CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

South Coast Area Office Jo Oceangate, Suite 1000 Long Beach, CA 90802-4302 (562) 590-5071





RECORD PACKET COPY

July 18, 2001

TO: Commissioners and Interested Persons

FROM: Deborah Lee, Deputy Director Stephen Rynas, Orange County Area Supervisor Meg Vaughn, Coastal Program Analyst

SUBJECT: Major Amendment Request No. 1-01 to the City of Laguna Beach Certified Local Coastal Program (For Public Hearing and Commission Action at the August 7-10, 2001 meeting in Redondo Beach).

SUMMARY OF LCP AMENDMENT REQUEST NO. 1-01

Request by the City of Laguna Beach to amend the Land Use Plan portion of the LCP by revising Topic 6: The Master Plan of Hiking Trails in the Open Space/Conservation Element of the certified Land Use Plan, in Laguna Beach, Orange County. The proposed amendment includes text revision and the addition of a mapped inventory of trails. Only the Land Use Plan (LUP) portion of the certified LCP is affected by this amendment. The City of Laguna Beach Local Coastal Program (LCP) was certified by the Coastal Commission in July 1993.

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending that the Commission, after public hearing:

- 1. Deny the amendment request to the Land Use Plan as submitted;
- 2. Approve, only if modified, the amendment request to the Land Use Plan.

The motions to accomplish this recommendation are found on page 3. The suggested modification, found on page 4, is necessary to ensure that the amendment is in conformity with and adequate to carry out the public access and recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. The suggested modification would add a policy to the proposed Topic 6 clarifying that there may be trails in addition to those identified on the proposed Trail Network maps. Only if modified as suggested will the Land Use Plan amendment request be consistent with and adequate to carry out the provisions of the Coastal Act.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

For the proposed Land Use Plan amendment, the standard of review shall be conformance with the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Section 30503 of the Coastal Act requires public input in Local Coastal Program development. It states:

During the preparation, approval, certification, and amendment of any local coastal program, the public, as well as all affected governmental agencies, including special districts, shall be provided maximum opportunities to participate. Prior to submission of a local coastal program for approval, local governments shall hold a public hearing or the program which has not been subjected to public hearings within four years of such submission.

The City of Laguna Beach Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment on September 27, 2001 and voted to recommend approval of the amendment to the City Council. Public comments at that hearing included comments on trail signage, appropriateness of dogs on the trails, provision of trash receptacles, preparation of a trails brochure, and open space acquisition priorities. On October 24, 2000 the Laguna Beach City Council held a public meeting and approved the proposed amendment and approved submittal of the amendment for action by the Coastal Commission. Public notices for the hearings were printed in the newspaper.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Copies of the staff report are available at the South Coast District office located in the ARCO Center Towers, 200 Oceangate, Suite 1000, Long Beach, 90802. To obtain copies of the staff report by mail, or for additional information, contact *Meg Vaughn* in the Long Beach office at (562) 590-5071.

LIST OF EXHIBITS

- A. Regional Location Map
- B. City Council Resolution No. 00.063
- C. Topic 6 Policy Comparisons Table
- D. Revised Topic 6: Master Plan of Trails Revised Text Proposed Maps

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the following motions and resolutions:

A. Deny the amendment to the Land Use Plan as submitted

MOTION

"I move that the Commission certify amendment request No. 1-01 to the City of Laguna Beach Land Use Plan as submitted."

Staff recommends a <u>NO</u> vote which would result in the adoption of the following resolution and findings. An affirmative vote by a majority of the appointed Commissioners is needed to pass the motion.

Resolution to deny the amendment to the Land Use Plan (Part B) as submitted

The Commission hereby <u>denies certification</u> of amendment request No. 1-01 to the City of Laguna Beach Land Use Plan as submitted and adopts the findings stated below on the grounds that the amended Land Use Plan will not meet the requirements of and does not conform with the policies of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) of the California Coastal Act to the extent necessary to achieve the basic state goals specified in Section 30001.5 of the Coastal Act; the Land Use Plan amendment as submitted is not consistent with applicable decisions of the Commission that guide local government actions pursuant to Section 30625(c) of the Coastal Act, and certification of the Land Use Plan amendment as submitted does not meet the requirements of Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A) of the California Environmental Quality Act, as there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures which would substantially lessen significant adverse effects on the environment.

B. Certify the amendment to the Land Use Plan if modified

MOTION

"I move that the Commission certify amendment request No. 1-01 to the City of Laguna Beach Land Use Plan if it is modified in conformity with the modifications suggested below."

