



Chapter 10 Recreation and Cultural Resources

This chapter describes the cultural and recreation resources in San Benito County. The county contains several large and significant parklands that are owned and operated by the Federal and State governments, including Pinnacles National Monument, Hollister Hills State Recreational Vehicle Area, and Fremont Peak State Park. These large recreation areas are complemented by several County and city-owned parks, historical sites, and special use areas that also provide important recreational amenities for county residents and visitors. However, the county still lacks parks that provide active recreation, including sports fields, an aquatic center, and a comprehensive trail network.

While only 3 percent of the land area of San Benito County has been surveyed for cultural resources, over 1,300 cultural sites have been documented, including over 500 prehistoric and historic archeological sites and over 850 historic buildings. Overall, the county's rural agricultural character, recreational amenities, and many historical resources provide significant attractions for residents and visitors.

This chapter is organized into the following sections:

- Parks and Recreation (Section 10.1)
- Cultural Resources (Section 10.2)





CHAPTER 10. RECREATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

San Benito County General Plan

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SECTION 10.1 PARKS AND RECREATION

Introduction

This section describes the various park and open space areas in San Benito County and identifies their recreational opportunities. There are numerous Federal, State, county, and city parks in the county, including major recreation areas such as Hollister Hills State Recreation Area, Fremont Peak State Park, and Pinnacles National Monument. There are also many open space areas in the county managed by private clubs or public agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the California Department of Parks and Recreation, school districts, and water districts. This section also includes a summary of the amount of total regional parkland provided per county resident based on population estimates (2008) and projections (2035).

Key Terms

Active Recreation. A mix of recreation uses that involve some form of built infrastructure or constructed facilities, such as athletic fields, concession stands, golf courses, tennis or basketball courts, baseball fields, children’s playgrounds, dog parks, or paved bike paths.

Class I Bikeway. Often referred to as a “bike path,” a Class I bikeway provides bicycle travel on a paved right-of-way completely separated from any street or highway.

Class II Bikeway. Often referred to as a “bike lane,” a Class II bikeway provides a striped and stenciled lane for one-way bicycle travel on a street or highway.

Class III Bikeway. Often referred to as a “bike route,” a Class III bikeway provides shared use with pedestrian and/or motor vehicle traffic and is identified only by signage.

Open Space Land. Open space land is any parcel, area, or waterway that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use. Under Section 65560 of the California Government Code, open space land is broadly defined as land designated for the preservation of natural resources (e.g., lakeshore and watershed lands); managed production of resources (e.g., lands for agriculture, forestry, recharge of groundwater); outdoor recreation (e.g., parks, scenic highway corridors, areas with outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural values); or public health and safety (e.g., flood plains, unstable soil areas).

Passive Recreation. A mix of non-motorized or non-consumptive recreational uses, such as wildlife viewing, hiking, biking, and canoeing that typically occur on undeveloped or minimally-improved lands.

Recreational Area. Any public or private space set aside for, or primarily oriented to, recreational use. This includes both parks and community centers.

National Monument. A protected area that is similar to a national park except that a national monument can be declared a protected area by the President of the United States without the approval of Congress. Typically, national monuments receive less funding and afford fewer protections to wildlife than national parks.



Wilderness Area. Often known as “wildlands,” a wilderness area is a natural environment that has not been significantly modified by human activity. They are typically undisturbed wild natural areas that do not have developed roads or other types of infrastructure.

Regulatory Setting

State of California

Sections 65560–65568, Government Code: Open Space Lands. This portion of California planning law defines open space and requires cities and counties to prepare an open space plan as a required element of its General Plan. Building permits, subdivision approvals, and zoning ordinance approvals must be consistent with the local open space plan.

Section 5076, Public Resources Code: Open-Space Elements and Trail Considerations. This law requires that during development of the General Plan, counties shall consider trail-oriented recreational use and shall consider such demands in developing specific open-space programs. Further, cities shall consider the feasibility of integrating their trail routes with appropriate segments of the State system.

Section 66477, Government Code, Subdivision Map Act. Referred to as the Quimby Act, this law allows local jurisdictions to require the dedication of land and/or the payment of in-lieu fees solely for park and recreation purposes. The required dedication and/or fees are based on the residential density, parkland cost, and other factors. Land dedicated and fees collected pursuant to the Quimby Act may only be used for developing new or rehabilitating existing park or recreational facilities. The maximum dedication and/or fee allowed under current State law is equivalent to providing three acres of parkland per 1,000 persons, unless the park acreage of a municipality exceeds that standard, in which case the maximum dedication is five acres per 1,000 residents.

California Senate Bill (SB) 375 – Sustainable Communities (2009). SB 375 requires the San Benito Council of Governments to create a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of the Regional Transportation Plan. The SCS must identify the ways in which the region will meet greenhouse gas emissions targets outlined by the California Air Resources Board. One of the ways to meet the greenhouse gas emissions targets is to increase the bicycle mode share. Substituting bicycle trips for vehicle trips would act to partially reduce San Benito County’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2005)

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan includes proposed transportation projects and programs from the region’s member agencies. Projects included in the plan are based on need, an evaluation of alternatives, and a plan to satisfy the need. The plan is also used to promote alternative modes of transportation, including bicycling and walking, to help relieve future congestion. Strategies to meet this goal that are related to walking or bicycling include the installation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in new construction projects, and consideration for connecting walking and bicycling trips with transit trips.

2.7.1. Goal 1. Increase bicycle and pedestrian access.

Objective 1-1. Implement the Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan, which identifies existing and future needs, and provides specific recommendations for facilities and programs over the next 20 years.

Objective 1-2. Expand bicycle and pedestrian facilities and access in and between neighborhoods, employment centers, shopping areas, schools, and recreational sites, in pursuit of the San Benito County Council of Governments General Plan and Regional Transportation Plan policies of encouraging bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Objective 1-3. Consider bicycle and pedestrian facilities in all projects (e.g. transportation, development, parks, etc.).

Objective 1-4. Increase the number of bicycle-transit trips and pedestrian access to transit.

Objective 1-5. Coordinate bicycle and pedestrian planning and design among San Benito’s public agencies as well as neighboring agencies.

Objective 1-6. Consider bicycle and pedestrian facilities that may enhance economic development.

Objective 1-7. Consider bicycle and pedestrian facilities in low-income segments of the community, improving public access to jobs and services.

2.7.2. Goal 2. Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Objective 2-1. Reduce the number and severity of bicyclist and pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Objective 2-2. Proactively enforce pedestrian and bicycle-related traffic laws through activities such as targeted enforcement, pedestrian stings, or a police-staffed checkpoint where officers distribute bicycle and pedestrian related information.

2.7.3. Goal 3. Ensure all residents are knowledgeable about bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Objective 3-1. Work with local police or other certified trainers to educate San Benito students about bicycle and pedestrian safety with in-classroom bicycle and pedestrian safety training.

Objective 3-2. Provide adult education for bicycle and pedestrian safety.

2.7.4. Goal 4. Increase bicycle and pedestrian trips.

Objective 4-1. Make biking and walking an integral part of daily life in San Benito County, particularly for trips less than five miles, by implementing and maintaining a bikeway network, providing end-trip facilities, improving bicycle/transit integration, encouraging bicycle use, and making bicycling safer.

Objective 4-2. Implement the Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan that identifies existing and future needs, and provides specific recommendations for facilities and programs for the next 20 years.



Objective 4-3. Complete a network of bikeways and walkways that are feasible, fundable, and that serve bicyclist and pedestrian needs, especially for travel to employment centers, schools, commercial districts, transit stations, institutions, and recreational destinations.

Objective 4-4. Maintain and improve the quality, operation, and integrity of bikeway and walkway network facilities.

Objective 4-5. Conduct bicycle and pedestrian counts at the same locations during the same days every two years to monitor changes in bicycle and pedestrian commute trips.

Objective 4-6. Provide short- and long-term bicycle parking in employment and commercial areas, in multi-family housing, at schools, and at recreation and transit facilities.

Objective 4-7. Support education programs to increase walking and bicycling to school and work, and for utilitarian trips.

Objective 4-8: Promote bicycling as a healthy transportation option that improves physical fitness.

Council of San Benito County Governments

Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan (December 2009)

The San Benito County Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan guides the future development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the county. The Plan was developed with input from the Council of San Benito County Governments (COG), San Benito County, the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), and members of the public. The purpose of the Plan is to expand existing networks, connect gaps, address constrained areas, and provide greater connectivity within the county. The Plan also intends to educate, encourage, and maximize funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. It satisfies all California Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) and other California Department of Transportation requirements, as well as Federal funding program requirements.

San Benito County

General Plan Transportation and Circulation Element (1994)

Policy 23. Bicycle use shall be encouraged within the county for commuting and recreational uses.

Policy 24. Require dedication and construction of walkways for through, safe, pedestrian traffic and internal pedestrian circulation in new large-scale developments or within the vicinity of concentrations of population.

Policy 26. Develop a program to provide pedestrian/bike paths linking schools, commercial centers, and recreational areas to communities in the county.

General Plan Land Use Element (1992)

Land Use Goals and Objectives

Goal 5. To provide for a diversified economic base for the County.

Objectives

e) To investigate the expansion of recreational industry to meet the needs of local and regional visitors to the county.

Land Use Policies and Actions

Policy 5. Encourage the private development of participatory recreational facilities, such as riding areas, camping facilities, and hunting clubs.

Actions

a) Allow riding areas, camping facilities, and hunting clubs as conditional uses on Agricultural Rangelands.

b) Allow riding areas and hunting clubs as conditional uses on Agricultural Productive lands.

General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (1995)

Policy 11. Open Space Zoning

It will be the County's continuing policy to enact a series of zoning ordinances designed to protect the natural resources of San Benito County.

Actions

1. Periodically review existing ordinances for Flood Plain Management, Agricultural Preserves No.526, Habitat Conservation Plan No. 541, Well Standards Nos. 561, 563, 564, Quarry Ordinance 573, and Right-to-Farm No. 576.

2. Prepare an Environmental Constraints ordinance to protect sensitive natural resource areas and avoid public health and safety hazards.

Policy 15. Open Space Overlay District

The County will enforce the intended purpose of the Open Space (OS) District of the county by using the Zoning Ordinance to protect and preserve the rural landscape and implement open space policies for public health, safety, and welfare, continued agricultural uses, scenic viewscape preservation including scenic highway corridors, park and recreation uses, conservation of natural resources, the containment and definition of limits to urbanization, and the preservation of natural habitat for threatened and/or endangered plant and animal species.



Policy 16. Open Space Around Cities

It is the County's policy to preserve a rural atmosphere by directing population growth and public service extensions to infill development and avoiding leapfrog growth.

