

ADMINISTRATIVE PARCELS -- SADDLE

Planning Area: Saddle (4)

Administrative Parcel: State Park (04)

Location and description: The State Park is an area of approximately 204 acres located in the northwestern half of the Mountain across Guadalupe Canyon Parkway from the County Park. It is bordered on the north by residential Daly City and on the east by the Guadalupe Hills Planning Area. On the west it reaches around to Reservoir Hill, following the shape of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. It is also adjacent on the north to the Brisbane School Site and "47 Units". The State Park contains grassland and brushland communities as well as large groves of introduced species such as gorse, eucalyptus and pine. The site has also been greatly disturbed by off-road vehicle activity and some parts are used for illegal dumping (See Figures 4-04 A-C).

Ownership: The State Park is owned by the State of California, however it will be administered by the County of San Mateo.

Project: The currently proposed project for the Park consists of installing park facilities which include a nature interpretive center, a park office, maintenance facilities, bicycle and hiking trails and picnic areas (Figure 4-04 F).

Status: This is a planned parcel. A Master Plan for the park has been adopted by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Biological Issues: The State Park is located in an area which at present is not heavily utilized by the butterflies because it does not offer much habitat that is suitable for their use. Because of the frequent disturbance from ORV users and illegal dumping, the area that was once native grassland has turned into an area predominated by species characteristic of disturbed areas. Parts of this area which are particularly disturbed would be appropriate to use for experimentation of HCP enhancement techniques because of the lack of native habitat. Bunchgrass habitat does exist in the park and should be avoided during experimentation and construction activities. The State Park also has value as part of the corridor which connects the Reservoir Hill area with the rest of SBM, and as such should be made somewhat attractive to the butterflies by the eradication of the introduced species which stand as barriers to passage and, if possible, by the establishment of host plants (See Figures 4-04 D-E).

While it does not as yet support butterfly habitat, it is thought that the park does contain habitat for the endangered San Francisco Garter Snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*, although this has not yet been proven.

Impact: The park facilities will disrupt the continuity of the site and, as currently proposed, may pose a barrier to movement through the area. There will also be loss of potential habitat where the park facilities are built. However, since the facilities are small relative to the area of the park, it is not expected that much potential habitat will be lost. The trails planned for the nature interpretive center will be constructed around the periphery of the most sensitive parts of the area and will impose minimal impact as long as care is taken

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during construction. The area of the park designated to be an "irrigated field" will become a "rough meadow" planted with bunchgrass, mowed and irrigated (Harry Dean, pers. comm.). There may be an impact to surrounding vegetation from the irrigation activities because the irrigation may change the microclimatic character of adjoining areas and alter the makeup of surrounding vegetative communities. It is difficult to assess the specific impact at this time; it is conceivable that this could be beneficial. The hiking and bicycle trails will primarily be created out of existing offroad vehicle trails, so the impact of introducing these trails into the area does not exist; there will be an impact to the surrounding habitat, however, if park patrons do not remain on the trails, particularly if the area is heavily used.

HCP Objectives - Specific Conservation Needs: The HCP approach with regard to the State Park is to use the area as best as possible in the early years for testing habitat/corridor enhancement and native grassland reclamation techniques. In particular, the area provides the opportunity to develop both means of managing the brush and exotics which tend to overrun the grassland, and cost effective ways to re-introduce native species. Habitat conservation will also be applicable in the areas which still support some of the species native to SBM.

In areas designated for such use, habitat modification techniques such as chaining, scraping, burning and soil modification will be started. These activities will lead to an increase in butterfly habitat if host plant populations become established because of them. Similarly, methods of brush and exotic control can be tested and used to benefit the park by promoting the re-establishment of native habitat and opening corridors for dispersion of the species.

Means of conserving existing habitat and inhabitants will include controlling the extent of park patron and grassland interaction. Measures to be taken may include frequent ranger patrol, and the posting of signs requiring patrons to remain within designated boundaries and which explain that habitat enhancement is in progress.