Staff recommends a <u>YES</u> vote which would result in the adoption of the following resolution and findings. An affirmative vote by a majority of the appointed Commissioners is needed to pass the motion.

Resolution to certify the amendment to the Land Use Plan if modified

The Commission hereby <u>approves certification</u> of amendment request No. 1-01 to the City of Laguna Beach Land Use Plan if modified as suggested and adopts the findings stated below on the grounds that the amended Land Use Plan, as modified according to the suggested modifications stated in Section II of this report, meets the requirements of and conforms with



the policies of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) of the California Coastal Act if modified according to the suggested modifications stated in Section II of this report. The Land Use Plan amendment, if modified, contains a specific access component as required by Section 30500(a) of the Coastal Act and is consistent with applicable decisions of the Commission that guide local government actions pursuant to Section 30625(c) of the Coastal Act. Certification of the Land Use Plan amendment as modified meets the requirements of Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A) of the California Environmental Quality Act in that there are no feasible alternatives or mitigation measures which would substantially lessen any significant adverse impacts on the environment.

The Commission further finds that if the local government adopts and transmits its revisions to the amendment to the Land Use Plan in conformity with the suggested modifications, then the Executive Director shall so notify the Commission.

II. SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS

Certification of City of Laguna Beach LCP Amendment Request No. 1-01 is subject to the following modifications.

The suggested additions are shown in bold, italic, underlined text.

Add policy 20 to page 7 of Topic 6 Master Plan of Trails as follows:

The Trail Network maps, Nos. 1 – 3, identify trails throughout the City. However, trails in addition to those shown on the maps may be recognized and treated in the same manner as those identified on the maps.

III. FINDINGS

The following findings support the Commission's denial of the LUP amendment as submitted, and approval of the LUP amendment if modified as indicated in Section II (SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS) of this report.

The Commission hereby finds and declares as follows:

A. <u>Amendment Description</u>

The City of Laguna Beach has requested an amendment to the Land Use Plan (LUP) portion of the certified Local Coastal Program (LCP) by revising Topic 6: The Master Plan of Hiking Trails in the Open Space/Conservation Element of the LUP. The proposed amendment includes text revision and the addition of a mapped inventory of trails.

In 1987 the City Council approved "Topic 6: The Master Plan of Hiking Trails" as part of the Open Space/Conservation Element. Topic 6 was intended to establish the framework for an officially

recognized comprehensive City trail system. The City's LCP was certified by the Coastal Commission in 1993.

The City's submittal letter for the current amendment request states that the Master Plan of Trails has been extensively rewritten to better articulate and graphically display the local trail system. The revised Master Plan of Trails incorporates new policies pertaining to: improvement of trails; obtaining funding for development, operation and maintenance of the City trail system; creating citizen awareness of the local trail system; and, encouraging disabled access to the trails. Although extensively rewritten and reorganized, many Topic 6 policies have not been substantively changed. For a comparison of existing and proposed policies, see exhibit C. Additionally, policies 6A and 6B, which required the inventorying and mapping of existing hiking and walking trails, have been completed. The finished maps are included as part of this amendment request.

Other significant document changes are in the amended Topic 6 Implementation Section. These changes include: requirement of trail improvements with development approval; promotion of a trail classification system that categorizes individual trails by access difficulty; creation and implementation of a trail sign program; acquisition of open space land; production of a trail map brochure; and coordination of trail development planning effort with the County of Orange.

No land use changes are proposed as part of this amendment request.

B. <u>Recreation and Public Access</u>

Section 30223 of the Coastal Act states:

Upland areas necessary to support coastal recreational uses shall be reserved for such uses, where feasible.

In addition, Section 30210 requires that public access to the coast be maximized.

The City of Laguna Beach's city boundaries include approximately 1,100 acres of undeveloped hillside lands. Much of this area supports a network of trails. These trails provide recreational opportunities that are typically unstructured and function with a minimum amount of human disturbance to the surrounding area. The trails permit access to the City's scenic resources and provide opportunities for self-guided nature studies. Many of these trails link up to the extensive trail systems of the adjacent Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Crystal Cove State Park, and to Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. Many of these trail connections can lead ultimately to the coast.

The existing Topic 6 Trails policy 6A states:

Inventory existing walking and hiking trails on public and private property within the City, pending funding availability.

The existing Topic 6 Trails policy 6B states:

Complete the mapping of a Master Plan of Hiking and Walking Trails with the potential to connect to adjacent regional trail systems, identifying trail location, trail type (self-guided

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nature trails, belt and loop trails), and an implementation program including a prioritized improvement schedule.

