# Goleta Beach County Park Managed Retreat Project 2.0

## Public Draft Environmental Impact Report

## Public Workshop

June 12, 2013

# Introductions and Agenda

Anne Almy - Supervising Planner

Alex Tuttle - Project Manager

Dan Gira, *AMEC  Environment & Infrastructure, Inc*

- Purpose of Public Workshop
- Project Background
- Organization of the Draft EIR
- Project Description
- Overview of EIR Content and Findings
- Alternatives
- CEQA/ Draft EIR Public Process
- Informal Questions and Answers

# Purpose of Public Workshop

- Assist public in reading and interpreting the Draft EIR
- Advise the public where to obtain the Draft EIR and how to make comments
- Provide an informal venue for questions regarding the proposed Project and Draft EIR

# Project Background

- **2002**: Emergency rock revetment installed in response to coastal erosion/ damage to Park
- **2003-2005**: Goleta Beach Master Plan process
- **2006**: County issues draft EIR
- **2008**: County submits application to Coastal Commission for permeable groin and revetment project
- **2009**: Coastal Commission denies project
- **2010**: Board of Supervisors endorses Goleta Beach 2.0 Project

# Organization of the Draft EIR

Executive Summary

1. Introduction
2. Project Description
3. Cumulative Projects Scenario
4. Environmental Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures
5. Consistency with Plans and Policies
6. Other CEQA Sections
7. Alternatives
8. List of Preparers
9. References