Actions

1. Maintain open space around San Juan Bautista, Hollister, and existing communities.
2. Maintain prime agricultural lands in agricultural uses.
3. The County may, at the appropriate time, develop plans for the unincorporated communities within the county.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies for Outdoor Recreation

Goal 8. Recreation

Encourage private development of recreational facilities including, but not limited to, riding stables, golf courses, camping facilities, dude ranches and hunting clubs, and residential parks.

Objectives

1. To provide incentives to individuals who wish to include private recreational facilities in conjunction with residential development and open space areas.
2. To allow for economic return for recreation uses on open space lands.
3. Promote development of recreational facilities, such as riding stables, golf courses, and camping facilities in appropriate private and public Open Space areas.
4. Recognize private recreation as an opportunity to provide jobs and revenues to the County while maintaining the inherent beauty of the area and rural atmosphere.

Policy 45. Private Recreation Facilities

It will be the County's policy to use land use ordinances to encourage landowners to provide private recreational facilities and open space areas. It will also be the County's policy to allow for an economic return on land while it is being used as open space.

Actions

1. The County will enact procedures designed to allow the development of private recreational facilities.
2. Recognize private recreation as an opportunity to provide jobs and revenues to the county while maintaining the inherent beauty of the area.
3. Encourage the development of private recreation (e.g., campgrounds) near existing Federal and State parks.

4. Require the development of private recreation facilities to serve clusters of unincorporated population (e.g., linear parks, open space, playgrounds) and communities with a ratio of five acres of recreation area per 1,000 persons.

a) Private recreation facilities shall be installed and maintained as a part of project improvements and the community service area.

Goal 9. A well-balanced system of recreation recognizing the natural, recreational, cultural, and historical attributes inherent to San Benito County within existing Federal, State, and County parks, and on private and Bureau of Land Management lands.

Objectives

1. Promote the development of mixed recreational uses within existing State and Federal parks and Bureau of Land Management land that would serve the resident population of the county.

2. Provide outdoor recreation to meet the needs of the growing population in the county.

3. Explore options for regional trail connections with Santa Clara and Monterey Counties.

4. Integrate county unincorporated projects within Hollister's Sphere-of-Influence with the City of Hollister Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

5. Establish historic districts for the communities of Tres Pinos, Dunneville, and New Idria.

6. Preserve existing historic resources in the county.

7. Recognize the inherent beauty of ridgelines within the county and develop policies and programs to protect the aesthetic quality.

Policy 46. County and City Bike Plans

It will be the County's policy to require new development to provide easements for trails and bikeways identified in the City of Hollister Parks and Recreation Master Plan and to be consistent with the San Benito County Bike Plan.

Actions

1. New development located within planned trails and bikeways shown on the City of Hollister Parks and Recreation Master Plan shall dedicate easements to the City of Hollister.

2. Subdivisions near planned bikeways/trails shall be required to provide convenient access to the facilities.

3. Large-scale developments shall provide a system of bikeways.



Policy 47. Parks Master Plan

Develop a countywide parks master plan to identify long-range recreational needs of the county, potential trail corridors, and areas for potential recreational-tourist services/programs.

Actions

1. Where feasible, the County will coordinate the development of regional parks in cooperation with Federal, State, and other counties as well as local agencies.
2. Cooperate with Santa Clara and Monterey Counties to consider the pros and cons of connecting San Benito County to a regional trail system.
3. Consider the relationship of San Benito County to the State-wide trail system.

Policy 48. Park Findings

Provide the optimum level of cost-effectiveness and public use level at each park, recognizing that each facility has a different mission and a unique set of operating conditions associated with the natural or other available resources.

Actions

1. Require establishment of community service districts to finance the maintenance and operation of private or public parks created in conjunction with new development.
2. Consider the establishment of a countywide open space park district.

Policy 49. Private Equestrian Trails

While recognizing that rural residential development is often used to board horses, the ability of the County to finance the acquisition, maintenance, and liability associated with lengthy equestrian trails is expected to be limited. Therefore, it is the policy of the County to promote the establishment and maintenance of private on-site walking/equestrian trails in rural residential areas to meet the needs of this type of land use.

Actions

1. Develop standards for equestrian facilities in residential areas.
2. Allow the creation of private equestrian trails in existing rural residential areas provided the following conditions are met:
 - a. Evidence of easements have been obtained from all affected property owners.
 - b. Acquisition, maintenance, and development of trails will be privately funded through a homeowner association, service area, or Mello-Roos Assessment District.

- c. Trails will be privately owned and maintained.
- d. Trail plan shall be subject to use permit approval by the County Planning Commission.
- e. Over two-thirds of the property owners within the area to benefit from the trails agree to pay for the long-term costs of the facility.

3. Provide credit on County recreation impact fees for new residential subdivisions that provide trails in areas dedicated for open space or within conservation easements.

Goal 10. To change the quality of life for all citizens of San Benito County by the provision of adequate park and recreation facilities for the leisure needs of all age groups.

Objectives

- a. To develop and maintain a comprehensive system of open space uses for both active and passive recreation.
- b. Develop a countywide parks master plan to identify potential areas to provide private and public recreational-tourist services/programs, needed recreation for county residents, and long-range recreational needs of the county.
- c. Provide the optimum level of cost-effectiveness and public use level at each park, recognizing that each facility has a different mission and a unique set of operating conditions associated with natural or other resources available.

Policy 55. Recreation and Open Space Provide for Recreation

It shall be the County's policy to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain a comprehensive space system of open space land uses and recreational facilities to provide for the low-intensity trails, picnicking, informal sports, park benches, and active recreational needs (sports fields for youth and adult league play) of the county population.

Actions

- 1. The County will use a variety of financing mechanisms to acquire and develop park, recreation, and other open space land uses consistent with growth in county population and the adopted land use policy of the County General Plan.
- 2. Continue to implement Ordinance 540, a park and recreation impact fee, to establish and maintain a source of revenue for the acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities.

Policy 56. Ratio of Parks to Population

Recreational facilities for existing and new development in the unincorporated areas of the county shall be provided to meet the needs of the population based on a ratio of five acres of parkland per 1,000 persons.



Actions

1. Existing communities shall be inventoried to determine the need for recreational facilities.
2. Pursue finding for acquisition and development of needed facilities through alternatives including Mello-Roos Assessment Districts, private contribution of land, improvements from service clubs, and County impact fees pursuant to Ordinance 541.
3. Evaluation of new development within existing communities shall include an analysis of the individual and cumulative effect of the development on the recreational needs of the community and county.
4. Amend Ordinance 541 to provide credit for new development that dedicates lands and constructs on-site recreation facilities.
5. Require new suburban and urban development to include on-site recreation facilities and financing for long-term maintenance.

Parks and Recreation Commission

The County established the San Benito Parks and Recreation Commission in 2006. The Commission is responsible for enhancing park and recreation opportunities in the county and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the use of existing County park facilities, the need for future park facilities, the development of recreational activities and programs, the use of Federal, State, and local funds for parks and recreational facilities, the joint-use of park facilities, and any coordination with Federal, State, and local recreation agencies.

Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2009)

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Assume a leadership role in facilitating the development of parks and recreation facilities within the county.

Objectives

- a. Identify lands for potential acquisition and development of new parks to meet the park and recreation needs of county residents, consistent with the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. Priorities include the San Benito River Parkway and Regional Park/Sports Park.
- b. Identify opportunities for the development and enhancement of recreation facilities at existing County-owned parklands. Priorities include Veterans Memorial Park and County Historical and Recreation Park.
- c. Identify opportunities for the development and enhancement of recreation facilities of lands owned by other public agencies, such as schools, that meet the recreation needs of county residents.
- d. Actively seek funding partners for parkland acquisition and development, including other public agencies, conservancies, and grants.

- e. Pro-actively review development proposals for consistency with the Master Plan.
- f. Establish objective standards and processes for dedication of parklands and/or payment of fees as a part of future development.
- g. Review residential development proposals and plans in unincorporated areas to assure that County park needs are being met consistent with the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.
- h. Within one year of Master Plan approval, establish an updated County park development ordinance to require parkland dedication and/or fee payment to support County park development, consistent with the standards established in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.
- i. Coordinate County parks development priorities annually with the County's Capital Improvement Budget cycle.
- j. Identify staff responsibilities for the successful planning, development, coordination, and promotion of County parklands.

Goal 2. Assume a leadership role in the coordination of parklands within the county, including Federal, State, City, school district, and privately owned parklands that cooperatively provide recreational opportunities to the residents and visitors of San Benito County.

Objectives

- a. Update inventory of publicly and privately owned parklands within the county, and share inventory with other agencies and organizations annually.
- b. Facilitate communication between agencies regarding roles and responsibilities for parklands and recreational opportunities within the county.
- c. Maintain the formation of a multi-agency Parks and Recreation "team" (similar to the "project team" for the Master Plan) with meetings at least twice per year to discuss progress, needs, ideas, and partnerships to enhance countywide parks and recreation.
- d. Implement partnerships and joint-use agreements for the acquisition and development of parklands where appropriate.
- e. Promote partnerships to seek funding for park acquisition and development through grants and other sources.

Goal 3. Encourage and develop access and connections between parklands, through trails, bikeways, and multiple modes of transportation, including transit.

Objectives

- a. Coordinate development of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan with trails and bikeways planning, including the Council of Governments (COG) Bikeways and Pedestrian Master Plan and the County transit system.



- b. Where feasible, incorporate bikeways and trails into larger roadway and transportation projects.
- c. Include bikeways and trails implementation as part of transportation impact fees.
- d. In coordination with San Benito Local Transportation Authority (LTA), plan for transit amenities (such as bus stops and shelters) and route connections at public parks.
- e. Provide amenities for trail users (such as bike racks and equestrian staging areas) at appropriate park sites.
- f. Publicize alternative modes of transportation that are available to county residents for park access.
- g. Coordinate the county trails system with regional connections to other counties and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Goal 4. Support growth patterns established in the San Benito County Housing Element by locating parks with active recreation facilities near urban centers, and encouraging greenbelts around urban development areas.

Objectives

- a. Coordinate the potential for greenbelts with the County General Plan Update and the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista.
- b. Provide active recreation facilities for county residents living in unincorporated urban areas.
- c. Where appropriate, implement joint-use agreements and partnerships with schools in unincorporated areas.

Goal 5. Support the function of parklands in protecting natural resources.

Objectives

- a. Coordinate with other public agencies in the planning, acquisition, and development of the San Benito River Parkway.
- b. Identify natural resources for preservation/potential parkland acquisition.
- c. Encourage multiple techniques for natural resource preservation (including fee simple acquisition, easements, joint-use agreements, transfer of development rights, etc.).
- d. Seek grants and other funding sources for implementation of parkland acquisition and development for resource protection.

Goal 6. Support the function of parklands in protecting historic and cultural resources.