Operating Program

Obligations: The County has the following obligations:

1. Compliance with mitigation measures set forth in the Operating Program for all Management Units.
2. Compliance with the Planning Assistance requirements set forth in the Operating Program for all Management Units.
3. Participation in the regulatory provisions and funding program of the HCP.
4. Submit the final grading plan of buildings, roads and trails used to obtain a grading permit and a reclamation plan to the Plan Operator for approval. The plan shall provide for temporary fencing around sites of major grading to protect all Conserved Habitat.

The Plan operator has the following obligations:

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1. Execution of appropriate portions of the Operating Program for Management Units 4-04-02, 4-04-03, and 4-04-04.
2. Advice and direction to the County in their compliance with the operating program in all Management Units.
3. Timely response to the County's submittal of plans which require

Plan Operator review and approval.

Management Units:

1. 4-04-01. This area was chosen as a Management Unit because it is the site of the proposed nature interpretive center. It is bordered on the south by Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and on the north by an existing road lined with mature evergreen trees. The area is typified by a bog and contains bunchgrass; it may be habitat for the San Francisco garter snake (a Federal and State listed endangered species), since this animal inhabits marshy areas. The nature interpretive building will be approximately 3000 to 4000 square feet (Harry Dean, pers. comm.) and the rest of the interpretive center will consist of trails which surround the bog. There may be raised boardwalks which reach into the bog area.

- a. Control human encroachment into native habitat to protect the area from trampling, vandalism and arson.
- b. During construction, minimize graded areas and fence the sites of grading as appropriate to protect open space.
- c. During construction, take measures to protect facilities from fire; this may include fire breaks or using fireproof building materials.
- d. As necessary, control future exotic and brush encroachment into desirable habitat using eradication measures.
- e. Assess habitat value for S. F. Garter Snake; provide assistance to County Parks on assessing impacts and making those design changes which may be necessary to avoid conflicts with the snake.

2. 4-04-02. This Unit is comprised of the leg of the park which follows Guadalupe Canyon Parkway around to Reservoir Hill and is bordered on the north by Crocker Avenue. On the eastern side it contains bunchgrass, annual grassland and exotic species such as pampas grass; adjacent to this on the west is a large grove of eucalyptus trees which extends across the width of the area from Crocker Avenue down the slope to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Past the eucalyptus grove is brushy grassland which includes northern coastal scrub species; the area closest to Reservoir Hill contains more grassland area.

- a. Eradicate exotic species now present in the grassland, avoiding areas containing native species, and control future encroachment of exotics.
- b. Create and maintain a corridor area through the large grove of eucalyptus. This will be especially important if development proceeds on the Brisbane School Site and "47 Units" because it will be the only area remaining available for use as a corridor.

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- c. If possible, revegetate corridor through eucalyptus grove with host plants and native grassland species at a later date. Consideration may be given to introduction of host plants into grassy areas close to Reservoir Hill.
- d. Minimize human use of the area; use measures to control vandalism.

3. 4-04-03. This Management Unit contains the majority of the bike trails and vista points that are planned for the park. It is adjacent to "47 Units" on the west and reaches around to the border of the Guadalupe Hills planning area on the east, skirting the area of more intense development which is treated as Management Unit 4-04-04. The trails proposed for this unit will be created from existing off-road vehicle trails.

- a. At appropriate time of year, remove European annual grassland and exotics/brush which have entered grassland areas and re-introduce native species using habitat enhancement techniques.
- b. Prior to construction, delineate and conserve areas of existing native habitat.
- c. Control human encroachment into the grassland with the use of patrols, signs and low fences if necessary, requiring patrons to remain on trails.
- d. During trail construction, keep trail construction equipment on existing off-road vehicle trails which are devoid of vegetation, and avoid moving equipment onto grassland.

4. 4-04-04. This Management Unit is comprised of an area of the park which will be used for picnicking and access to hiking/bicycling trails. It will include both group and family picnic areas, a paved road and two irrigated fields. Depending on the level of patronage, this could be the most heavily used and the most greatly impacted area of the park.

- a. During construction, revegetate cut areas with native species and host plants.
- b. During construction, eradicate exotics to prevent their further spread into adjoining grassland habitat.
- c. During construction, install measures to control water runoff from irrigated fields and the paved road to prevent erosion and minimize the impacts on the vegetative in adjoining areas.