# Organization of the Draft EIR

Appendices

**A Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Comments on NOP**

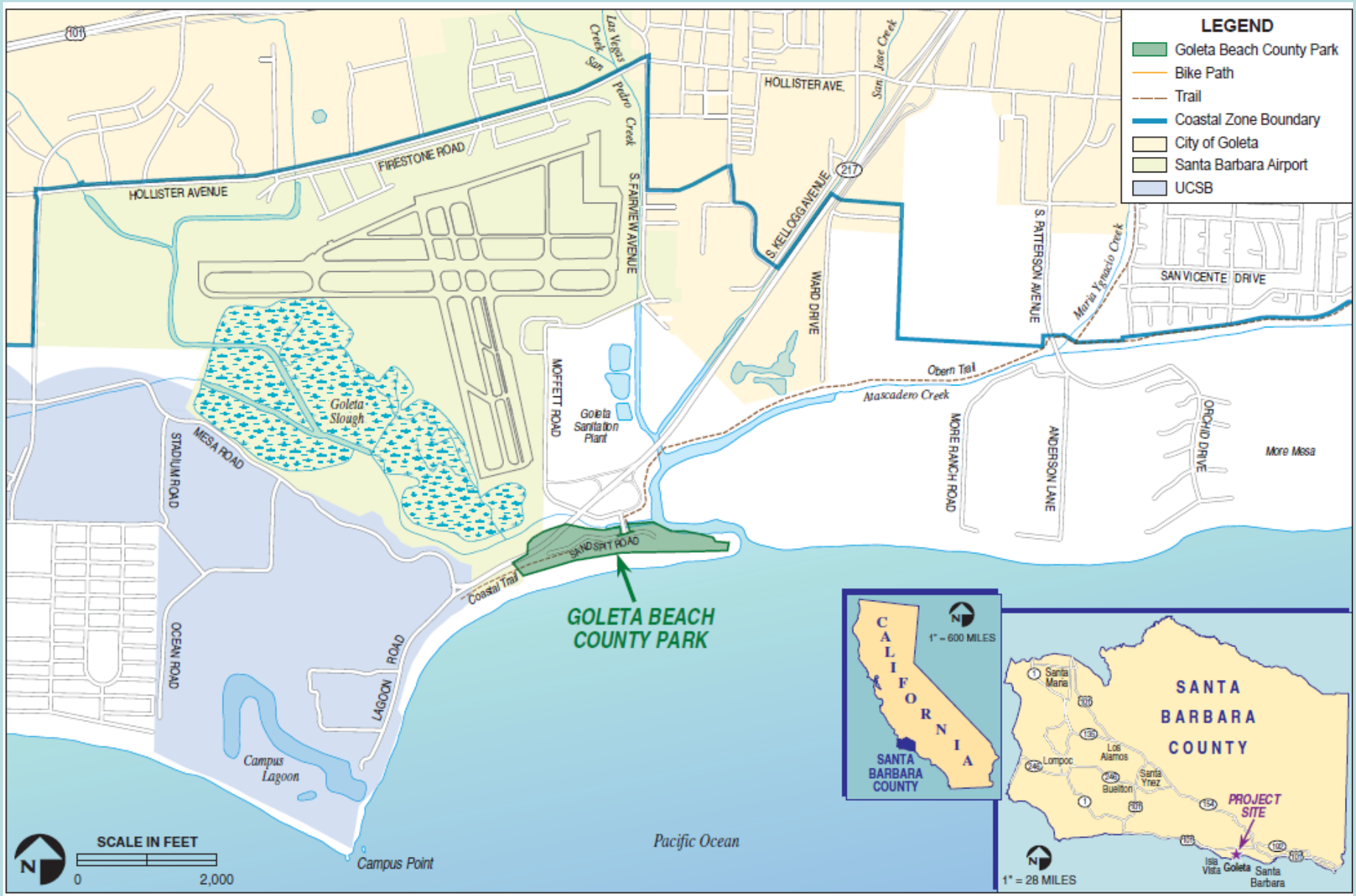
**B Traffic and Parking Study**

**C Air Quality Calculations**

**D Biological Resources**

**E Coastal Processes**

# Project Location

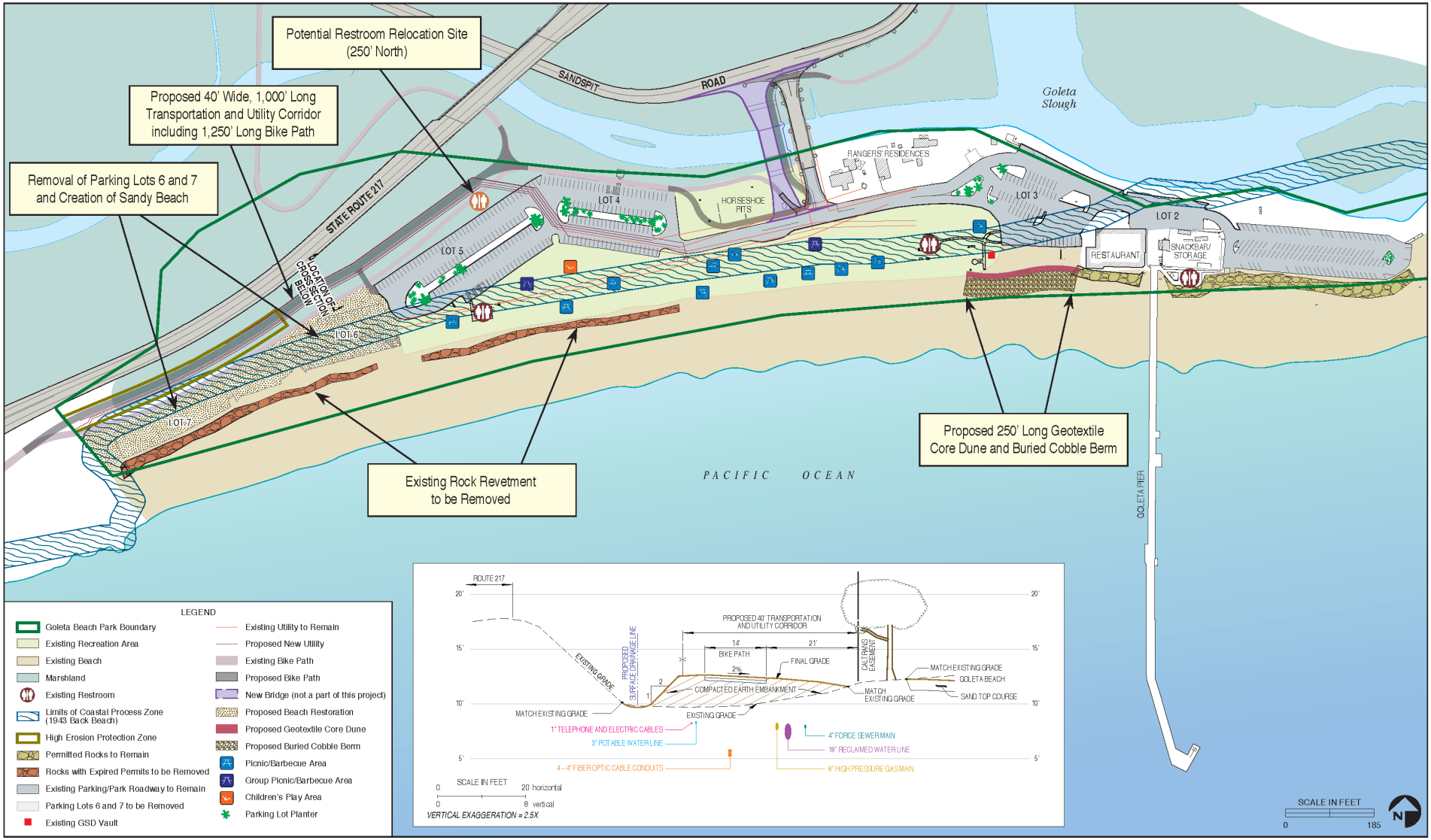


# Proposed Project

*Managed Retreat Project – Protect Key Park Facilities and Utilities from Coastal Erosion*