Objectives

- a. Identify the county's historic and cultural resources for protection, enhancement, and potential parkland acquisition.
- b. Continue to provide resources for enhancement of the County Historical and Recreation Park.
- c. Encourage multiple techniques for cultural and historic preservation, including the use of conservation easements.
- d. Provide and support educational opportunities for county residents to learn more about the county's historic and cultural resources.

Goal 7. Support the function of parklands in the County's overall economic development program, including parks and recreational amenities for workers and families, festivals, agritourism, and ecotourism.

Objectives

- a. Coordinate with the County Economic Development Corporation and Chambers of Commerce, in promoting the county's parklands for tourism, and as an attraction for businesses to locate in San Benito County.
- b. Consider trails and bikeways as a part of promoting agritourism.
- c. Consider festivals at County parks as part of economic development.

Goal 8. Coordinate parkland locations and facilities with the County's emergency response system.

Objectives

- a. Coordinate with County emergency response teams to identify parks that may support evacuation and temporary housing of county residents in the event of a major disaster, such as earthquake or fire.
- b. Provide infrastructure at identified parks to support intended emergency response function.

Goal 9. Consider geographic distribution of parklands throughout the county.

Objectives

- a. Distribute active recreation parklands to be accessible to population centers.
- b. Consider partnerships with schools to provide recreation facilities in rural areas.

Goal 10. Provide park facilities and a diversity of recreation programs for all ages and physical abilities.



Objectives

- a. Incorporate the needs of various age groups and physical abilities of park users in the design of park facilities. For example, design play areas with the concept of “universal access,” and provide seating areas and shade for families and seniors.
- b. Coordinate facility needs at public parks with public and private recreation providers.
- c. Identify staff responsibilities for successful coordination and promotion of County parklands.

Goal 11. Encourage coordination of recreation programs from multiple public and private recreation providers to meet the diverse needs of county residents.

Objectives

- a. Maintain a current inventory of public and private recreation programs within the county and share inventory with other agencies and organizations.
- b. Work with a variety of public, non-profit, and private recreation providers, the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Commission to collectively promote recreation programs from public and private providers. This may include newsletters, quarterly catalogs, expanded use of the County Parks and Recreation Commission’s website, recreation fairs, etc.
- c. Coordinate with public and private providers to provide additional programs where deficiencies exist.
- d. Identify staff responsibilities for successful coordination and promotion of county parklands.

Goal 12. Assure that facilities and programs provided or supported by the County are sustainable over time through adequate staffing and funding. Consider the long-term implications of parkland acquisition and development for operations and maintenance.

Objectives

- a. Design with resource conservation as a priority. For example, incorporate use of native and drought resistant planting, use of recycled water and water-conserving irrigation systems, use of permeable paving materials and water recharge systems, and use of other green technologies such as solar panels and wind turbines for energy generation in addition to other practices that have proven successful in resource conservation.
- b. Prepare an operations and maintenance plan for each park acquisition or park development plan, identifying projected financial and staffing resources needed for long-term operations and maintenance.
- c. Consider the life cycle of park furnishings and features as a part of park design. Incorporate depreciations/replacement costs into long-term maintenance budgeting.
- d. Consider ways of increasing park revenues through user fees, leases, and other means.

Goal 13. Consider user safety in the design of public park facilities.

Objectives

- a. Design for unobstructed sight lines into major activity areas.
- b. Consider roadway and path design for patrol of parklands.
- c. Provide security lighting where appropriate.
- d. Provide emergency telephone call boxes, where appropriate.
- e. Design facilities to attract people. Busy parks help police themselves.
- f. Design facilities in compliance with County codes and ordinances.

Parkland Classifications

Parkland classifications provide planners and developers with a clear understanding of the expectation of what should be included for various park facilities. The standards also assist County staff and officials in reviewing development proposals by providing a metric to ensure consistency with established standards. The 1992 San Benito County General Plan also recognizes public golf courses, local parks, community centers, campgrounds, recreation corridors, and trails as permissible recreational uses. The following summaries describe some of the most used parkland classification types.

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is typically 3 to 10 acres (5-acre minimum preferred). It often serves a neighborhood or small residential community within walking distance from residences. This type of park includes both active and passive recreational opportunities (e.g., Oak Creek Park).

Neighborhood Park/School Park

Neighborhood or school parks are typically 2 to 10 acres, serving school students and residents within walking distance from the park. They are often similar in size to neighborhood parks, but located immediately adjacent to a school (e.g., school park area).

Community Parks

Community parks are typically 10 acres (20-acre minimum preferred). They serve all county residents, and many function as neighborhood parks that also attract regional visitors (e.g., County Historical and Recreation Park).

Trails/Linear Parkways

Trails and parkway lengths vary, but often connect to a series of other trails that are part of a larger recreation master plan. The trail systems serve all residents in a county, and may attract regional visitors. Trails can be grade-separated for pedestrian and/or bicycle use. They may also provide hiking, equestrian use, safe routes to school, and serve as part of a regional trail network (e.g., De Anza Trail).



Sports Park

Sport parks are typically 20 acres, and serve all residents, school groups, and community-based sports organizations. Sport parks focus on providing active recreational facilities for organized sports (e.g., Veteran's Memorial Park).

San Benito County Regional Transportation Plan (2010)

General Goals and Policies

Goal 3. To increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and freight.

Policy 3.1. Shall promote alternative modes of transportation, including bus transit, rail, pedestrian, and bicycle travel.

Goal 5. To enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.

Policy 5.2. Shall promote park-and-ride lots and bicycle parking facilities at key locations to facilitate ridesharing and public transit use.

Non-Motorized (Pedestrian and Bicycle) Travel

Goal 15. To encourage pedestrian and bicycle travel within urbanized areas.

Policy 15.1. Shall require bicycle-parking facilities at major rail and bus transit stations and in downtown business districts.

Policy 15.2. Shall ensure that urban streets are safe for bicyclists through regular cleaning and maintenance.

Policy 15.3. Shall ensure that existing sidewalks are safe, free of obstruction, and accessible to all persons.

Policy 15.4. Shall plan, design, and construct bicycle facilities in conformance with State standards, as outlined in "Planning and Design Criteria for Bikeways in California" (Caltrans).

Policy 15.5. Shall construct pedestrian walkways in high-density areas that currently lack adequate pedestrian facilities.

Goal 16. To facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel within new development and between new development and existing urban areas.

Policy 16.1. Shall require sidewalk facilities in all new development in or adjacent to urban areas.

Policy 16.2. Shall require all new multi-family residential and large commercial development to provide easily identified pedestrian facilities connecting all parts of the development and providing access through parking areas and across driveways.

Policy 16.3. Shall design and construct all new bridge structures with sufficient width to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Goal 17. To create a new pedestrian and bicyclist facility connecting urban areas with major recreational areas.

Policy 17.1. Shall plan and construct a combined pedestrian and bicycle path along the San Benito River.

Goal 18. To promote pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Policy 18.1. Shall work with school districts to identify and make improvements as necessary to provide safe routes to school.

Major Findings

- While the majority of the county has access to a wide variety of passive recreational facilities, such as open space, recreational vehicular parks, and historical parks, residents have access to few active park facilities, such as pools and sports fields.
- In 2008 there were approximately 2.5 acres of parkland per county resident (144,416 acres of total parkland and 57,784 people).
- Based on the findings documented in the 2009 Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, residents indicated they value the county's open space and rural character, but desire more countywide trails (e.g., San Benito River Parkway) that would include both trails and various recreation opportunities. Some residents also desired facilities such as a dog park, cultural center, and aquatics center.
- There are currently (2010) a total of 2.29 miles of Class I bike paths and 8.12 miles of Class II bike lanes in the county. There are no Class III bike routes.
- A total of 137 miles of bikeways are proposed in the county over the next 20 years, including 27 miles of Class I bike paths, 59 miles of Class II bike lanes, and 51 miles of Class III bike routes. The majority of the proposed bikeways would be developed as multi-use bike paths along the San Benito River (Class I), bike lanes within the right-of-way of existing roads within the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista (Class II), or bike routes along SR 25 to Pinnacles National Monument (Class III).

Existing Conditions

There are a total of approximately 144,416 acres of Federal, State, county, and City park and open space areas in San Benito County. These areas range from passive open space areas to active parks that include a variety of amenities such as picnicking, swimming, rock climbing, off-road vehicle riding, hunting, bird watching, playgrounds, sports fields, and hiking. In the 1992 General Plan the County adopted a minimum parkland standard of 5.0 acres of parks for every 1,000 residents. The unincorporated parts of the county currently (2010) do not contain parkland that meets this standard;



however, most residents living within or near the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista have adequate parkland.

Table 10-1 lists all major parks and recreational facilities in the county and their acreages. Tables 10-2 through 10-4 list the existing (2010) recreation amenities provided at each Federal, State, and County-administered park in the county.

TABLE 10-1 EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE AREAS San Benito County 2010		
Government Entity	Acre ^s ¹	Percent of Total Open Space
Federal		
Pinnacles National Monument	26,000	
BLM Land	105,403	
San Justo Reservoir	383	
Land Near San Justo Reservoir	118	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>131,904</i>	<i>91%</i>
State		
Fremont Peak State Park	244	
San Juan Bautista State Historical Park	NA	
Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area	7,100	
Buffer near Hollister Hills	1,690	
Miscellaneous State Lands	2,199	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>11,233</i>	<i>8 %</i>
County		
Bolado Park	126	
Hernandez Reservoir and Recreation Area	587	
San Benito Historical Park	33	
Veteran's Memorial Park	37	
Other	116	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>899</i>	<i>0.6%</i>
Other Agencies		
Water Agencies	211	
School Districts	113	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>0.2%</i>
City		
Hollister		
Airport Park	0.75	
Calaveras Community Park	7	

**TABLE 10-1
EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE AREAS**

**San Benito County
2010**

Central Avenue Mini Park	0.25	
Cerra Vista Park	3.5	
Dunne Community Park	3.5	
Frank Klauer Memorial Park	5	
John Z. Hernandez Memorial Park	0.25	
Las Brisas Estates Park	1	
McCarthy Street Park	1.5	
Tony Aguirre Memorial Park	1	
Veteran's Tot Lot	0.25	
Vista Park Hill Community Park	15	
San Juan Bautista		
<i>Abbe Park</i>	NA	
<i>Lucke Park</i>	NA	
<i>Rudy Park</i>	NA	
<i>Subtotal</i>	39	0.02%
County Service Areas (CSAs)		
Stonegate (Private/Gates)	5	
Hollister Ranch Estates (Public Access)	1.27	
Oak Creek Subdivision (Public Access)	1.47	
Pacheco Creek Estates (Private/Gated)	2.74	
Quail Hollow Park (Public Access)	2.73	
Rancho Larios (Private/Gated)	3.87	
Subtotal	17.08	0%
Total²	144,416	100%

¹ Acreage amounts are approximate and based on the County Parks and Recreation Facilities Draft Master Plan (April 2009), the 1992 General Plan, BLM and U.S. Park Service data, and information provided by the San Benito County Planning Department.