FIGURE 4-04 A, STATE PARK
PARCEL LOCATION

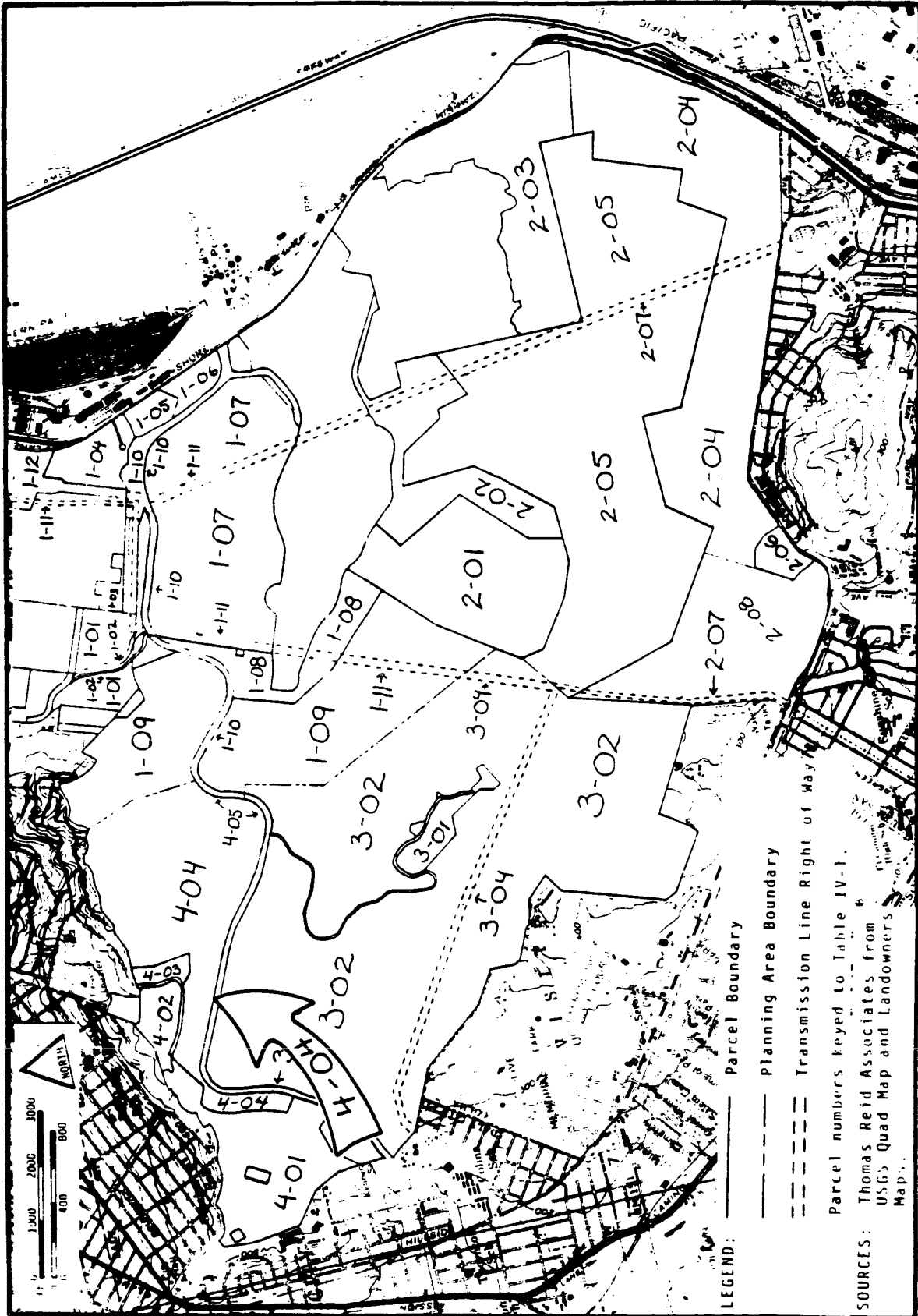


FIGURE 4-04 B, STATE PARK
PARCEL TOPOGRAPHY

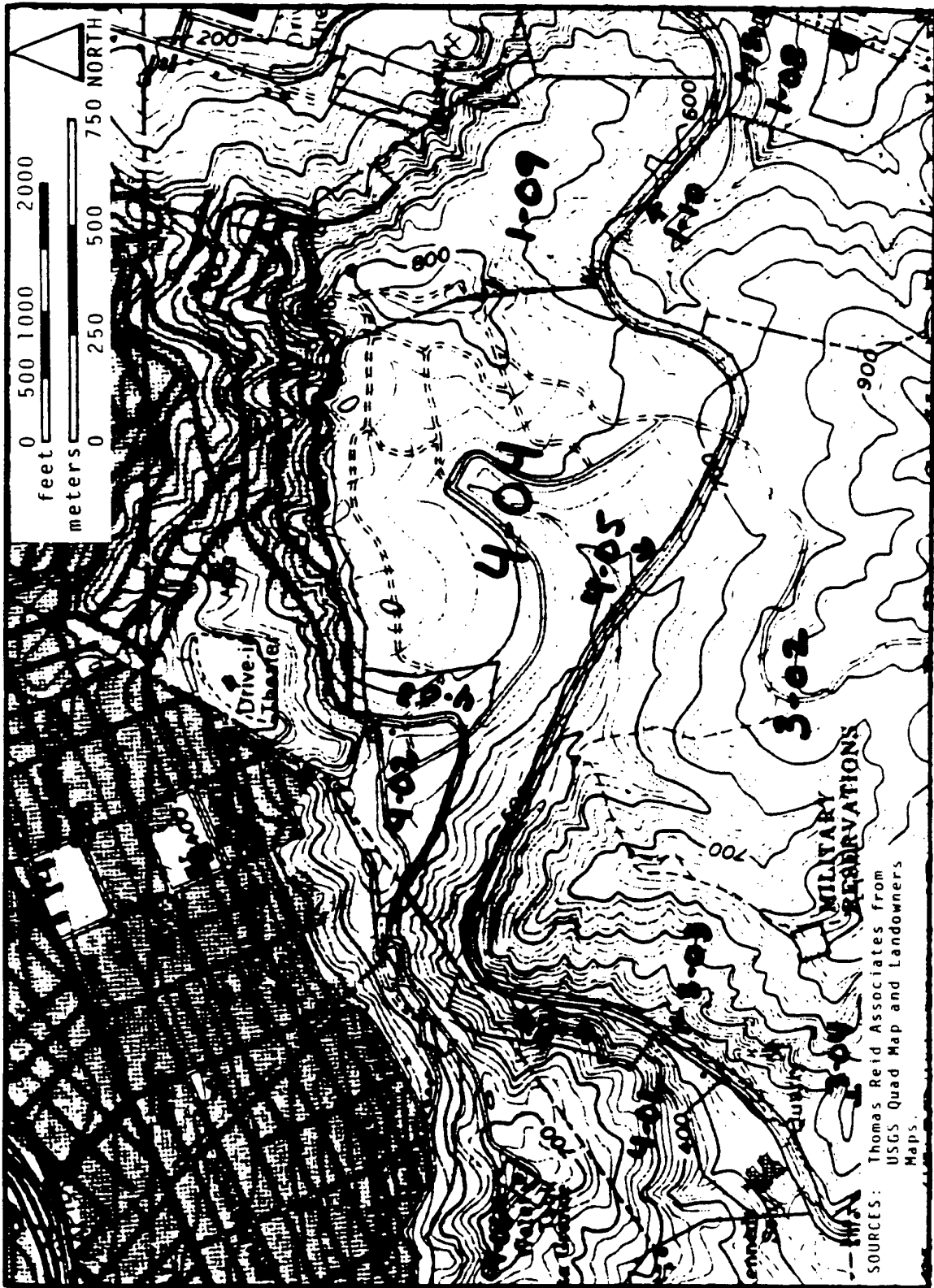