The City has completed the task of mapping the trails as required by these two policies. The resultant maps have been submitted as part of this amendment for inclusion in the trails section of the certified LUP. Consequently policies 6A and 6B are proposed to be deleted. In addition, the City is proposing to add additional policies to the trails section which would encourage volunteer trail maintenance programs, provide for trail links within the City to connect with trails, parks and open space areas in adjacent jurisdictions, provide signage identifying the type, length and location of trails, encourage disabled and elderly access to open space areas, provide refuse facilities for dogs (where dogs are allowed), and pursue development of City trails that augment the existing County trail network. New policies are also proposed that would promote trail designs that would minimize exposure of liability to the City, and minimize trail development impacts to adjacent residential developments. The proposed new policies would promote public access and recreation within the City's hillside trail system. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed policies are consistent with and adequate to carry out the public access and recreation policies of the Coastal Act.

However, no policy is proposed that clarifies that the proposed map may not include all trails that currently exist or may exist in the future. Although it is not the City's intent to limit the trail system to only those identified on the proposed map, it should be made clear that additional trails may be recognized whether or not they appear on the mapped inventory of trails. Therefore a modification is suggested to add a policy which expressly states that there may be trails in addition to those appearing on the map. Therefore, the Commission finds that only if modified is the proposed amendment consistent with and adequate to carry out the public recreation and public access policies of the Coastal Act.

C. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Code of Regulations [Title 14, Sections 13540(f) and 13555(b)] the Commission's certification of this LCP amendment must be based in part on a finding that it is consistent with CEQA Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A). That section of the Public Resources Code requires that the Commission not approve or adopt an LCP:

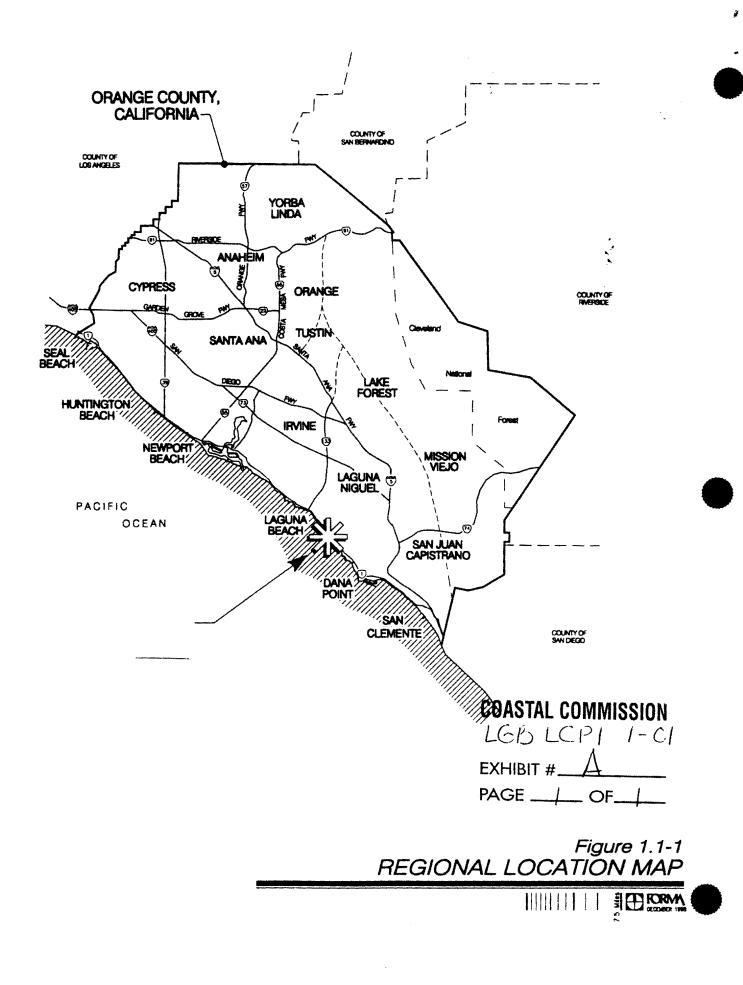
...if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect which the activity may have on the environment.