² Total does not include private/gated park acreages.

NA – Not available. Several park area acreages were not known due to limited data on less popular or known parkland. As such, no acreage estimates are listed.

Sources: San Benito County Planning Department, 2010, San Benito County Parks and Recreation Facilities Draft Master Plan, April 2009, Planning Partners, 2010.



Federal Recreation and Wildlife Areas

The following is a summary of the land operated by the Federal government in San Benito County. This includes one national monument (Pinnacles National Monument) and several areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management (Clear Creek Management Area, San Benito Mountain Natural Area, Panoche Hills, Griswold Hills, and Tumey Hills). Table 10-2 below shows the location and available amenities at all Federal park and recreation facilities in San Benito County. All of these facilities, with the exception of the Clear Creek Management Area, are open to the public and provide information kiosks, restrooms, marked off-road vehicle and trail routes, and passive recreational activities such as wildlife viewing, hiking, hunting, and biking. However, only portions of Panoche Hills and Tumey Hills fall within San Benito County. The majority of these two BLM areas are within Fresno County. There are portions of other BLM land within San Benito County, although they are smaller tracts of land that are not contiguous. These include Curry Mountain, Coalinga Mineral Springs, Laguna Mountain, and Williams Hill.

TABLE 10-2 FEDERAL PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES San Benito County 2010			
Park or Recreational Facility	Location	Activities Available	Acres (approx.)
National Park Service (NPS) Land			
Pinnacles National Monument	25 miles south of Hollister adjacent to State Route 25	Hiking trails/Rock Climbing/Wildlife viewing/Talus Caves/Geological Features	26,000
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>26,000</i>
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land			
Clear Creek Management Area	Southern edge of San Benito County near Fresno County line	31,000 acres temporarily closed due to health risks	63,000
San Benito Mountain Natural Area	Southern San Benito County	Hiking, wildlife viewing, camping	1,500
Panoche Hills	Little Panoche Road/Southeastern edge of San Benito County near Fresno County line	Hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, camping	Not available
Griswold Hills	Panoche Road/Southeastern portion of San Benito County directly west of Fresno County line	Hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing	10,000
Tumey Hills	East of Panoche Road/West of Interstate 5/Portion within San Benito County	Hiking, camping, wildlife viewing	Not available
San Justo Reservoir	Union Road/South of State Route 156	Boating, fishing, windsurfing, sailing, mountain biking, picnicking	501
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>105,403</i>
Total Acres within San Benito County			131,403

Source: National Park Service, 2010, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 2010.

NA – Not available. Several park area acreages were not known due to limited data on less popular or known parkland. As such, no acreage estimates are listed.

Pinnacles National Monument (NPS)

Pinnacles National Monument is located in the western part of San Benito County and covers approximately 26,000 acres, of which approximately 16,000 acres are protected mountainous recreation area divided by unique rock formations. More than 80 percent of the park is designated a wilderness area, making it part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Connected by many narrow hiking trails, such as the one-mile Bench Trail to the seven-mile North Wilderness Trail, the park has spectacular pinnacles for rock climbing. Located near the San Andreas Fault, the park offers views of the unique geologic formations resulting from years of erosion and weathering of the exposed rocks.

The park also contains deep talus caves and narrow gorges created by historic geologic movements. Seismic activity is still frequent in the park, and the U.S. Geological Survey maintains two seismometers to document ongoing activity. Evidence of recent seismic activity can be seen along the faults within the Monument because the valley floor shows signs of uplift. The park has also been part of the California Condor Recovery Program since 2003. The program has managed the release of 26 free-flying condors since 2003, the most recent occurring in 2009.

Clear Creek Management Area (BLM)

Clear Creek Management Area is located near the San Benito-Fresno County line and covers approximately 63,000 acres. CCMA has historically been a popular weekend destination available to the public for a variety of recreation, including off-road highway vehicle (OHV) recreation, hunting, backpacking, and sightseeing.

However, since May 2008 many public lands have been closed to protect the public from environmental hazards. The unique geologic area includes serpentine soils that contain naturally-occurring asbestos. In 2004 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found elevated levels of airborne asbestos fibers present during various recreation activity surveys and clean-up activities for a Federally-listed mine within the area. As a result, EPA and BLM restrict use of the public lands to reduce the public's asbestos survey during dry months when there is the greatest potential to generate dust. EPA later completed an Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment in early 2008 that determined that all forms of public use on approximately half of the management area (31,000 acres) should be closed to protect public health and safety due to health risks associated with exposure to airborne asbestos.

San Benito Mountain Natural Area (BLM)

San Benito Mountain Natural Area is located in the southern part of San Benito County and contains San Benito Mountain (5,241 feet) and approximately 1,500 acres of non-public lands. The area is closed to off-road vehicle use in order to protect the unique plant communities in the area. The area is open to hiking and hunting.

Panoche Hills (BLM)

Panoche Hills is located near the southern edge of San Benito County and is bounded by the Panoche Valley and Little Panoche Valley. The area provides passive outdoor recreational activities, including hunting, camping, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The area is closed to off-road vehicle use. Though the area is primarily accessed via Little Panoche Road through San Benito County, only a small portion of the area is located within San Benito County.



Griswold Hills (BLM)

The Griswold Hills consist of approximately 10,000 acres of BLM-administered land located three miles south of Panoche Road and the old mining town of New Idria. Griswold Hills includes a 516-acre wilderness area containing oak-grassland habitat typical of the inner coastal range. Access to the area is only by foot. A foot trail leads from a public parking area and zigzags up the hillside to a ridgetop that sits at an elevation of 2,575 feet. The hills are a popular destination area for hunters seeking game birds, wild pigs, and deer. Over 100 species of birds have been recorded in the area. This area is also popular for observing spring wildflowers.

Tumey Hills (BLM)

The Tumey Hills are located east of New Idria Road and consist of Federal lands administered by BLM. The area includes a network of hiking trails and is visible from Interstate 5 in the San Joaquin Valley. The majority of Tumey Hills fall within Fresno County; however, a small portion of the area is within San Benito County. The bare desert hills include valleys, annual grassland, yucca, saltbrush, buckwheat, and highly erodible soils.

San Justo Reservoir and Recreation Area (BLM)

The San Justo Reservoir and Recreation Area is located off Union Road south of SR 156 and includes the San Justo Reservoir, a BLM project constructed as part of the Central Valley Project. The area includes approximately 501 acres of recreation and 200 acres of water surface. Recreational activities at the reservoir include boating, fishing, windsurfing, sailing, mountain biking, picnic shelter areas, concessionaires, restrooms, and a recently completed fishing dock. The recreation area is currently (2010) closed to the public due to a zebra mussel infestation.

State Parks

The following is a summary of the parks operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in San Benito County. Table 10-3 summarizes the location, acreage, and features of each park.

**TABLE 10-3
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION SITES**

**San Benito County
2010**

Park or Recreational Facility	Location	Activities Available	Acres (approx.)
Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area	6 miles south of Hollister/Cienega Road	Off-road vehicle riding, motor-cross, biking, hiking, camping, picnicking	7,100
San Juan Bautista State Historic Park	Downtown San Juan Bautista	Historical tours, picnicking	NA
Fremont Peak State Park	11 miles south of San Juan Bautista/San Juan Canyon Road	Hiking, wildlife viewing, star gazing	244
Total Acres within San Benito County			7,344

Sources: San Benito County Building and Planning Department, 2010; San Benito County Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, 2009.

NA – Not available. Several park area acreages were not known due to limited data on less popular or known parkland. As such, no acreage estimates are listed.

Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA)

Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) is located approximately six miles south of Hollister and accessed via Cienega Road. SVRA is a motorcycle, four-wheel drive, and all-terrain dune buggy area consisting of an upper and lower ranch covering over 3,200 acres. The area includes 88 miles of bike, off-road, and obstacle course riding trails. The upper ranch includes 800 acres and 24 miles of trails used for four-wheel drive recreation, special events, and fenced motor-cross. The lower ranch includes 2,400 acres and 64 miles of trails used for motorcycles, ATV use, hill climbs, a motor-cross track, and picnicking. The recreation area has group campsites, camping facilities, hiking trails, and a visitor center.

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park is a nationally-recognized historic landmark located adjacent to Mission San Juan Bautista, California's 15th Spanish-era mission. The park represents what was once the town square of San Juan Bautista and a vital crossroad for travelers between northern and southern California. The park has several structures built in the 1800s, including four main historic museums: the Plaza Hotel, Zanetta House/Plaza Hall, the Plaza Stables, and the newly reopened Castro-Breen Adobe. The park also includes a blacksmith shop, a historic jail, and an early American settler's cabin.

Fremont Peak State Park

Fremont Peak State Park is located 11 miles south of San Juan Bautista along San Juan Canyon Road. The park provides access to a one-mile hiking loop to Fremont Peak (3,169 feet). The peak offers a panoramic view of the surrounding scrub oak woodlands, Manzanita, Toyon, and grassland habitats, Gabilan range, San Benito Valley, Monterey Bay, and the Santa Lucia Mountains. The park includes an astronomical observatory that houses a 30-inch reflecting telescope, the largest available in the county for public use. The park also provides picnic sites, camping, and wildlife viewing areas.



County Parks and Open Space Areas

The following is a summary of the four larger parks owned and/or operated by San Benito County, as well as several smaller subdivision park areas listed under County Service Area parks. Table 10-4 summarizes the location, acreage, and features of each park. Figure 10-1 shows the locations of parks located within the county’s boundaries.

**TABLE 10-4
SAN BENITO COUNTY PARKS**

**San Benito County
2010**

Park or Recreational Facility	Location	Activities Available	Acres (approx.)
Bolado Park	Near Tres Pinos	County fairgrounds, day-use/special-use facilities	126
Hernandez Reservoir	Southern San Benito County/New Idria Road	Temporarily closed	587
San Benito Historical Park	Airline Highway/Bolado Park	Historical tours, picnicking, day-use	33
Veteran’s Memorial Park	Memorial Drive/Hillcrest Road	Skateboarding, baseball, softball, tennis, picnicking	37
Other County Parkland			116
Total Acres within San Benito County			889

Source: San Benito County Public Works Department, 2010.

Bolado Park

Bolado Park is located near Tres Pinos and east of Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area. The park encompasses approximately 126 acres and is the site of the San Benito County Fair each year. More information on the County fairground facilities is provided below under San Benito County Fairgrounds.

