduled to avoid conflicts with OHV riding and events in that area.

To expand opportunities for use of practice track facilities, a new kid's track (KT) is proposed near the Edison Canyon Campground, and a new skills track (ST) is proposed near the Smith Forks Campground.

A new staging area (SA) is proposed in the southern portion of Hungry Valley SVRA near the Smith Forks Campground, to support equipment loading for both overnight and day users. The new staging area will include a designated parking area, shade ramadas, and OHV loading/offloading ramps.

Amenities

Automatic Payment Systems

Automatic payment systems (AP) are proposed at the North and South Entrances and the proposed entrance on Frazier Mountain Park Road that will allow only electronic and card payments. The entrance kiosks will continue to be staffed by State Parks employees.

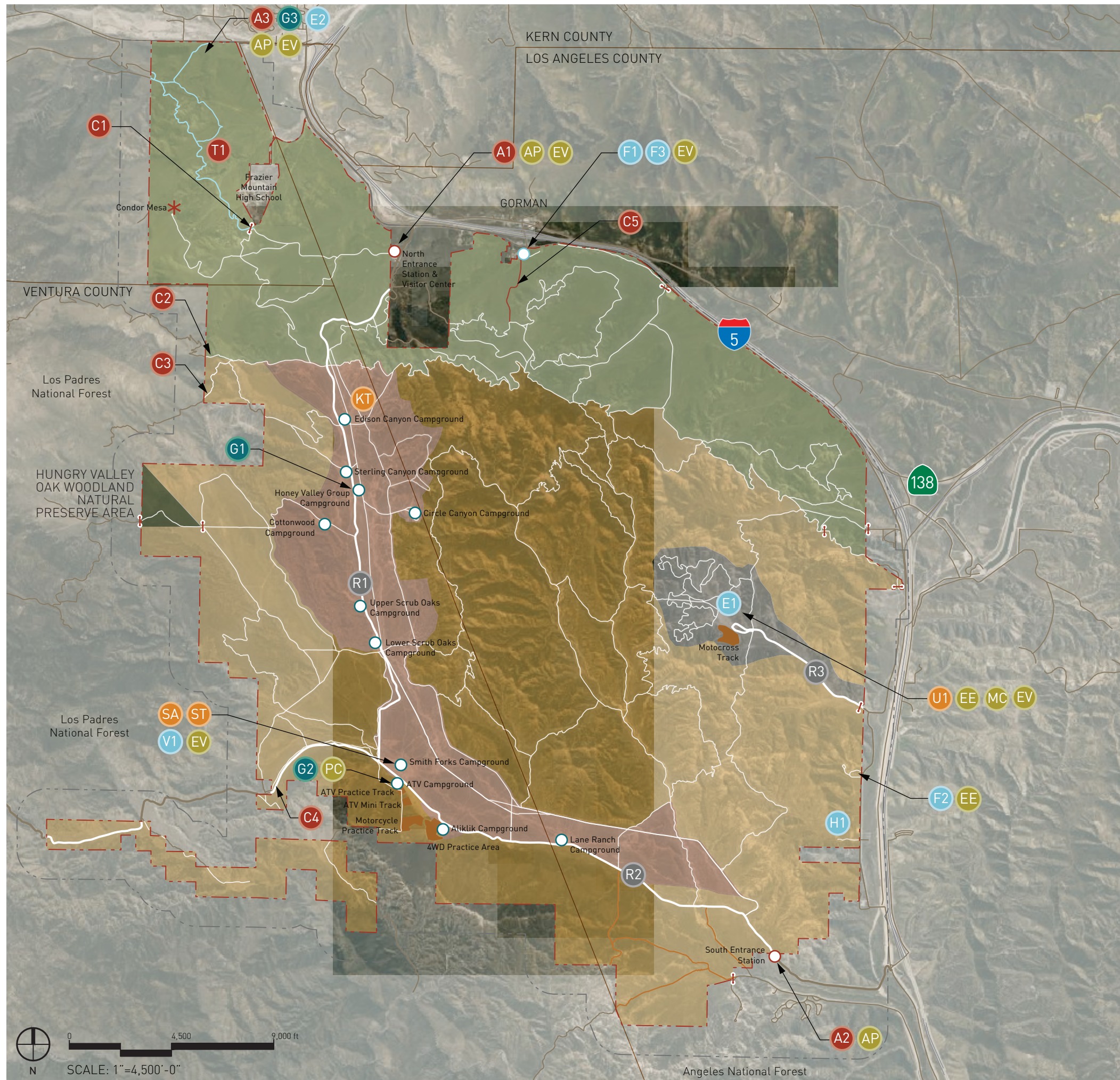
Electric Vehicle Charging

Electric vehicle charging stations (EV) with dual ports are proposed near the North Entrance Station, the Condor Mesa Area along Frazier Mountain Park Road, the Gorman House, Quail

Canyon Special Event Area, and Smith Forks Campground. Construction of electric vehicle charging stations is planned to anticipate the growing use of electric street vehicles and OHVs. Currently, existing electrical charging stations (EE) are at the Hungry Valley SVRA Administration Office and Ed Waldheim Building in Quail Canyon Special Event Area.