- Remove existing parking lots (lots 6 & 7) to avoid coastal process zone and restore 1 acre of sandy beach
- Create transportation/ utility corridor landward from coast adjacent to SR 217
- Remove 1,200 feet of rock revetment on west end of beach
- Install 250 foot-long geotextile dune/ buried cobble berm fronting GSD sewer vault

# Project Overview



# Project Overview

# Removal of Lots 6 and 7

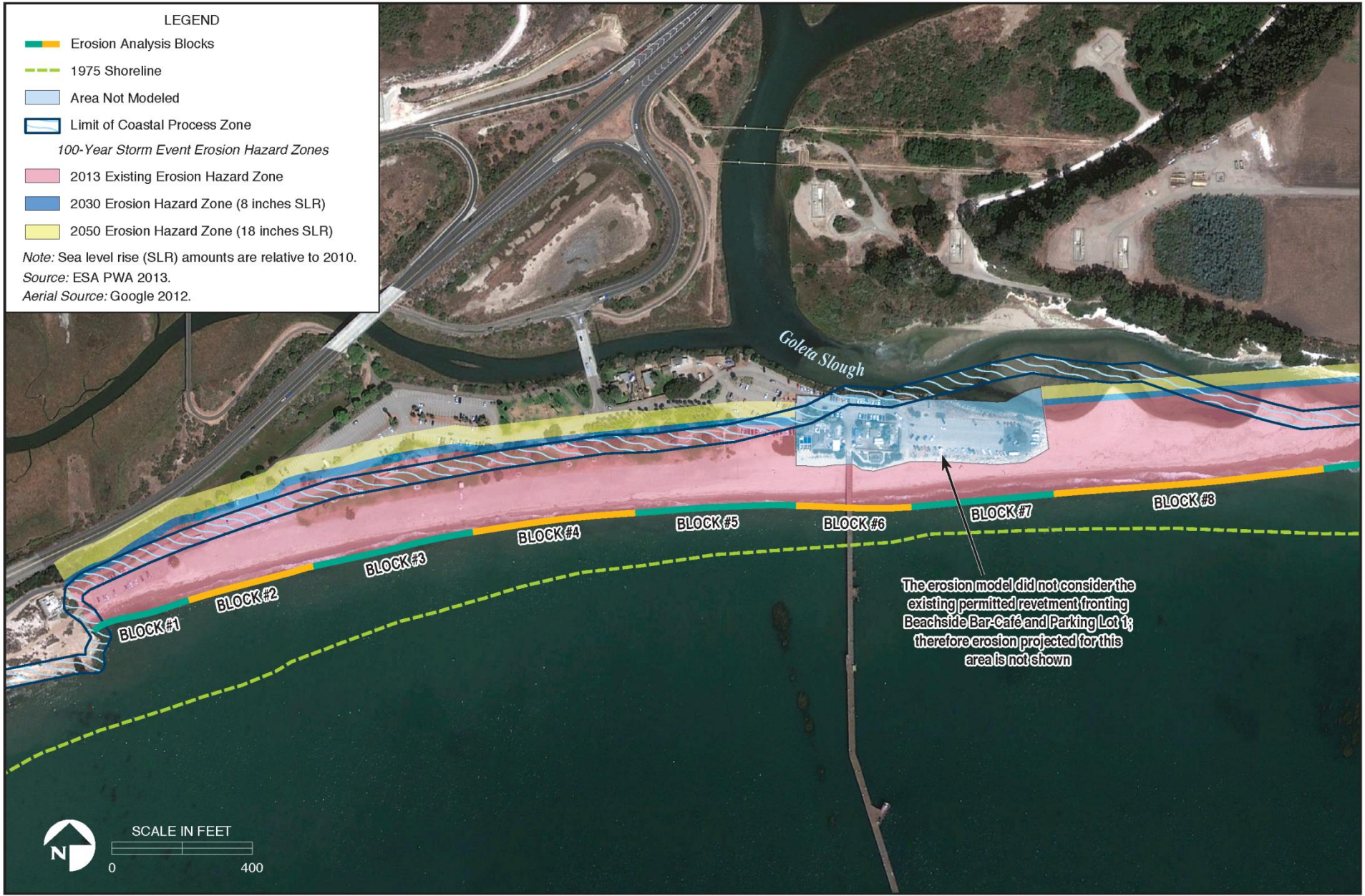

**Existing Conditions – 2012**
Parking Lots 6 and 7 on a busy summer weekend. Bikepath not visible due to parked cars. Revetment currently buried under sand berm.