Hernandez Reservoir

Hernandez Reservoir is located in the southern part of the county. The reservoir was constructed in the early 1960s and impounds water from San Benito River. It holds approximately 18,500 acre-feet of water for storage and flood control and has a capacity of 30,000 acre-feet. The dam is operated and maintained by the San Benito County Water District (SBCWD). Approximately 587 acres of land surround the reservoir.























San Benito Historical Park

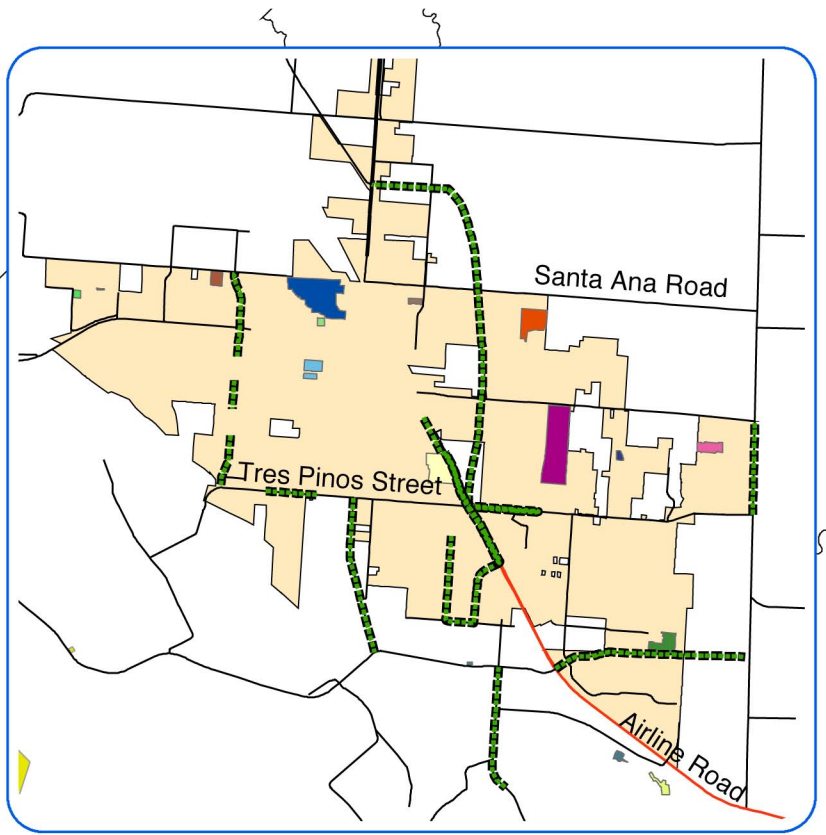
San Benito Historical Park is located off Airline Highway near Bolado Park. The historical park encompasses approximately 33 acres and several historic homes. These homes are open to the public through a site tour. There are 33 picnic areas, multiple group sites, and a historical park bridge. The park includes eight historical structures, many of which have been restored by the San Benito County Historical Society, including the Sullivan House, Willow Creek School, Dunneville Dance Hall, Cottage Bar, Tres Pinos Jail, Ferrando House, Ferrando Barn, and the Garcia House. The park also contains a technical park, print shop, and several historic vehicles.



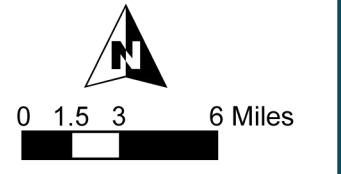
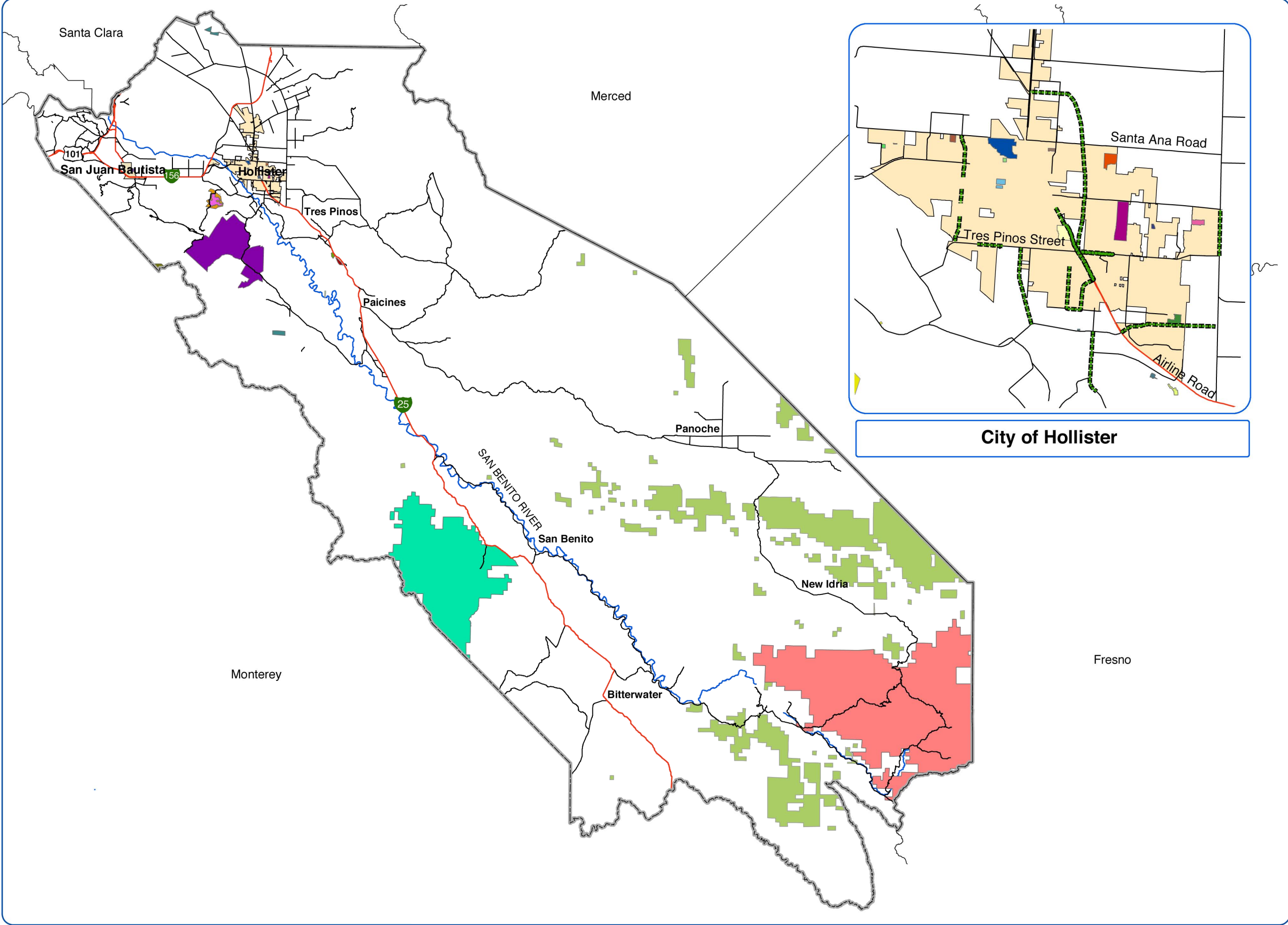
**FIGURE 10-1
PARK AND
RECREATION LANDS
IN SAN BENITO COUNTY**

Legend

-  Rivers
-  San Juan Bautista City Limits
-  Hollister City Limits
-  County Limits
- Roadways**
-  State Highways
-  County Roads
-  Existing Bike Lanes
- Recreation Lands**
-  Bureau of Reclamation
-  Pinnacles National Monument
-  San Justo Reservoir
-  Hollister Hills Vehicular Recreation Area
-  Fremont Peak State Pk.
-  Federal Lands
-  Bolado Park
-  San Juan Bautista Historical Park
-  Clear Creek Management Area
-  San Justo Recreation Area
-  Dunne Park
-  Vista Hill Park
-  Veteran's Memorial Pk.
-  Marguerite Maze Sports Complex
-  Rancho San Justo Park



City of Hollister



Source: San Benito County Planning and Building Department, 2010



Veteran’s Memorial Park

Veteran’s Memorial Park is located on the northwest corner of Memorial Drive and Hillcrest Road. The part encompasses approximately 37 acres and is the most heavily used park in San Benito County. The park has a skate park, three tennis courts, two adult softball fields, four Little League fields, and a lighted regulation-sized hardball field. The park also has four picnic shelters and a BMX track that runs adjacent to the skate park and tennis courts.

County Service Areas (CSA)

The following is a summary of the parks managed by the San Benito County Public Works Department, which includes several small park areas managed by County Service Districts (CSA). There are approximately 30 CSAs managed throughout the county; however, only a few provide publicly-accessible recreation areas. Table 10-5 summarizes the location, acreage, and features of each park.

TABLE 10-5 COUNTY SERVICE AREA (CSA) PARKS MAINTAINED BY SAN BENITO COUNTY			
San Benito County 2010			
Park or Recreational Facility	Location	Activities Available	Acres (approx.)
Stonegate (Private/Gates)	37-home gated community near Tres Pinos	Day-use	5
Hollister Ranch Estates (Public Access)	Union Road	Day-use, picnicking	1.27
Oak Creek Park	Enterprise Road/Airline Highway	Day-use, picnicking, dog-walking	1.47
Pacheco Creek Estates (Private/Gated)	State Route 156 near Fairview Road	Day-use, picnicking	2.74
Quail Hollow Park	Enterprise Road/Airline Highway	Day-use, picnicking, dog-walking	2.73
Rancho Larios (Private/Gated)	2 miles west of San Juan Bautista near State Route 156	Day-use, picnicking	3.87
Total Acres within San Benito County			17.08

Source: San Benito County Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, 2009.

Not available - Several park area acreages were not known due to limited data on less popular or known parkland. As such, no acreage estimates are listed.

Quail Hollow Park

Quail Hallow Park is located near Enterprise Road in the Quail Hollow Subdivision. The park is a small, 2.73-acre neighborhood park.

Oak Creek Park

Oak Creek Park is located near Enterprise Road in the Oak Creek Subdivision. The park is a small, 1.47-acre neighborhood park.

Other Recreational Facilities

Bikeways

San Benito County currently (2010) has over 10 miles of bikeways. The majority of the bikeway segments are located in Hollister. Only a half-mile of bikeway is located within the unincorporated county along Southside Road. The existing bikeway network consists of approximately two miles of bike paths and eight miles of bike routes. There are no Class III bike routes in the county. In December 2009 the San Benito County Council of Governments adopted the San Benito County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which proposes an additional 25 miles of Class I multi-use bikeways, approximately 29 miles of Class II bike lanes, and approximately 41 miles of Class III bike routes, for a total of 95 miles of bikeways within the county over the next 20 years. An additional 42 miles of bikeways are currently (2010) proposed within the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista.