The Land Use Plan amendment has been found not to be in conformance with the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act regarding public recreation and public access. To resolve the concerns identified a suggested modification has been made to the proposed amendment. Without incorporation of the suggested modification, the Land Use Plan amendment as submitted, is not adequate to carry out and is not in conformity with the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. The suggested modification minimizes or mitigates any potentially significant environmental impacts of the Land Use Plan amendment. As modified, the Commission finds that approval of the Land Use Plan amendment will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Commission finds that for the reasons discussed in this report, if the LCP amendment is modified as suggested, there are no additional feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that could substantially reduce any adverse environmental impacts. The Commission further finds that the proposed LCP amendment, if modified as suggested, is consistent with Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A) of the Public Resources Code.

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1 **RESOLUTION NO. 00.063** 2 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE TRAILS SECTION (TOPIC 6) 3 OF THE OPEN SPACE/CONSERVATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN AND LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM 4 5 6 WHEREAS, the Open Space/Conservation Element is a component of the General 7 Plan and the certified Local Coastal Program; and 8 WHEREAS, the Open Space Committee has been reviewing the Trails Section (Topic 9 6) of the City's Open Space/Conservation General Plan Element, as well as mapping the 10 City's hiking, walking and biking trails; and 11 12 WHEREAS, State Planning Law mandates General Plan Elements be updated 13 periodically to reflect changing circumstances and new information; and 14 WHEREAS, the Laguna Beach Planning Commission recommended approval of this 15 amendment at its meeting of September 27, 2000 and the City Council conducted a public 16 hearing on the proposed amendment on October 24, 2000; and 17 WHEREAS, the City Council desires to ensure the long-term use and enjoyment of 18 19 hiking, walking and biking trails on public lands; 20 NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA 21 BEACH does RESOLVE as follows: 22 SECTION 1. The City Council approves the amended Topic 6 of the Open 23 Space/Conservation Element of the City of Laguna Beach General Plan so that it includes 24 maps of the trail network and revised text that reflects changed circumstances and new 25 information. 26 27 SECTION 2. The City Council approves the amendment of the Local Coastal $\mathbf{28}$ Program subject to and effective upon California Coastal Commission approval and, further, LEB LEPA I-01 Exhibit Bi

the City Council certifies that the amended Local Coastal Program is intended to be carried out in a manner that conforms to the California Coastal Act.

SECTION 3. The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Ouality Act (CEQA) per Section 15304-Class 4.

ADOPTED this 24th day of October, 2000.

Kathleen Blackburn, Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

I, VERNA L. ROLLINGER, City Clerk of the City of Laguna Beach, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 00.063 was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of said City held on October 24, 2000, by the following vote:

COUNCILMEMBER(S): Peterson, Iseman, Dicterow, Blackburn AYES:

NOES COUNCILMEMBER(S): None

ABSENT COUNCILMEMBER(S): Freeman

City Clerk of the City of Laguna Beach, CA

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TOPIC 6 POLICY COMPARISONS					
Policy	1987 Topic 6 Document	Policy	Revised 2000 Topic 6 Document		
6A	Inventory existing walking and hiking trails on public and private property within the City, pending funding availability.	Maps	Trails mapped and inventoried on Maps 1-3.		
6B	Complete the mapping of a Master Plan of Hiking and Walking Trails with the potential to connect to adjacent regional trail systems, identifying trail type and an implementation program, including a prioritized improvement schedule.	Maps	Trails mapped and inventoried on Maps 1-3.		
6C	Pursue funding for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of a local trail system	No Change	× .		
6D	Establish a program for citizen awareness of the trail network within the City.	No Change			
6E	Utilize where possible, the margins of the flood control channel for foot and bike trail linkages, utilizing screening from the roadway where appropriate.		Removed from updated document. No trails a near the flood control channel.		
6F	Pursue funding for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of the local trail system.	No Change			
6G	Discourage the abandonment of dedicated unimproved street right-of-ways, public easements, or other reservations secured by the City, unless such action is in the public interest. The City shall not abandon a street, right-of-way, easement or other reservation if it adversely impacts public access to beaches and trails.	No Change			
6H	Preserve a continuous open space corridor within the hillsides in order to preserve natural resources and recreational opportunities.	No Change			
61	Educational and interpretive programs should be provided to increase public awareness of needed resource protection.	3	Provide educational and interpretive programs increase public awareness of needed resource protection.		
6J	Trails and access improvements, including stairs, ramps, railings, restrooms and parking facilities should be sited and designed in a manner compatible with maximized view-shed protection.	7	Site and design trails and access improvement including stairs, ramps, railings, restrooms ar parking facilities in a manner compatible wi maximized view-shed protection.		
6K	Ensure that new development does not encroach on access to trails nor preclude future provision of access.	No Change	COASTAL COMMISSION		
	future provision of access.		COASTAL COMMISSION		