**Post-Project**
Parking Lots 6 and 7 replaced by dry sandy beach (revetment removed) and raised bikepath adjacent to State Route 217.

# Coastal Processes

- **Oscillation of Shoreline:** The shoreline at Goleta Beach appears to oscillate between a wide beach and narrow beach, rather than showing net erosion
- **Large-Scale Ocean Processes Affect The Park:** Park heavily influenced by large-scale variability from El Niño (~5 years) and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (~30 years per cycle)
- **Wave Modeling Projects Substantial Erosion:** Modeling estimated erosion and wave run-up under two sea level rise scenarios – even at current sea levels erosion from severe storm could erode 200 feet into the Park

# Projected Erosion



# Key EIR Issue Areas

- **Aesthetics:** Effects on views from the beach, park areas, public roads, and offshore
- **Coastal Processes:** Coastal erosion impacts on beach and park; effectiveness of protection measures
- **Recreation:** Potential damage to or loss of park facilities (e.g., parking, lawn areas, picnic facilities)
- **Traffic, Parking and Circulation:** Short-term construction (e.g., heavy trucks); loss of parking
- **Utilities:** Potential damage to important utility lines and corridors from coastal erosion

# Class I Unavoidable Impacts

- **Aesthetics**
  - Loss of shoreline lawn/ trees
- **Coastal Processes**
  - Exposure of Park to wave attack, erosion and damage
- **Land Use**
  - Conflicts with Coastal Plan protections for recreation
- **Recreation**
  - Loss of beachfront lawn area

# Coastal Processes: Short-Term

***Immediately Post-Construction***

This illustration depicts Goleta Beach County Park immediately after completion of the proposed Project, under the assumption that the beach does not recede beyond its position in July 2012 (date the base photo was taken). This illustration depicts the sand covering the area currently occupied by parking lots 6 and 7, as well as the geotextile/ cobble berm that under this illustration is covered entirely by sand.

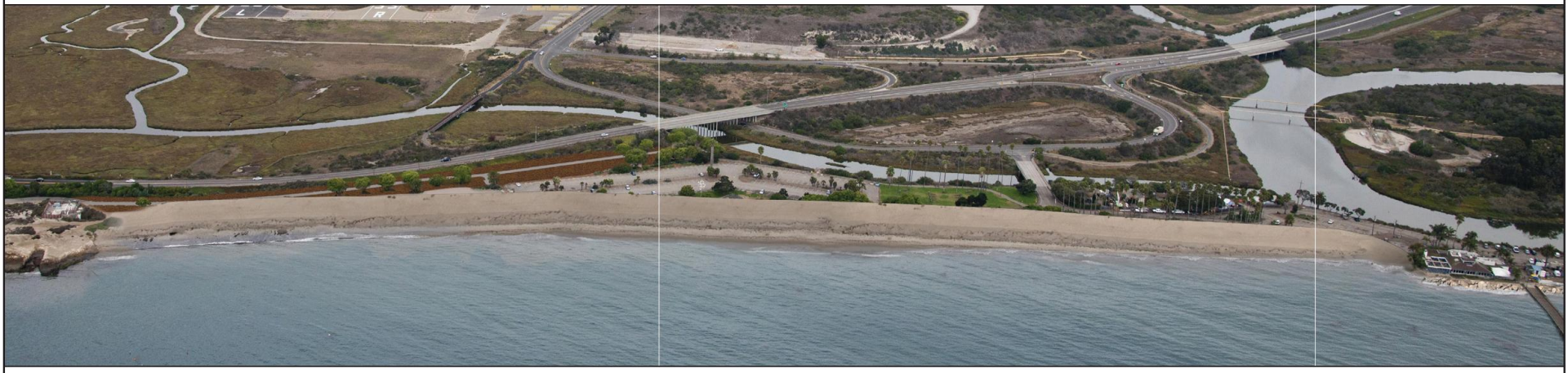
***El Niño***

This illustration depicts Goleta Beach County Park after Project implementation and the wave attack of a typical El Niño storm season, such as occurred in 2004/2005. A steep scarp is present along the edge of the lawn area, and wave runup could periodically penetrate into the Park. No additional loss of Park facilities beyond that which occurred in the 2004/2005 season is depicted, as it is assumed that the sand which has been deposited on the beach since that time would provide a buffer for one such storm season.