Several short-term bikeway projects have been constructed or are currently (2010) underway. The Southside Road Bike Lanes project, completed in 2006, is a one-mile bike lane along both sides of Southside Road that begins at the Pinnacle Continuation High School and continues north to Ladd Lane. The San Juan Highway Bike Lanes project, currently under construction, includes a three-mile bike lane along both sides of San Juan Highway. The lanes begin at US 101 near Anzar High School and continue to First Street in San Juan Bautista. This project is expected to be open to the public sometime in 2010.

Long-term projects proposed for non-motorized transportation include sidewalk gap improvements at various locations, pedestrian railroad improvements to provide safer at-grade crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians, the San Benito River Recreation Trail, and a scenic trail to Pinnacles National Monument. Long-term improvements are also proposed, including a bridge for bicyclists along the San Juan Road Bridge, and construction of a multi-use trail along the Union Pacific Rail Line.

Trails

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historical Trail is a component of the National Landscape Conservation System. This 1,210 mile historic route begins in Nogales, Arizona, and ends in San Francisco, California. A portion of the trail traverses the northwestern part of San Benito County, south of US 101 and SR 156 near San Juan Bautista. The trail parallels a portion of US 101 until it reaches Santa Clara County, where the historic trail corridor splits. The trail also passes through several sites of interest within the county, including the San Juan Canyon Historic District, the Mission San Juan Bautista, and the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park.

Public and Private Golf Courses

There are two public golf courses in San Benito County and two semi-private golf courses at a resort that accept public play. These courses include:

- San Juan Oaks Golf Club (18 hole)
- Bolado Park Golf Course (9 hole)
- Ridgemark Golf and Country Club Gabilan Course (18 hole)
- Ridgemark Golf and Country Club Diablo Course (18 hole)



While the Ridgemark Golf and Country Club courses are semi-private, they alternate between offering private and public use. The resort also includes a clubhouse, guest cottages, and six lighted tennis courts. All golf courses are located in or near Hollister.

Private Recreational Facilities

There are several private recreation facilities in San Benito County. These include private camping, horseback riding, and hunting facilities. Private hunting clubs can be found extensively throughout the major grasslands, wetlands, and water resource areas in the county. These areas provide valuable wildlife habitat, passive recreational use in the non-hunting season, and cattle grazing. Other uses, such as churches, provide recreational facilities including gymnasiums and performance halls. However, the majority of the open space recreational uses on private land are camping facilities and RV parks such as McAlpine Lake, Thousand Trails, Pinnacles Campground, Betabel Road RV Park, and Monterey RV Park. The exceptions are private golf and hunting clubs, including the Ridgemark Golf and Country Club.

San Benito County Fairgrounds

The San Benito County Fairgrounds are located at Bolado Park, seven miles southeast of Hollister. The fairgrounds hosts weddings, family picnics, dinners, dances, and conferences. In June the fairgrounds hosts the San Benito County Saddle Horse Rodeo. During the Fall it hosts the San Benito County Fair. The facility includes:

- A trailer camping area, open year-round
- Pavilion Hall, which includes 12,000 square feet of indoor areas and up to 816 seats used for weddings and receptions
- The Blue Room with 128 seats, used for reception events
- An outdoor patio area of 11,544 square feet
- A 15-acre picnic area
- A 2,733 seated grandstand track arena

Museums

The County owns and operates the San Benito County Historical Society Museum at 498 5th Street in Hollister. The museum is leased to the San Benito County Historical Society, which established the museum in 1974. The museum is within the historic Wapple House, built in 1909. The mission of the historical society is to collect and preserve materials pertaining to the history of San Benito County and to promote an interest in, and appreciation of, San Benito County's past. In addition, the Historical Society operates the Carl Luck Museum located adjacent the Luck Library of San Juan Bautista.

SECTION 10.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section summarizes the existing archeological, historical, and paleontological resources within San Benito County. The primary sources of data for this section are cultural and paleontological resources listed in several databases, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California Historical Landmarks, the State Office of Historic Preservation Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File, the files of the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, and the files of the University of California Berkeley Museum of Paleontology, and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. Due to the sensitivity of many prehistoric, ethnohistoric, historical, and paleontological site locations listed, the tables in this section present information available only to the general public.

Key Terms

Area of Potential Effects (APE). The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking or project may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties. All projects or undertakings generate potential effects that may directly or indirectly affect cultural resources.

California Historical Landmarks (CHL). Buildings, sites, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, or technical, religious, experimental, or other historical value.

California Points of Historical Interest (CPHI). Sites, buildings, features, or events that are of local (city or county) significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other historical value.

California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.

Cultural Resources. Tangible or observable evidence of past human activities, including prehistoric and historic archeological sites, historic buildings and structures, historic districts with multiple buildings or structures, archeological districts with multiple sites, and traditional cultural properties and landscapes. Cultural resources may include buildings, structures, objects, sites, districts, places, or any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years old. Native Americans may attribute cultural values to landscapes and natural features.

Ethnohistoric Resources. Native American objects, sites, buildings, or structures that generally date from 1776 to 45 years before the present. Ethnohistory is the study of native or non-Western peoples from a combined historical and anthropological viewpoint, using written documents, oral literature, and cultural material. Ethnohistory begins at different times at different places within California after the arrival of European settlers.

Historical Archeological Resources. Sites, historic occupations, and activities that are at least 45 years old. Evidence of historic activity can include the physical remains of cultural and designed landscapes, battlegrounds, cemeteries, mines, canals, trails, roads, railroads, and farmsteads.



Historic-era Built Environment Resources. Buildings, structures, objects, or districts. “Buildings” such as houses, barns, churches, hotels, or similar constructions, are created principally to shelter or house various forms of human activity. “Structure” is used to distinguish buildings whose functional constructions are usually made for purposes other than creating human shelter. The term “object” is used to distinguish from buildings and structures entities that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale, and of simple or vernacular construction. A “district” possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development (Office of Historic Preservation 1995).

Midden (Anthropic) Deposits. Deposits of earth that have been affected by prehistoric human occupation, usually dark in color, rich in organic minerals, often containing artifacts or other items of human manufacture or use, frequently including human remains.

Most Likely Descendent (MLD). A list of Native American descendents of many California tribes maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission. These individuals review projects and determine whether a project will impact areas or sites of significance to the Native American community.

Multi-Component Archeological Resources. Archeological sites that exhibit more than one occupational or cultural component, for example a site containing both prehistoric and historic remains.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Listing of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts of local, state, or national significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Paleo-Indians. Refers to early Native Americans living approximately 12,500 to 8,500 years before the present, who left evidence that they hunted modern as well as now-extinct fauna. Their distinctive Clovis and Folsom fluted projectile points have been found and securely dated at numerous archeological sites in the American Southwest (Haynes 1969; Meltzer 2006). Evidence of their presence in California, however, consists of scattered finds of basally thinned, fluted projectile points found at surface sites, and in a few instances, in subsurface contexts (Rondeau et al. 2007).

Paleontological Resources. Any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth’s crust, that provide information about the history of life on earth, evolution, and our place, as humans, in the world, with the exception of archeological resource as defined by the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb[1]), or any cultural item as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001[2]).

Prehistoric Archeological Resources. Sites, features, artifacts, objects, or materials used by Native Americans. Prehistoric archeological sites exhibit evidence of human activity, often identified by the presence of “midden” (anthropic deposits) created by human activity. Sites may contain evidence of thousands of years of human activity dating from the early Holocene (approximately 7,000 to 12,500 years ago) to the time of European contact in California, as early as AD 1776, and continuing into the Post-Contact ethnohistoric period. Physical evidence of prehistoric sites often includes stone artifacts and flakes produced while making or maintaining stone artifacts, food waste (shell or animal bone), and discolored, dark soil resulting from decay of organic matter (referred to as **midden or anthropic**

deposits), fire hearths, stone alignments, bedrock grinding slicks, bedrock milling cups (bedrock mortars), or human skeletal remains.

Radiocarbon Dating. A method of establishing the age of archeological finds using carbon-14 to determine the age of organic materials from the present to about 62,000 years ago.

Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 1996 and 1996a, as amended) and Native American Graves and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq., as amended). As national policy, these acts establish that Native American traditional religious practices and beliefs, sacred sites (including right of access), and the use of sacred objects shall be protected and preserved. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) protects Native American remains.

Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C 431-433). This act provides that penalties shall be assessed against "any person who shall appropriate, excavate, injure or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity, situated on land owned or controlled by the Government of the United States" except as granted permission by the appropriate secretary of the department having jurisdiction; permits the examination, excavation, or gathering of antiquities from government property by recognized scientific or educational institutions in accordance with uniform rules defined in the act.

Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) (16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm). The purpose of ARPA is to enhance preservation and protection of archeological resources on public and Native American lands.

BLM Manual 8270 and Handbook H-8270-1. These regulations provide the criteria for permitting, collection, and use of fossils on BLM administered lands, and creates a framework for how geological formations are ranked according to paleontological potential. The BLM considers that the primary cause of damage to paleontological resources occurs as a result of road construction, unauthorized collection, wildfires, and natural weathering and erosions. The same effects apply to most private land within San Benito County.

Certified Local Government Program. The Certified Local Government (CLG) is a national program designed to encourage the direct participation of a local government in the identification, registration, and preservation of historic properties located within the jurisdiction of the local government. A local government may become a CLG by developing and implementing a historic preservation program and commission, based on Federal and State standards.

The CLG program encourages the preservation of cultural resources by promoting a partnership among local governments, the State of California, and the National Park Service (NPS). Becoming a CLG can provide local staff and commissions with the tools, technical training, and leadership experience required to preserve a community's cultural heritage. Local interests and concerns are integrated into the official planning and decision-making processes.

Any local government is eligible to apply for certification, with the exception of regional commissions and councils of governments. A local government is any general-purpose political subdivision of



California, such as a city, county, or city/county. It is important to be aware that certification pertains to the entire local government and its agencies, not simply to the preservation commission that serves the local government. According to information provided by the California Office of Historic Preservation (2010), San Juan Bautista is the only city within the county listed as a Certified Local Government.

Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-467). This act states that it is national policy to “preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance.”

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 4321, and 4331-4335, as amended). This act establishes guidelines to “preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and to maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and a variety of individual choice.” All projects that are subject to NEPA are also subject to compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and all NEPA requirements concerning cultural resources.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). This act was enacted to avoid unnecessary harm to historic properties. The NHPA includes regulations that apply specifically to Federal land-holding agencies, but also includes regulations (Section 106) that pertain to all projects funded, permitted, or approved by any Federal agency that have the potential to affect cultural resources. Provisions of NHPA establish a National Register of Historic Places, or NRHP (the National Register is maintained by the National Park Service), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Offices, and Federal grants-in-aid programs.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (36CFR60.4 and 36CFR800). Archeological and historical sites can be given a measure of protection if they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The criterion most often applied to archeological sites is criterion (d), which addresses the potential of a site to yield information important in prehistory or history. The National Register criteria and other information issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, present the legal measures of significance relevant to cultural resources. The NRHP criteria for evaluation are the following:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- a. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history; or
- b. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack distinction; or
- d. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history [36CFR60.4 (a-d)].