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6L.	Provide public pedestrian access to Open	No			
	Space ecreation areas, except where it is	Change			
	inconsistent with public safety or the				
	protection of fragile coastal resources.		· · ·		
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6M	The trail network throughout the hillside	10	Recognize trails as multipurpose for a variety of		
	areas shall be oriented to hiking or passive pedestrian recreational use, and by design,		users, providing recreational opportunities for hikers, walkers and bicyclists while restricting		
	shall prohibit vehicular or equestrian use.		motorized vehicles and equestrian use.		
	shan promon venicular or equeoritan ase.		Differentiate between biking and hiking trails.		
NEW POLICIES					
12	Design trails to minimize exposure of liability to the City of Laguna Beach.				
13	Encourage future volunteer trail maintenance programs by pursuing a Citywide volunteer trail maintenan				
	effort.				
14	Pursue and provide for trail links within the City of Laguna Beach to connect trails, parks and open space				
	areas in adjacent jurisdictions.				
15	Provide signage that displays a system of easily recognizable markers identifying the type, length and				
	location of trails.				
16	Minimize trail development impacts to adjacent residential neighborhoods.				
17	Encourage disabled and elderly access to open space areas.				
18	Provide refuse facilities for dogs, where allowed, including bag dispensers and trash containers.				
19	Pursue the development of City trails that augment the existing County trail network.				

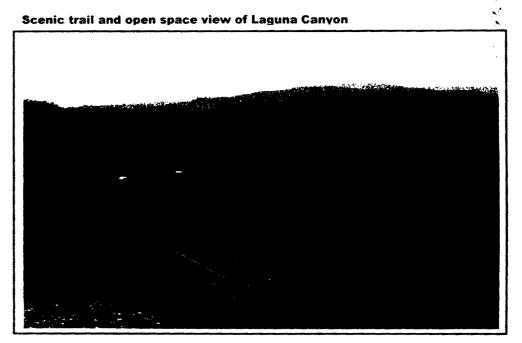
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Open Space/Conservation Element

TOPIC 6: MASTER PLAN OF TRAILS

I. Background

The City of Laguna Beach has long been recognized as possessing one of the most picturesque coastal habitats in California. What is less well known is the network of trails in the City and abundance of natural open space land to access these resources.



In 1987, the City Council approved a Master Plan of Hiking Trails as a component of the Open Space/Conservation Element. Two of the original objectives adopted with this component included: 1) inventory existing walking and hiking trails on public and private property within the City; and 2) complete the mapping of a Master Plan of Hiking and Walking Trails with the potential to connect to adjacent regional trail systems.

The City, with support from the Open Space Committee, has completed and mapped an inventory of the existing trails and identified ownership as either private or public. The new data was obtained by preliminary site investigation and digitizing the existing trail network with the use of digital aerial photographs. The new trail maps indicate the existing trail network within the City and surrounding areas.

COASTAL COMMISSION LGB LCPA 1-01 EXHIBIT #_____ PAGE____OF__C

II. Issue Identification and Analysis

The parpose of this General Plan topic is to provide a long-range plan to guide the City in enhancing hiking, walking and biking opportunities. This section describes the opportunities and constraints that influence the location and pattern of trails; establishes objectives for trail development; graphically illustrates a trail system; and provides implementation measures. It is intended to establish the structure and framework for an officially recognized comprehensive City trail system. Some of the implementation measures will take many years to complete, and the success of the trail program will be determined by the level of participation and commitment of the citizenry. ż

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A. Trail Inventory/Trail Access/Trail Linkages

Although the opportunity exists for a comprehensive trail system, a number of constraints must be overcome. There are approximately 21 miles of trails within the City of Laguna Beach that exist on both private and publicly owned land. Approximately 11 miles of trails traverse property owned by Orange County or the City of Laguna Beach and approximately 10 miles of trails traverse privately owned property.

The Trail Network Maps differentiate trails as either public or private (see Maps 1-3). A public trail may be situated either on publicly owned property, managed by the City or Orange County or on land that has been dedicated for public use. A private trail is situated on privately owned land that has not been formally offered for dedication for public use. Topic 6 does not sanction the use of undedicated trails by the public.

Identifying and providing trail linkages is one of the main goals of the long-range Trails Master Plan. The County of Orange maintains two significant areas of trails with potential and existing links to City trail access. These areas include the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, to the southeast, and the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, to the northeast (see Maps 1-3). These two parks significantly increase the opportunity for City trail access and also provide a link to the Orange County Regional Riding and Hiking Trail system. The linkage provides the local trail users access to regional inland trails and open space areas from the City trail network.