# Coastal Processes: Long-Term

***Accretion to Wider Beach***

This illustration shows what Goleta Beach County Park would look like under the proposed Project if the beach were to widen from increased sand retention (accretion), rather than retreat from erosion. These conditions were last observed at the Park in 1975, and have historically occurred during times of ample sand supply (e.g., after major wildfires) and during periods where the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) are negative (refer to Section 4.4, *Coastal Processes*).



***Erosion of Park to Maximum Landward Extent***

This illustration shows what Goleta Beach County Park would look like under the Proposed Project if the shoreline were to substantially recede to approximately its 1943 location, before the construction of the Park. Such erosion could occur as a result of successive El Niño storms, especially during times of a positive PDO (refer to Section 4.4, *Coastal Processes*). Such erosion would be caused by wave attack and could result in damage to the Beachside Bar/ Café, loss of approximately 40 parking spaces in Lots 3 and 5, 2.6 acres of lawn area, potential damage to the Goleta Sanitary District vault, and frequent wave runup across most of the Park.

# Class II Potentially Significant Impacts (Mitigable)

- **Recreation**
  - Parking impacts
- **Utilities**
  - GSD Vault and Relocated Lines
- **Air Quality**
  - Construction emissions and dust
- **Noise**
  - Construction noise, haul trucks

# Class II Potential Significant Impacts (Mitigable)

- **Hazardous Materials**
  - Debris on beach, exposure of Park fill material
- **Hydrology, Water Quality**
  - Runoff during construction
- **Cultural Resources**
  - Surveys indicate no cultural resources present
- **Biological Resources**
  - Potential impacts to sensitive species