FIGURE 4-04 C, STATE PARK
MANAGEMENT UNITS

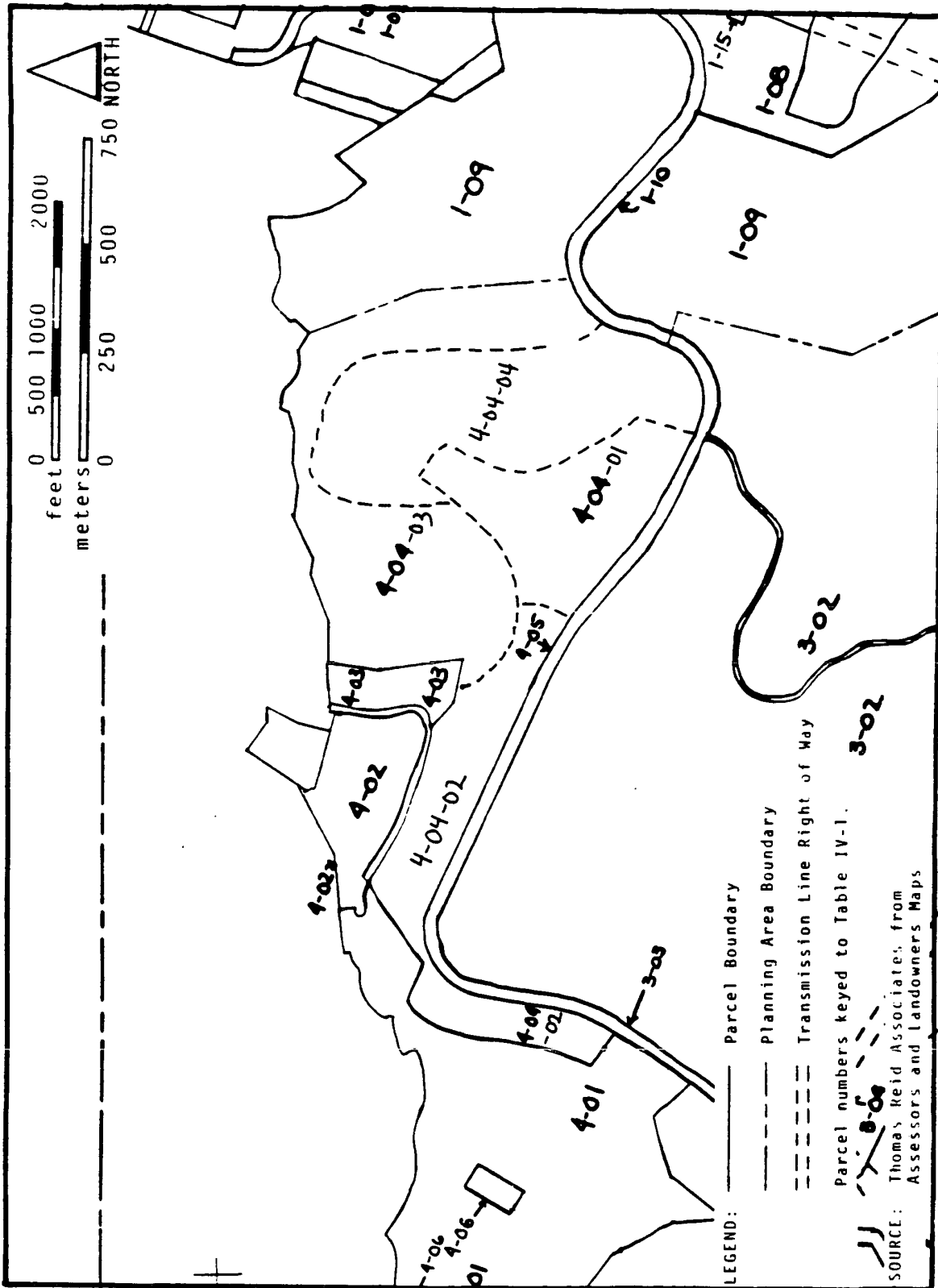


FIGURE 4-04 D, STATE PARK
GENERAL POPULATION AND HABITAT DISTRIBUTION, 1981 -- MISSION BLUE