B. <u>Allowed Trail Uses/Classifying Users and Trail Types/Trail Signage/Staging</u> <u>Areas and Facilities/Naming Trails</u>

The City's public trail network is available for hiking, walking and biking and excludes motorized vehicles and equestrian uses. Although dogs are prohibited on the County Maintained system of trails, dogs are allowed on City trails. Municipal Code Section 6.16.010 specifies that a leash must restrain dogs on public and private property.

Classifying trail types is essential for informing the trail user about the permitted use, difficulty and length of the existing trails. Because there exists a variety of trail users, it is important to indicate trail difficulty by a classification system. Classifying trails will promote trails use for a variety of users, including individuals with disabilities and the elderly. Once the trails are classified, they can then be named to promote familiarity and location and provide trail users a place for meeting and gathering. Currently, there is no official classification of City trails, although the Open Space Committee is in the process of organizing a trail classification system.

Signage is a valuable part of a trail system and can identify trails by classification, length, and educate users on proper use. Signage on trails can identify the appropriate trail for each user and can be incorporated into the trail system to identify significant points of interest. Trail signage, provided by the Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks, is available at several trail locations within the City. Currently, the City provides limited trail signage, although a future work program could include formally naming the trails and provide signage for the complete City trail network. The City should utilize available funding to install trail signs that conform to the existing Orange County trail signage (see photo below).





Staging areas provide trail users with access points to the trail system. Several formal staging areas can be accessed from the City of Laguna Beach (see Maps 1 and 2). The staging area at the north end of Alta Laguna Boulevard, adjacent to

the Top of the World Park, is conveniently located to serve trail users. This stage area is maintained by the County of Orange and provides trailhead access to the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. The City should pursue a funding program to provide trailheads and connection points with usable trail staging facilities, where feasible. Trail staging areas should be located where adequate parking is available and the congregation of trail users will not adversely impact adjacent neighborhoods.



Prospective trail staging area at Nestall Road unimproved right-of-way

C. Dedication and Acquisition of Trail Easements /Trail Funding

The authority of the General Plan enables the City to actively promote and provide for the acquisition and conservation of open space areas, including trails. There are several methods that the City can utilize to acquire trail segments and trail easements, including: dedications, donations, cooperative agreements and purchasing.

Because the City is near build-out, there is limited opportunity for future subdivisions. The majority of the large remaining undeveloped parcels are located near the City periphery, where most of the existing trail networks exist. These undeveloped parcels, as a condition of potential development approval, could be required to dedicate a trail easement, relocate an existing trail easement or improve an existing trail segment.

Federal, state and corporate grants can be a large source of revenue for assisting funding of new trails and trail improvements. Numerous federal and state agencies distribute monetary grants to fund local government maintenance of their trail networks, including: Inter-Modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act "ISTEA" Funds, Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century "TEA-21" funds, Bicycle Transportation Act "BTA" funds for bikeway projects and Measure "M" funds. Also, private corporations donate millions of dollars to preserve, restore, and enhance access to open space areas. For example, the Irvine Company is often involved in the dedication and improvement of open space in anticipation of future open space requirements for future development. The City should procure as many of these funds as possible in order to develop the local trail network.

Cooperative agreements offer an opportunity to improve and increase the City's trail access. Currently, the City cooperates with Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks to allow a significant portion of the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and Wildlife Sanctuary to encroach onto or connect with City-owned open space land. This agreement increases local trail access and provides a link to the County trail network between Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo and the City of Laguna Beach. The City should pursue joint agreements with public and private agencies to establish permanent trail segments.

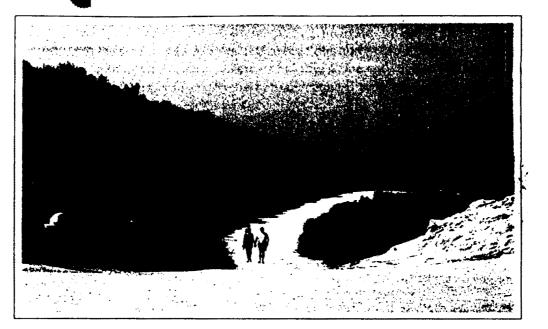
D. <u>Trail Operation and Maintenance/Establish Program for Citizen Awareness of</u> <u>City Trail Network</u>

Currently, the City has limited participation in the maintenance of the trail network. Current trail maintenance consists of volunteer groups who perform most of the annual trail repair. The City should encourage future volunteer trail maintenance programs and initiate the formation of a citywide volunteer trail maintenance effort. Through the Open Space Committee, the City could introduce this effort by establishing a volunteer trails coordinator to organize and promote the trail maintenance effort. There also exists many charitable organizations, such as "Trails-4-All," that collect donations through memberships to improve and maintain Southern California trails. The City should be more active in pursuing future volunteer support for trail maintenance.