Pursuant to the intent and specification of the criteria quoted above, prehistoric and historic cultural resources may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in the event that they have yielded, or upon further investigation may be likely to yield, information important in

prehistory or history. This evaluation is based on inspection of the features of the site, examination of artifacts and features, the age of the site, the apparent integrity of the site's context, and the location and integrity of the site in its local and regional context. Under criterion (d) it is implicit that further scientific investigation of a site based on research goals, objectives, problem domains, testable hypotheses, and other research questions that have been identified in applicable research designs will be likely to yield information important to the explication and interpretation of local and or regional prehistory and history (Black and Jolly 2003; Breschini and Haversat 1978; Brim and Spain 1974; Hardesty and Little 2000; Little and Shackel 2007; Praetzelis 1991; State of California Department of Transportation 2007, 2008; Union Station Partners et al. 1996).

In addition to meeting one or more of NRHP criteria, a cultural resource must possess physical and geographic integrity. An eligible cultural resource must be essentially in the same physical condition as when it was used or constructed, and, if it is not, its condition must be such that it may be renovated to its near original condition. A cultural resource must also have integrity of location: it must be in its original location of use or construction. The setting of a cultural resource must impart a feeling characteristic of the time when the resource achieved its significance. Archeological sites must have sufficient integrity so that available data can be recovered and analyzed in meaningful ways (Hardesty and Little 2000; King 1999).

Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing professional standards and providing guidance related to the preservation and protection of all cultural resources listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties apply to all grants-in-aid projects assisted through the National Historic Preservation Fund, and are intended to be applied to a wide variety of resources, including buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. The treatment standards, developed in 1992, are entitled "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties" codified as 36 CFR 68. The standards address four treatments:

- Preservation means the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses on the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features, rather than extensive replacement and new construction.
- Rehabilitation means the act or process of making possible an efficient compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.
- Restoration means the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.
- Reconstruction means the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.



Title 43 CAR 8365.1-5. This regulation addresses the collection of invertebrate fossils and, by administrative extension, fossil plants, including the willful disturbance, removal, and destruction of scientific resources or natural objects, and Subpart 8360.0-7 identified the penalties for such violations.

Title 43 CAR 3802 and 3809. This regulation addresses protection of paleontological resources from operations authorized under the mining laws.

State Regulations

California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code 21000 et seq.) (CEQA). Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 15000 et seq.) requires lead agencies to determine whether proposed projects that require discretionary government approval may have a significant effect on archeological or historical resources. This determination applies to cultural resources that meet significance criteria qualifying them as “unique” or “of importance,” and listed or determined eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). If a project has or might have an adverse effect or effects on unique or important cultural or paleontological resources, the project is determined to have a significant effect on the environment, and the effect(s) must be mitigated. If a cultural resource is found not to be significant or unique under the qualifying criteria, it need not be considered further in the planning process.

CEQA emphasizes avoidance of archeological and historical resources as the preferred strategy of reducing potential significant environmental effects resulting from a proposed project or undertaking. If avoidance is not feasible, a data recovery program or other appropriate measures must be developed to mitigate project impacts. In order to address the level of potential impacts, and thereby design appropriate mitigation measures, the significance and importance of affected cultural resources must be ascertained. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 includes provisions for significance criteria related to archeological and historical resources. A significant archeological or historical resource is defined as one that meets the criteria of the CRHR. A significant impact is characterized as “substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.” An impact is considered significant if any of the following apply:

- The project may disturb historical architectural resources;
- The project may disturb known prehistoric or historical cultural resources;
- The project may disturb buried, unknown prehistoric, or historical archeological resources.

Public Resources Code Section 5031 identifies a historical property as being the first, last, only, or most significant historical property of its type in the region of concern.

Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 authorizes the establishment of the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Any cultural resource found within the APE of a project (undertaking) must be evaluated in respect to CRHR criteria. To be eligible for CRHR, an archeological or historical site must be significant at the local, state, or national level under one or more of four criteria, which closely parallel NRHP criteria.

The CEQA Guidelines define three criteria that may qualify a property as a historic resource for CEQA review:

1. The resource is listed in or determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.
2. The resource is included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5030.1[k] of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1[g] of the Public Resources Code, unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
3. The lead agency determines the resource to be significant as supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15064.5[a]).

California Register of Historical Resources. On September 27, 1992, Assembly Bill 2881 (Statutes of 1992, Chapter 1075) was signed into law amending the Public Resources Code as it affects historical resources (Public Resources Code §4850 *et seq.*) This legislation, which became effective on January 1, 1993, also creates the California Register of Historical Resources, informally the California Register. Similar to the NRHP criteria, to qualify for listing a historical resource must be significant at the local, state, or national level, under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States; or
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history;
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or
4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

Integrity is the authenticity of a historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. All resources nominated for listing on the CRHR must have integrity. Resources, therefore, must retain enough of their historical character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It must also be judged with reference to the particular criteria under which a resource is proposed for eligibility. Alterations over time to a resource or historic changes in its use may themselves have historical, cultural, or architectural significance.

It is possible that historical resources may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but they may still be eligible for listing in the California Register. A resource that has lost its historic character or appearance may still have sufficient integrity for the California Register if it maintains the potential to yield significant scientific or historical information or specific data.

- **Resource Types.** In reference to the California Register, there are several types of resources, including buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts.
- **Site.** Location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself possesses historical, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing building, structure, or



object. Examples of sites include trails, designed landscapes, battlefields, habitation sites, ceremonial areas, petroglyph, and pictograph sites.

- **Age.** The criterion of the age of cultural resources is identified by the State Office of Historic Preservation as follows: “Any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years old may be recorded for purposes of inclusion in the OHP’s filing system” (State of California, Office of Historic Preservation 1995).

Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) maintains a list of Most Likely Descendants, those persons regarded as most likely descended from a deceased Native American. In the event that human remains are found in a location other than a dedicated cemetery and the remains are identified as Native American, the county coroner is required to contact NAHC. Designated MLDs have the authority to specify the treatment and disposition of Native American human remains. MLDs constitute a separate group from Native American contacts.

Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). This commission, established in 1976, was created in response to demands from Native Americans to protect their burial grounds from destruction. NAHC authorizes California’s Most Likely Descendants (MLD) the right to determine the treatment, disposition, and analysis of Native American human remains. NAHC is located at 915 Capitol Mall, Room 364, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916-653-4082). Consult the California Public Resources Code 5097.9, or refer to California Public Resources (<http://www.nahc.ca.gov/cpr.html>). Among the functions of NAHC is maintenance of lists of Native American Contacts and Most Likely Descendants.

Native American Contacts. Project proponents or their designees are required by law to contact NAHC and advise the Commission of the purpose and location of proposed projects, and request NAHC to provide a list of Native Americans individuals and organizations that may have concerns regarding the project or its potential effects. Upon receipt of the list, the project proponent is responsible to contact the individuals and organizations listed, furnishing each with a statement of the project’s purpose and a map of its location. If the Native American contacts do not respond within two weeks, the proponent should undertake contact by telephone, and maintain a log documenting all efforts to communicate with the Native American contacts. The Native American contacts are not to be confused with MLDs, discussed below.

Senate Bill 18 (Chapter 905, amends Section 815.3 California Civil Code “Traditional Tribal Cultural Places”). Section 65351 of the California Civil Code reads: “During the preparation or amendment of the general plan, the planning agency shall provide opportunities for the involvement of citizens, California Native American tribes, public agencies, public utility companies, and civic, education, and other community groups, through public hearings and any other means the city and county deems appropriate.” Native Americans who have an association with or have expressed an interest in San Benito County cultural resources include members of the Ohlone-Costanonan, Bay Miwok, Plains Miwok, Patwin, and Salinan tribes.

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State Laws Pertaining to Human Remains. Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code requires that in the event of discovery or recognition of human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has determined whether the remains are those of a Native American. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner must contact the California Native American Heritage Commission. CEQA Guidelines (Public Resources Code Section 5097) specify the procedures to be followed in the event of discovery of human remains on non-Federal land. The disposition of Native American burials is within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission. Upon request, the NAHC will provide project leaders with a list of MLDs, who will specify treatment and disposition of any Native American remains found within the APE of a project.

San Benito County Regulations

General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (1992)

Goal 9. A well-balanced system of recreation recognizing the natural, recreational, cultural, and historical attributes inherent to San Benito County within existing Federal, State, and County parks and on private and Bureau of Land Management lands.

Objectives

1. Promote the development of mixed recreational uses within existing State and Federal parks and Bureau of Land Management land that would serve the resident population of the county.
2. Provide outdoor recreation to meet the needs of the growing population in the county.



3. Explore options for regional trail connections with Santa Clara and Monterey Counties.
4. Integrate unincorporated projects within Hollister's sphere-of-influence with the City of Hollister Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
5. Establish historic districts for the communities of Tres Pinos, Dunneville, and New Idria.
6. Preserve existing historic resources in the county.
7. Recognize the inherent beauty of ridgelines within the county and develop policies and programs to protect the aesthetic quality.

Policy 50. Historic Structures

It shall be the policy of the County to preserve the historic character of the communities of Tres Pinos and New Idria.

Actions

1. Establish historic districts for the communities of Tres Pinos and New Idria.
2. Promote commercial-recreational uses in underutilized historic structures.
3. Cooperate with the Historical Society and other organizations to assimilate information on historic areas of the county worth preservation.

Policy 51. Compatibility with Historic Structures

It is the policy of the County to integrate architectural styles of new development with existing architecture (e.g., Saint Francis Retreat, etc.) and to protect existing historic structures.

Actions

1. Development proposals that would remove structures 100 years or older shall demonstrate why preservation of the structures and integration of the structures into concept plan is inappropriate.
2. A historic consultant shall be retained at the developer's expense by the County to evaluate the historic merits of existing buildings, make recommendations for the new development, and, if necessary, to review building elevations for new development.
3. Require evaluation of development proposals with preservation of historic structures.

Policy 52. Native American and Archeological Resources

It is the policy of the County to recognize the value of Native American, archeological, and paleontological resources.

Actions

1. Implement the archeological site review ordinance.

Policy 53. Mitigation for Development

Mitigation for development proposals where Native American, archeological, or paleontological resources exist shall be guided by the need to provide equitable resolution for rights of the free exercise of religion, the rights of individual property owners, and the rights of the State and counties to regulate land use.