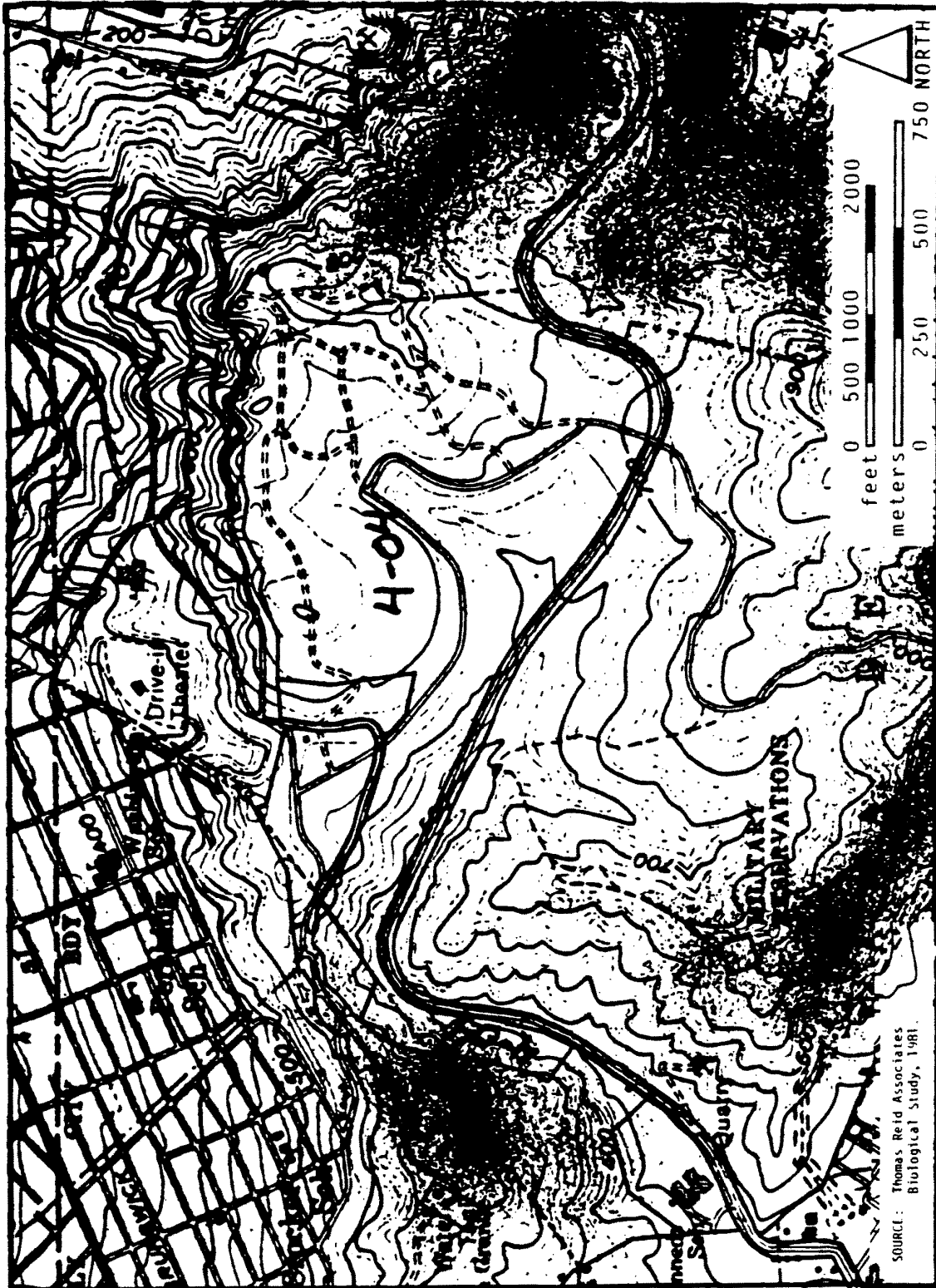


FIGURE 4-04 E, STATE PARK
 GENERAL POPULATION AND HABITAT DISTRIBUTION, 1981 -- CALLIPPE SILVERSPOT