Handouts and brochures are one of many devices the City can introduce to provide citizen awareness of the City's trail network. The City could produce an easy-to-carry, fold-up brochure that includes a map of the City's trail network, trail information, rules and regulations and safety tips. The brochure could be distributed from the City Hall and various locations along the trail network.



Entrance to trail system with fencing protecting fragile natural vegetation



III. Policies

- 1. Pursue funding for the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of the local trail system.
- 2. Establish a program for citizen awareness of the trail network within the City.
- 3. Provide educational and interpretive programs to increase public awareness of needed resource protection.
- 4. Require as a condition of development approval, the dedication and improvement of public trail easements.
- 5. Discourage the abandonment of dedicated unimproved street right-of-ways, public easements, or other reservations secured by the City, unless such action is in the public interest. The City shall not abandon a street, right-of-way, easement or other reservation if it adversely impacts public access to beaches and trails.
- 6. Ensure that new development does not encroach on access to trails nor preclude future provision of access.
- 7. Site and design trails and access improvements, including stairs, ramps, railings, restrooms and parking facilities in a manner compatible with maximized view-shed protection.
- 8. Preserve a continuous open space corridor within the hillsides in order to preserve natural resources and recreational opportunities.
- 9. Provide public pedestrian access to Open Space/Recreation areas, except where it is inconsistent with public safety or the protection of fragile coastal resources.