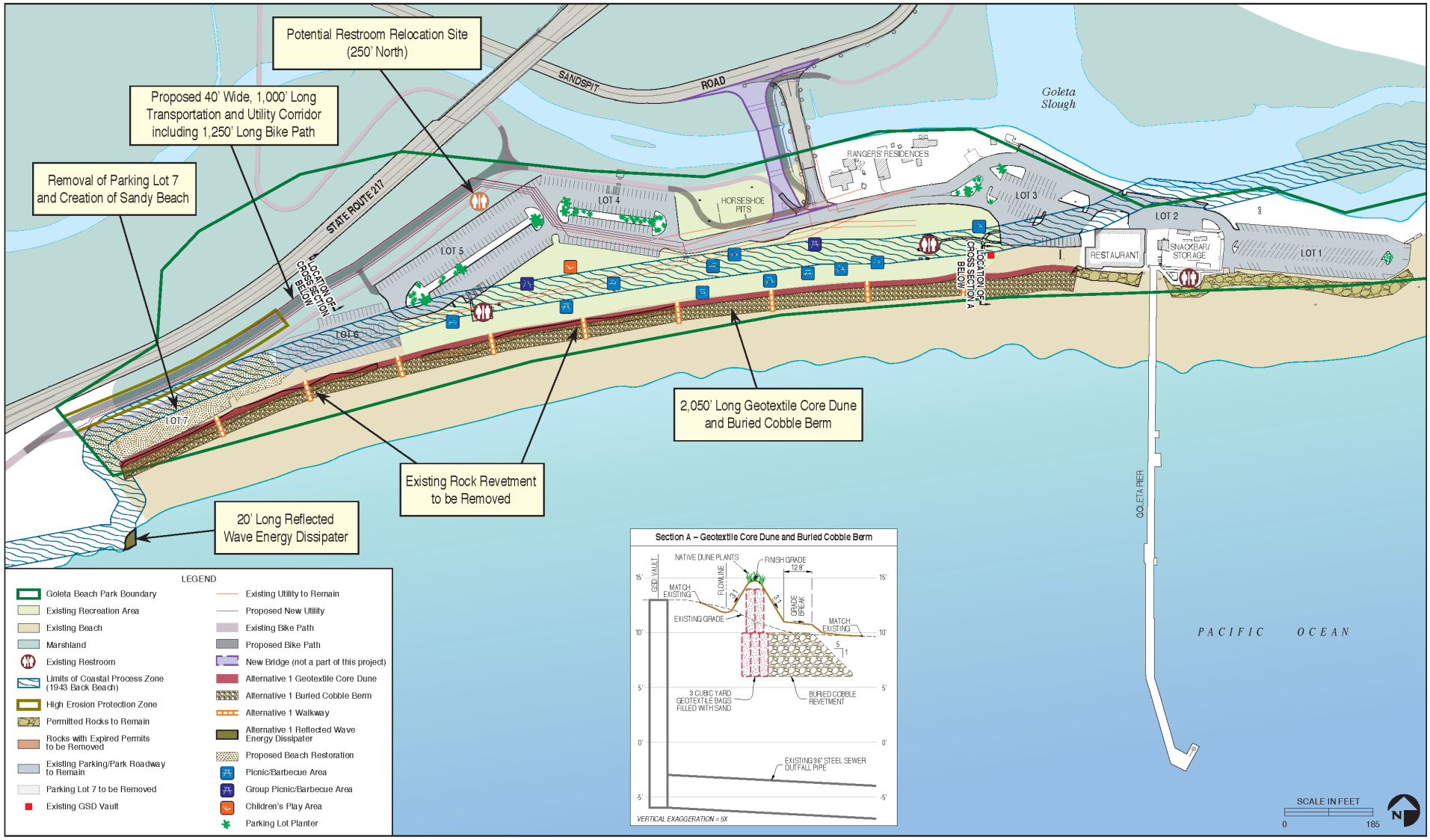
# Alternatives

- CEQA requires analysis of alternatives for proposed projects; important when a project has unavoidable significant impacts; alternatives to avoid such impacts must be analyzed.
- **Three Project Alternatives:**
  - Alternative 1: Natural Shoreline Management
  - Alternative 2: Temporary Revetment Retention with Pilot Projects
  - Alternative 3: Westward Managed Retreat Program
- **Two “No Project” Alternative scenarios:**
  - Existing physical condition (revetment remains)
  - Existing permitting condition (revetment is removed)

# Alternative 1: Natural Shoreline Management

- Removal of approximately 1,200 feet of rock revetment;
- Relocation of utilities and the bike path in the western end of the Park, and removal of Parking Lot 7;
- Installation of 2,050 feet of geotextile core dune and buried cobble berm along Goleta Beach west of the Beachside Bar/ Café to buffer the shoreline from extreme effects of climatic cycles and shoreline oscillation;
- Installation of a small Reflected Wave Energy Dissipater (RWED) inside the eastern cove of the headland at the west end of Goleta Beach to minimize wave reflection and downcoast erosion; and
- Periodic beach nourishment events to supplement ongoing nourishment efforts by SBCFCD consistent with BEACON's CRSMP.

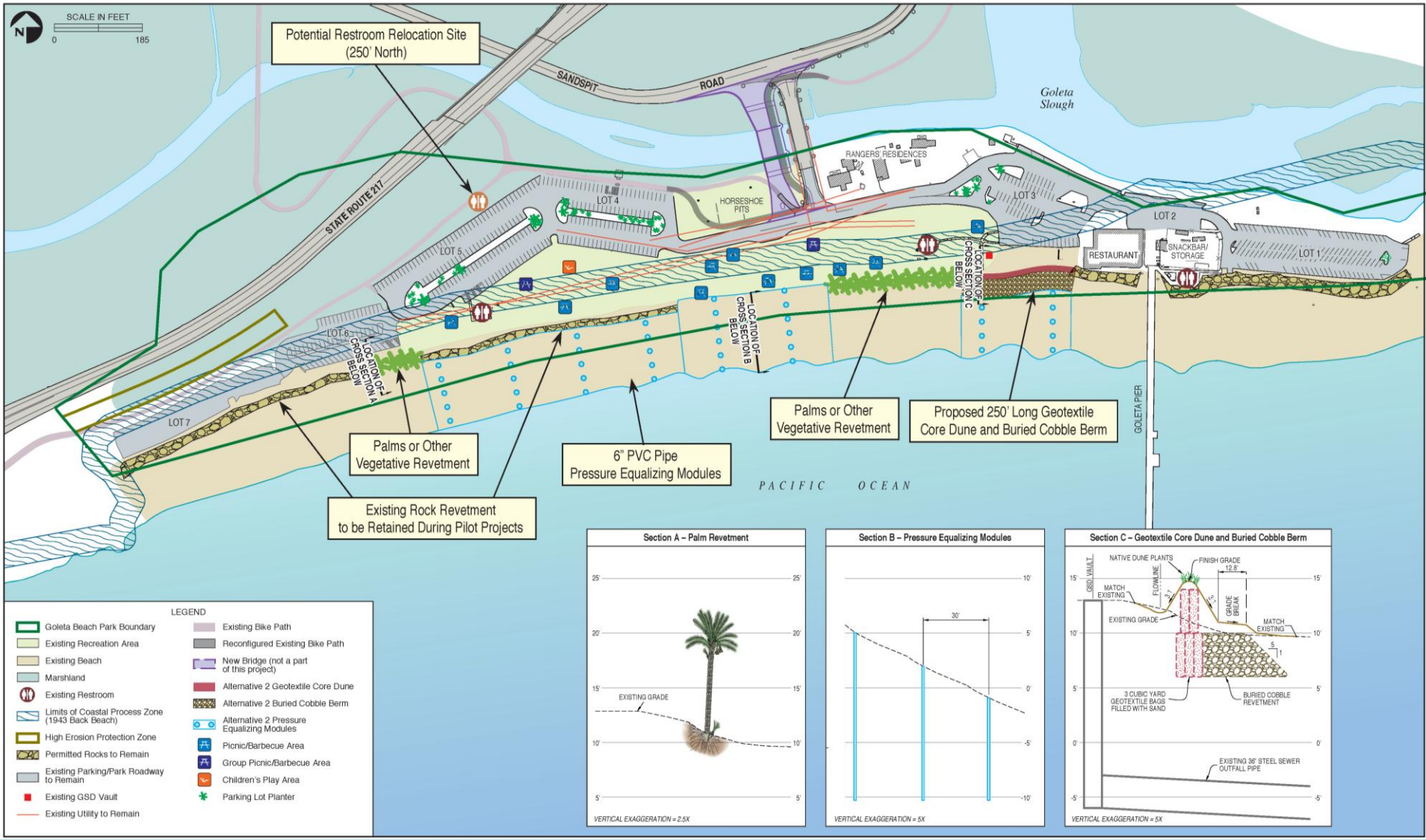
# Alternative 1: Natural Shoreline Management