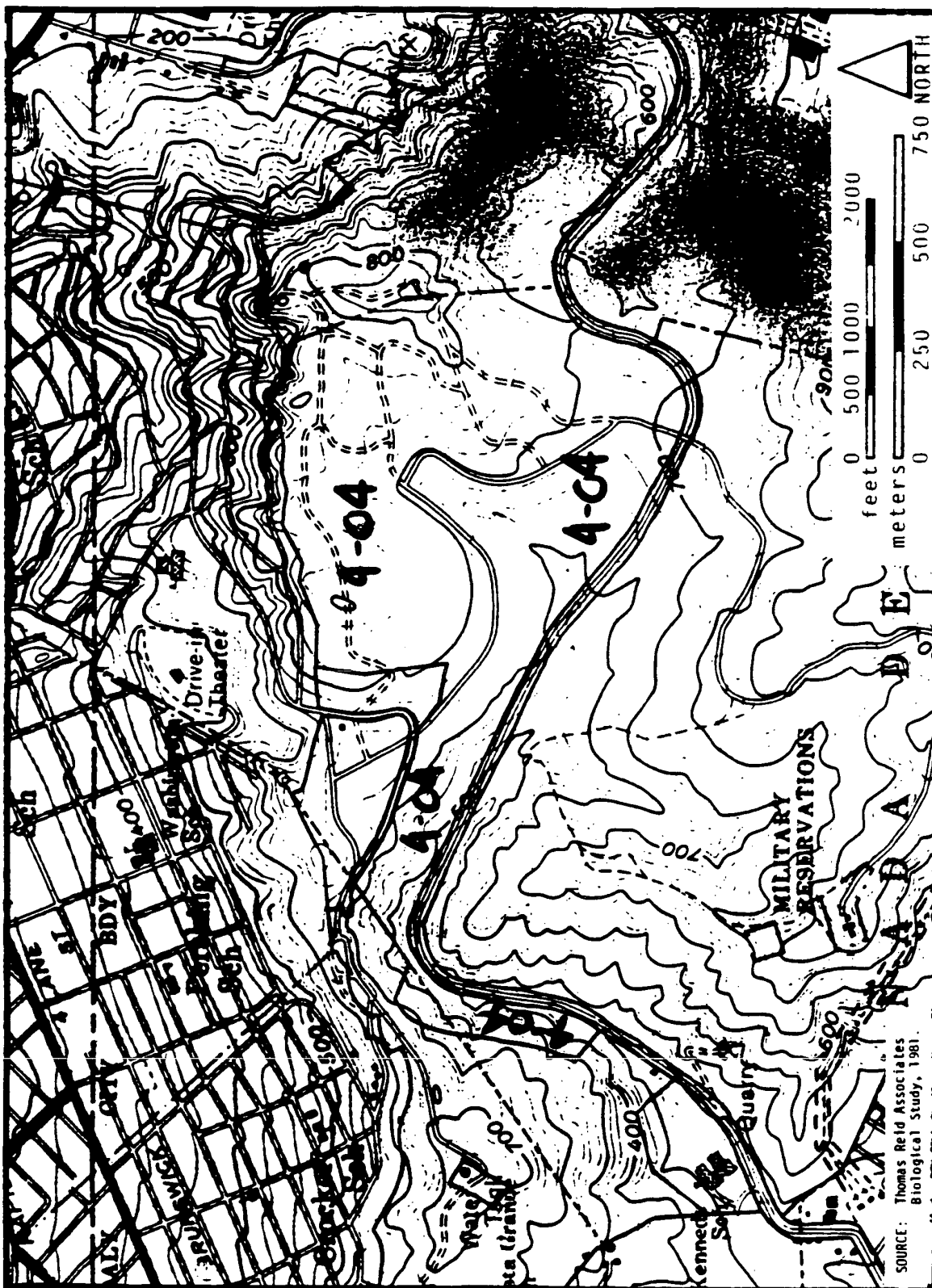
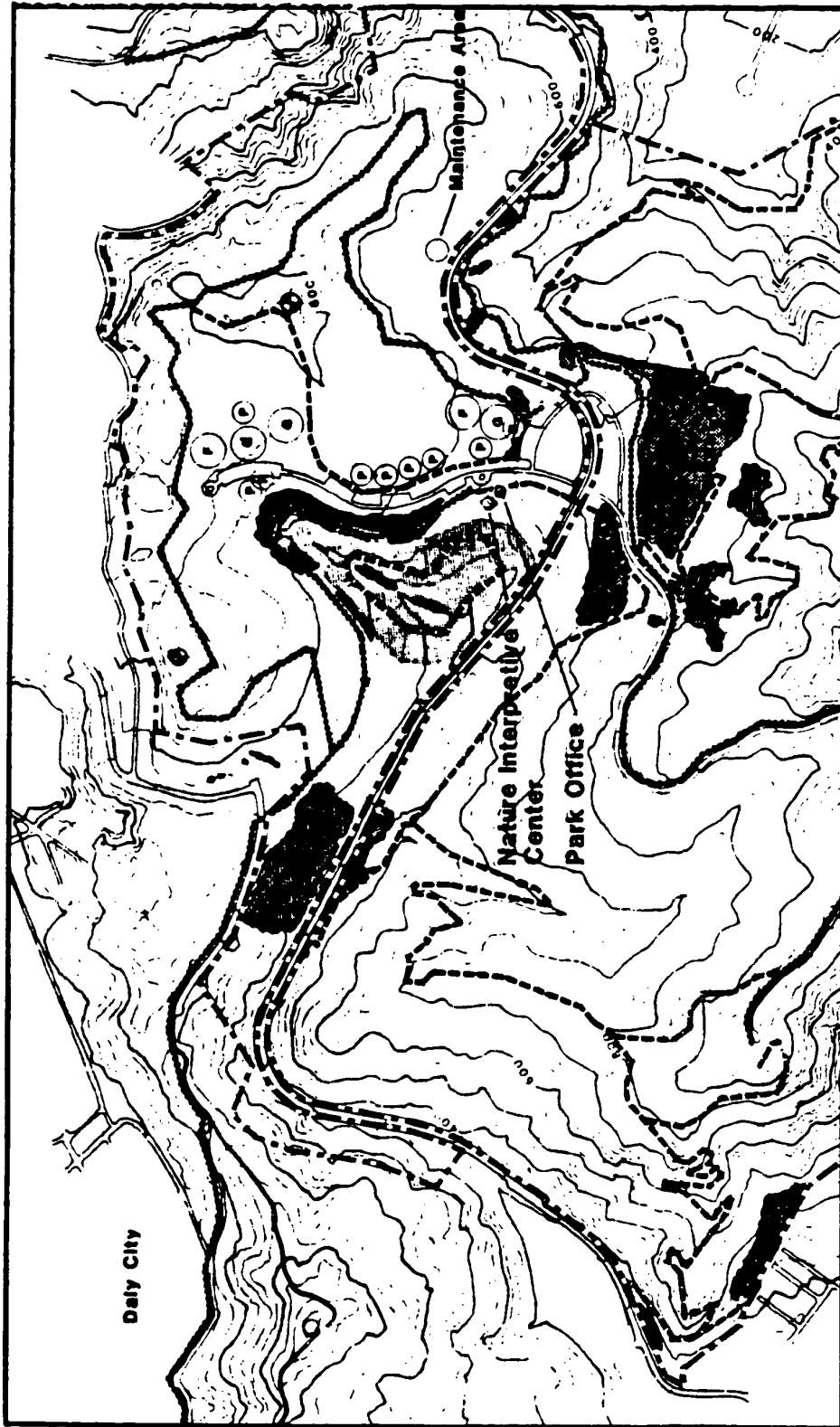


FIGURE 4-04 F, STATE PARK
DEVELOPMENT PLAN



feet 0 250 500 750 1000
meters 0 100 200 300

NORTH

SOURCE: Division of Parks and Recreation,
County of San Mateo;
Thomas Reid Associates

- LEGEND:
- Building facilities
 - Group Picnic Area
 - Family Picnic Area - 20 Tables
 - Irrigated Field
 - Rest Rooms
 - Vista Point
 - Nature Interpretive Area
 - Existing Trees
 - Bicycle Trail
 - Hiking Trail
 - Road
 - Park boundary