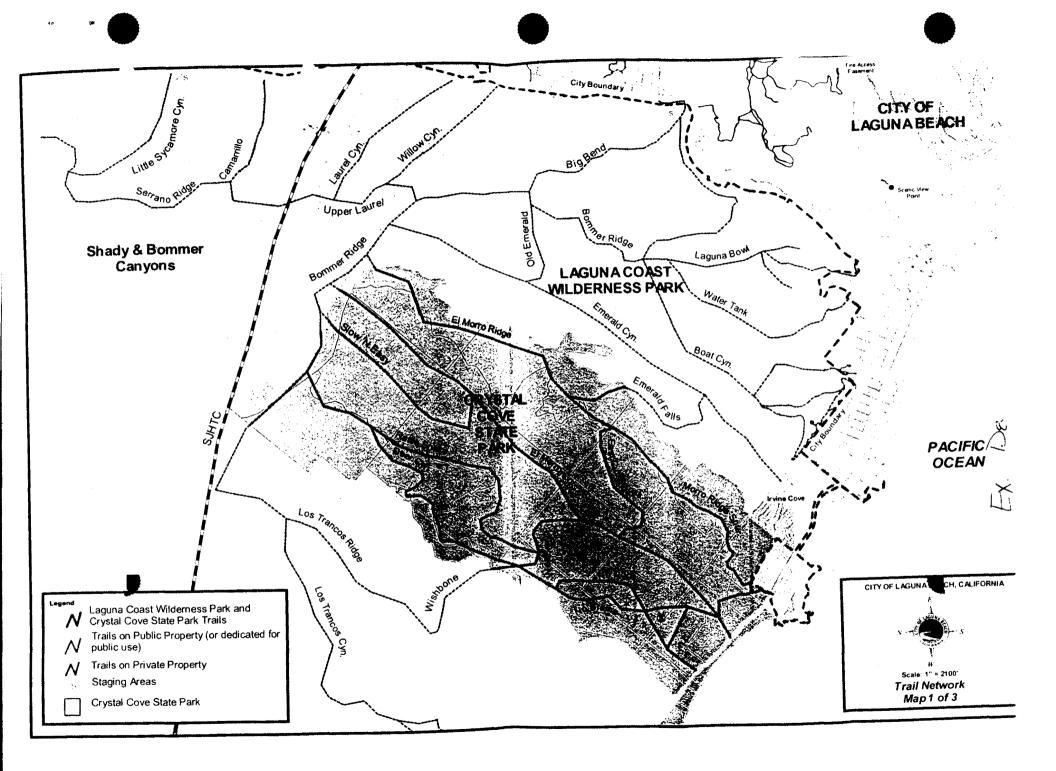
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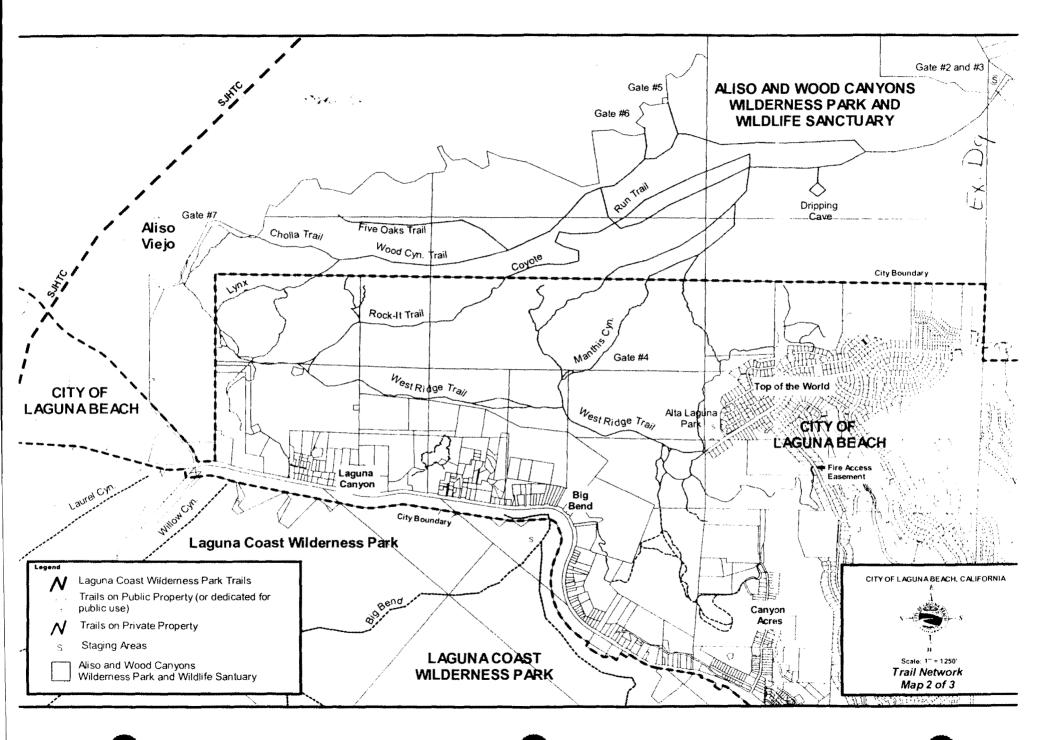
- 10. Recognize trails as multipurpose for a variety of users, providing recreational opportunities for hikers, walkers and bicyclists while restricting motorized vehicles and equestrian use. Differentiate between biking and hiking trails.
- 11. Organize and produce a trail brochure that includes a map of the City trail network, trail information, rules and regulations and safety tips.
- 12. Design trails to minimize exposure of liability to the City of Laguna Beach.
- 13. Encourage future volunteer trail maintenance programs by pursuing a Citywide volunteer trail maintenance effort.
- 14. Pursue and provide for trail links within the City of Laguna Beach to connect trails, parks, and open space areas in adjacent jurisdictions.
- 15. Provide signage that displays a system of easily recognizable markers identifying the type, length and location of trails.
- 16. Minimize trail development impacts to adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- 17. Encourage disabled and elderly access to open space areas.
- 18. Provide refuse facilities for dogs, where allowed, including bag dispensers and trash containers.
- 19. Pursue the development of City trails that augment the existing County trail network.

IV. Implementation Program

- 1. Regulatory measures-
 - □ Require dedication through development approval for trails and improvements.
- 2. Special Studies/Data Maintenance-
 - Promote a trail classification system and categorize individual trails by difficulty. Make use of standard County sign designations to the maximum extent possible.
- 3. Capital Improvement Programs-
 - Procure funds to improve the local trail system. Provide new City trail signage that conforms to the existing County trail signs.
 - Continue to pursue the opportunistic acquisition of open space land.
- 4. Public Education-
 - Promote public awareness programs for walking, hiking and biking trails.
 - □ Produce a local trail map brochure.
- 5. Programs and Actions Involving Other Agencies and Organizations-
 - □ Combine trails planning efforts with the County of Orange.
 - □ Coordinate volunteer trail maintenance programs with citizens, environmental groups, walking/hiking and cycling clubs.

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