Concessions

A mobile concession (MC) for seasonal use and/or special events is proposed within the Quail Canyon Special Event Area. The newly constructed permanent concessions facility near the ATV Campground will remain as is (PC).



LEGEND

- PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY
- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED TRAILS
- O&M TRAILS
- EXISTING ROAD
- EXISTING TRAILS
- INTEREST POINT
- LOCKED GATE

LAND USE AREAS*

- TRAILS ONLY AREA
- DISTRIBUTED RIDING AREA
- NATIVE GRASSLANDS MANAGEMENT AREA
- QUAIL CANYON SPECIAL EVENT AREA
- OAK WOODLAND NATURAL PRESERVE

*CULTURAL PRESERVES - LOCATION CONFIDENTIAL

EXISTING AND PROPOSED SITE ELEMENTS E - EXISTING P - PROPOSED

ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS

- A1 E - NORTH ENTRANCE STATION
- A2 E - SOUTH ENTRANCE STATION
- A3 P - FRAZIER MOUNTAIN PARK ROAD ENTRY
- C1 E - CONNECTION FROM STIPA TRAIL
- C2 E - FORMAL CONNECTION TO EAST FRAZIER TRAIL
- C3 E - FORMAL CONNECTION TO TEJON TRAIL
- C4 P - CONNECTION TO ROAD RUNNER TRAIL
- C5 P - STAFF CONNECTION FROM OFFICE BUILDINGS TO PARK
- T1 P - TRAIL

CIRCULATION

- R1 E - GOLD HILL ROAD - Repave
- R2 E - HUNGRY VALLEY ROAD - Pave
- R3 E - QUAIL CANYON ROAD - Pave

FACILITIES

- F1 P - HUNGRY VALLEY SVRA OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICES
- F2 E - MAINTENANCE AND ADMIN BUILDINGS - Upgrade
- F3 E - GORMAN HOUSE - Upgrade
- F4 E - RANGER STATION
- V1 P - VISITOR CENTER
- E1 E - QUAIL CANYON SPECIAL EVENT AREA
- E2 P - COMMUNITY EVENT AREA
- H1 E - SPIKE CAMP/CCC DORM

CAMPING

- G1 E - GROUP CAMPGROUND
- G2 P - GROUP CAMPGROUND
- O E - CAMPGROUNDS
- G3 P - RV CAMPGROUND

RECREATION

- U1 P - UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV) AREA
- ST P - SKILL TRACK
- KT P - KID'S PRACTICE TRACK
- SA P - STAGING AREA

AMENITIES

- AP P - AUTOMATIC PAYMENT SYSTEM
- EE E - ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS
- EV P - ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS
- PC E - PERMANENT CONCESSION
- MC P - MOBILE CONCESSION

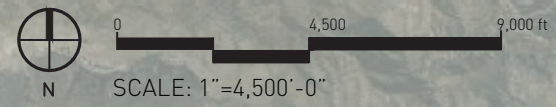


FIGURE 3: PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE OVERVIEW

GENERAL PLAN TOPICS

Topics that are being considered as part of the General Plan Update process include, but are not limited to, the following:

- OHV Recreation;
- Camping;
- Visitor Experiences and Opportunities;
- Park Operations;
- Natural, Cultural, and Physical Resource Management;
- Interpretation and Education;
- Concessions;
- Special Events;
- Land Ownership;
- Public Safety and Enforcement;
- Statewide, Regional, and Local Planning; and
- Climate Change.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Based on the resource characteristics of the project area and anticipated recreational uses, potential environmental impacts that are anticipated to be addressed in the EIR at a programmatic level include the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics,
- Air Quality,
- Biological Resources,
- Geology/Soils and Paleontological Resources,
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions,
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials,
- Hydrology and Water Quality,
- Noise,
- Recreation,
- Transportation,
- Tribal and Cultural Resources,
- Utilities and Service Systems, and
- Wildfire.

Impacts are not anticipated in the following resource areas:

- Agricultural and Forestry Resources,
- Land Use and Planning,
- Energy,

- Minerals,
- Population and Housing, and
- Public Services.

SCOPING MEETING

A virtual scoping meeting has been scheduled to provide additional information about the General Plan Update process and to discuss potential environmental effects of the project. The scoping meeting will be held virtually on **November 15, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** To access the scoping meeting, please use the following link:

[Join the Public Scoping Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4394 6099

Or dial by phone:

+1 (669) 444-9171,,86343946099# US

+1 (253) 215-8782,,86343946099# US (Tacoma)

All comments on the environmental effects of the project should be directed in writing to Katie Metraux, Project Manager, at the contact listed above.

INTENDED USES OF THE EIR

State Parks will use the EIR to consider environmental effects of the proposed General Plan Update, provide mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts resulting from General Plan implementation, and evaluate alternatives to reduce any significant impacts identified in the EIR. The EIR will serve as the CEQA compliance document for adoption of the General Plan Update. It will also serve as a program EIR that may be referenced when implementing future actions included in the General Plan. Subsequent project-level activities in the General Plan will be examined in light of the program EIR to determine whether additional environmental documentation must be prepared before project approval and implementation pursuant to Section 15168[c] of the CEQA Guidelines.