# Alternative 2: Temporary Revetment Retention With Pilot Projects

- Retention of approximately 1,200 feet of rock revetment for a period of 10 years;
- Installation of three types of “eco-friendly” experimental shoreline protection methods, including buried coble berm and geotextile core dunes, Pressure Equalizing Modules (PEMs), and a vegetative revetment;
- A single beach nourishment event of 100,000 cy to supplement ongoing nourishment efforts by SBCFCD; and
- Retention of Parking Lots 6 and 7, utilities, and the bike path at their current locations.

# Alternative 2: Temporary Revetment Retention With Pilot Projects



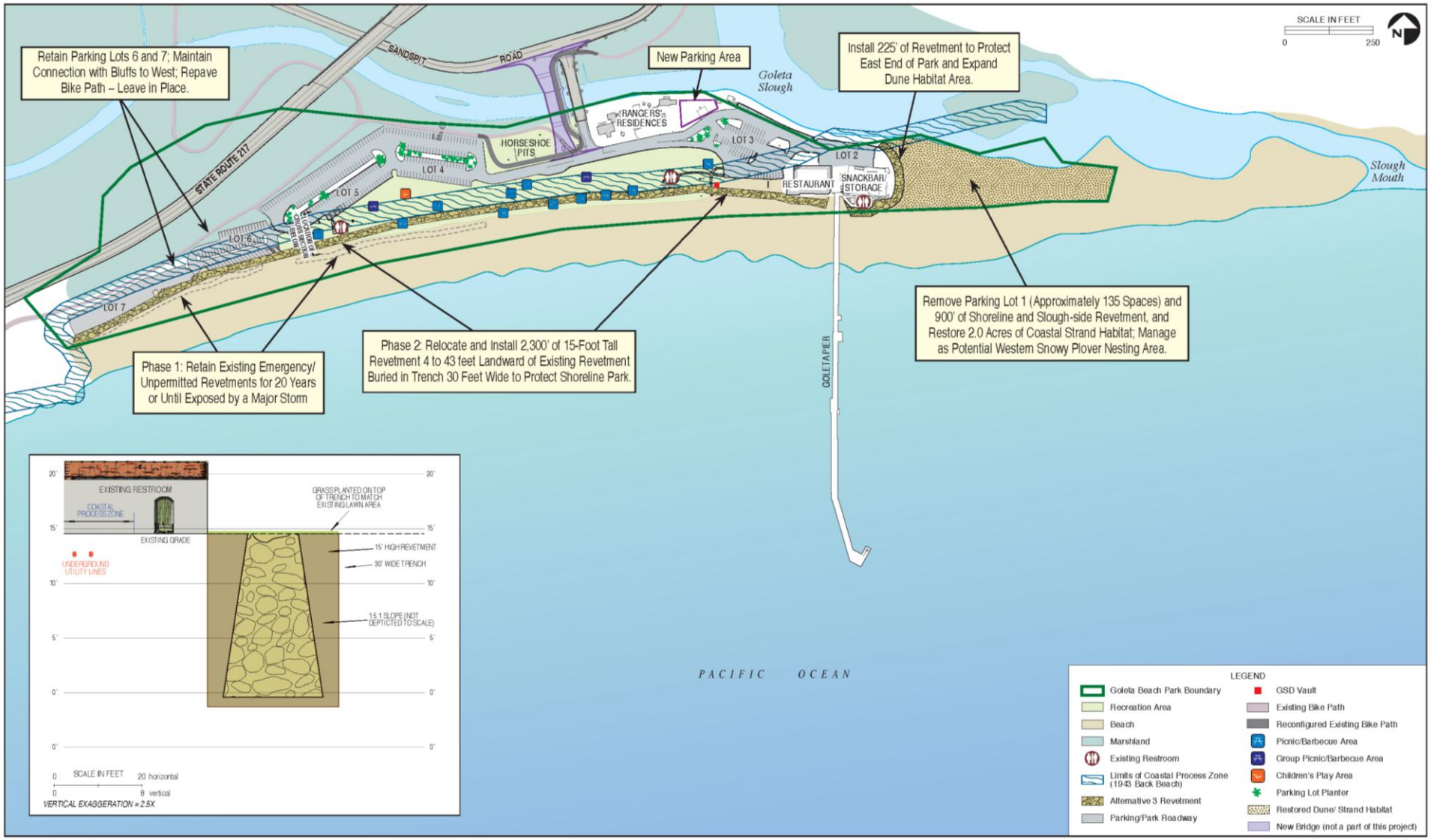
# Alternative 3: Westward Managed Retreat Program

- Manage a westward retreat of developed portions of the Park, away from the environmentally sensitive mouth of Goleta Slough and historic sandspit;
- Restore natural coastal processes of the Goleta Slough mouth and the historic sandspit at Goleta Beach through demolition and removal of Parking Lot 1 at the Park's east end, including removal of 900 feet of rock revetment and approximately 15,000 cy of artificial fill;
- Restore two acres of natural sandpit beach and environmentally sensitive coastal strand and mud flat habitats;
- Protect key coastal-related and coastal-dependent recreation support facilities (e.g., parking, restrooms) and utilities from shoreline oscillation, storm damage, and wave run-up through 2050;

# Alternative 3: Westward Managed Retreat Program (continued)

- Retain in place and receive permits for the existing emergency/ unpermitted revetments west of the Beachside Bar-Café for up to 20 years or through the next major El Niño winter storm season when they become exposed, whichever occurs first; and
- When required, relocate the existing revetment up to approximately 43 feet landward to the seaward edge of the historic coastal process zone and construct a buried revetment through the existing shoreline lawn from the Beachside Bar-Café for 2,000 feet to the headland at the Park's west end.

# Alternative 3: Westward Managed Retreat Program



# Alternative 3: Westward Managed Retreat Program

- Allows for protection of Park and improvement of Slough processes
- Planning horizon of 2015 to 2050, beyond which further planning may be required

# Environmentally Superior Alternative

- Based on the Draft EIR analysis, Alternative 3 – Westward Managed Retreat Program has been identified as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

- Alternative 3 would best reduce Class I impacts to recreation, land use, coastal processes and aesthetics that could result from the proposed Project.

# CEQA / EIR Public Process

- June 12, 2013 – Public Draft EIR Public Workshop
- July 23, 2013 – Public Draft EIR Hearing
  - Opportunity for public comment on environmental issues
  - Adequacy of EIR, mitigation measures and alternatives
- August 1, 2013 – Close of Draft EIR Comment Period
- Fall/Winter 2013 – County consideration of Final EIR and project
  - Opportunities for public input to County decision makers

# How to Obtain the Draft EIR

- On the Web:

http://www.sbcountyplanning.org/projects/11DVP-00000-00016/DEIR.cfm

- Hard copy available for review at:
  - Planning & Development Offices, 123 East Anapamu St.
  - SB Downtown Branch Library, 40 East Anapamu St.
  - Goleta Branch Library, 500 North Fairview Ave.

- Personal hard copy if desired can be ordered from Bill's Copy Shop

# How to Comment on the Draft EIR

- Send an email to Alex Tuttle, Project Manager:

Atuttle@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

- Send a letter to:

  Alex Tuttle, Project Manager

  123 East Anapamu Street

  Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- Oral comment at public hearing scheduled for July 23, 2013.

# Comments and Questions