Actions

1. Options to be considered for mitigation of development on significant sites include dedication of conservation easement to the County, tax relief, purchase of development credits, and redesign of the project to avoid or minimize impacts.
2. When construction of significant resources cannot be avoided, a mitigation program shall be funded by the project proponent in accordance with the guidelines of the State Office of Historic Preservation and the State of California Native American Heritage Commission.

Policy 54. Prohibit Unauthorized Grading of Resources

It is the policy of the County to prohibit unauthorized grading, collection, or degradation of Native American, archeological, or paleontological resources.

County Ordinances

County Code Chapter 19.05, Archeological Site Review. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect, preserve, and show respect for Native American, Spanish, Mexican, Euroamerican, and other archeological sites and resources within the county. There are areas in the county that are known to contain significant cultural and archeological sites which contain unique, irreplaceable, or religious resources significant to the history of the county. This archeological resource is fast disappearing as a result of public and private land development. It is the policy of San Benito County to preserve the county's historic identity and integrity, and this ordinance establishes regulations for the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of archeological sites in order to promote the public welfare, and to implement General Plan policy and State law.

Other Local Organizations

According to information compiled by the California Historical Society, there are several organizations in San Benito County actively participating in historic preservation activities or projects. These are the San Benito County Historical Society, Mission San Juan Bautista, San Juan State Historic Park, Historical Resources Commission of the City of San Juan Bautista, Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito County Historical and Recreation Park, and the Three Rocks Research Group (California Historical Society 2010).



San Juan Bautista Historic Resource Preservation Ordinance No. 2008-03 Chapter 11.06. The purpose of the Historic Resource Preservation Ordinance is to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City of San Juan Bautista by providing for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements, buildings, structures, signs, objects, records, manuscripts, features, sites, places, landscapes, and areas within the city that reflect historic or cultural elements of the city's architectural, artistic, cultural, engineering, aesthetic, historical, archeological, natural, geological, scientific, educational, political, social, military, and other cultural heritage. The ordinance establishes a historic resources board designating the Planning Commission as the "Historic Resources Board." The ordinance further establishes the City of San Juan Bautista Register of Historical Resources.

Major Findings

- There are currently (2010) 1,374 documented historical resources in San Benito County, including 213 prehistoric archeological sites, 287 historic archeological sites, 15 multi-component archeological sites, and 859 historic properties (buildings or structures).
- Of the 859 historic properties in the county, 393 are located in San Juan Bautista, 360 in Hollister, 96 in Paicines or its vicinity, and 10 in Tres Pinos. Of these 859 historic properties, 14 are of national importance.
- Significant or important cultural resources may exist in the subsurface of farmland or urban areas in the county.
- Paleontological specimens have been found in the county and additional specimens may be unearthed during future agriculture and development excavations.

Existing Conditions

This section summarizes the existing (2010) paleontological, archeological, ethnographic, and historical settings in San Benito County.

Paleontological Setting

San Benito County is within the Coast Range physiographic province of California. Bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and Central Valley to the east, the region is typified by northwest-southeast trending mountains ranges and fault systems. From the Upper Cretaceous geological period through the Miocene epoch, much of the Hollister area was covered by shallow, warm seas. Sediment washed from adjacent mountains accumulated in the valleys producing extensive terrestrial sediment deposits, within which paleontological remains are preserved.

The first major paleontological discovery in the county occurred in 1937, when the most complete Plesiosaur skeleton ever found was excavated from the Moreno Formation in the Panoche Hills. Subsequently, both the Moreno and Tremblor Formations have yielded fossils. Most major exposures of these two formations are within the Panoche-Coalinga area of environmental concern defined by BLM. The Panoche Formation is known to contain mollusca, including ammonites; the older underlying Franciscan Formation yields invertebrates, vertebrates, and plant fossils.

Significant paleontological specimens have been found on both public and private land within the Moreno shale deposits along Cantua Canyon. Invertebrate fossils occur in Los Gatos Creek Canyon in sandstone formations. Fossils have also been found in the Coalinga and Pleasant Valley areas. Fossil sites have produced a range of plant and animal remains, found at many locations, including Tumey Gulch, Griswold Hills, Larius Creek, San Carlos Creek, the Bolsa Valley, Tres Pinos Creek, and the San Benito River valley. The Hollister Field Office of BLM has reported the discovery in the Tremblor Range of significant fossils in the Path 15 power line project. Under one of the power line towers a "bone bed" was disclosed, which produced fossil remains of amphibians, tortoises, birds, rabbits, and terrestrial/fresh water snails, some specimens representing the first examples ever found in the Tremblor Range.

In general, paleontological resources found on public land within the county are recognized by BLM as a fragile and non-renewable scientific resource. These resources contribute to the history of life on earth, and accordingly represent a valuable component of our national heritage.

Archeological Setting

There are three comprehensive archeological reviews that are relevant to San Benito County. These are a state-wide compendium, a regionwide review, and a recent (2007) summary which focuses primarily on coastal prehistory.

Coast and Interior Prehistory

A recent review (Jones et al. 2007:125-146) summarizes the current status of central coast and interior valley prehistoric chronology, including San Benito County and adjacent regions. However, no archeological sites within the county are mentioned in the Jones review, which is not to imply that its archeology is inconsequential, but instead is indicative of the lack of knowledge of the county's prehistory. Several periods of prehistoric development along the coast and coastal interior zone are discussed, including:

Paleo-Indian (pre-8000 BC). This period is based on the presence of two fluted projectile points found near San Luis Obispo. Jones et al. (2007:135) state: "Earlier human presence in the area is suggested only by isolated fluted projectile points from Nippomo and SLO-1429 near Santa Margarita probably reflecting habitation sometime between 13,000 and 10,000 years ago."

Millingstone or Early Archaic (8000 BC to 3500 BC). This period is characterized accordingly to Jones et al. (2007:135) by "the large number of well-made handstones and/or millingslabs, crude cores and cobble-core tools, and less abundant flake tools and large side-notched projectile points." Millingstone occupations have been identified at 42 sites in the region. The oldest are Cross Creek (Jones et al. 2004:213-230) and Diablo Canyon (Greenwood and Fitch 1972). The oldest features interpreted as a locus of domestic structures referable to the Millingstone period was found at CA-SLO-369 (Parker 2004).

The Millingstone/Early Archaic period is represented by CA-SLO-2, -585, and -1797 at Diablo Canyon (Greenwood and Fitch 1972). Two multicomponent sites produced basal dates. At CA-SLO-2 in a midden deposit 340 cm deep. These include three cultural components: Millingstone, Hunting, and Chumash. A very early millingstone component occurs at CA-SLO-585, dated 8410 B.P. In review, Moratto (1984:108) states, "This part of the coast evidently was occupied long before millingstones first appeared, and that premillingstone strata seem to exist in lower SLO-2 and possibly at SLO-585."



Hunting Culture (3500/3000 BC to AD 1000/1250). Jones et al. (2007:138) recognize three periods (or phases) of the Hunting Culture, which essentially are comparable to the "Early, Middle and Late" periods of the Central Valley and Delta Region discussed by Lillard and Purves (1936) and Lillard et al. (1939). The Early period is identified at Little Pico I (CA-SLO-175) and the Middle Period at Little Pico II (CA-SLO-175 and -267).

Late Period (AD 1250 to 1769). This period is represented at CA-SLO-214. Jones et al. (2007:140) state: "Late occupation has been recognized at no fewer than 157 sites. Typical Late Period occupations are marked by small middens with associated or nearby bedrock mortars." The Late Period, during which the Costanoans and Chumash occupied the coast and portions of the interior, terminates with the arrival of Portola in 1769.

A major archeological chronological sequence pertaining to the Coast Ranges adjoining the east side of San Benito County is based on excavation of sites at San Luis Dam and Los Banos Reservoir in Merced and Fresno Counties, conducted by Olsen and Payen (1969). The "Pacheco or West Side" sequence is defined principally by data from two sites: CA-MER-3 and -94. Olsen and Payen (1969:42) provided tentative estimates of the time span of each of four cultural complexes, listed as follows.

Positas Complex; (ca. 3300 to 2600 BC) (CA-MER-94, Greyson Site, Component A). The earliest complex identified by Olsen is based on a very limited archeological inventory, consisting of one-spire ground Olivella bead, a single small bone bead, two projectile points, one leaf-shaped, one stemmed, and a few milling stones, cobble pestles, and cobble manos.

Pacheco Complex; (ca. 2600 BC to AD 300) (CA-MER-94, Components B-1, B-2). This complex is identified by various types of shell beads, including thick rectangular Olivella, square Haliotis, and rectangular mussel shell varieties. The upper strata of the site yielded large and small disc, modified saddle, and variant thin rectangular Olivella beads. Flaked stone specimens consist of large side-notched and stemless projectile points, scrapers, and polished stones. Large and small bowl mortars, slab millings, and manos comprise the ground stone inventory. Burials, oriented in flexed position, are frequently accompanied by grave goods. Architectural remains consist of four floor surfaces, all circular, 10-12 feet in diameter.

Gonzaga Complex; (ca. AD 300 to 1000) (CA-MER-3, Component A; CA-MER-14). This complex features abundant Olivella shell beads, both large and small spire-ground oval types, and several varieties of thin, centrally perforated rectangular beads. Shell ornaments, all Haliotis, are disc-shaped forms with edge perforations, teardrop and rounded rectangular shapes, and some with an occasional surface appliqué of small disc beads set in asphaltum on the concave face. Chipped stone artifacts, other than crude scrapers and core tools, are rare, consisting of one stemmed chert projectile point and several fragments of large obsidian serrated points. Well-made bowl mortars are frequent, some with specially dressed rims. Pottery is represented by a single sherd.

Burials of the Gonzaga Complex are primary, fully extended on the back or flexed on the side, a definite change from the preceding complexes. House floors are 20 to 30 feet in diameter and have a built-up interior earthen ring and enclosed fire pit. One floor, 22 feet in diameter with a single centered post hole, is interpreted as the remains of an assembly or "dance" house. Inhumations in the floor were accompanied by different types of beads, presumably indicating variations in the social hierarchy. Individuals of apparently lower status were cremated and buried in the interior floor, whereas those of higher status were not cremated and were interred at the south edge of the structure.

Panoche Complex (ca. AD 1500 to 1850) (CA-MER-94, Component C; CA-FRE-128, -129 and CA-MER -03, Component B). The Panoche Complex is the local manifestation of the protohistoric period since it includes evidence of historic contact. It is considered as ancestral to the West Side Yokuts. Diagnostic elements include a distinctive shell complex, including lipped, thin, and rough small disc Olivella beads, side-ground Olivella tubular clam shell beads, and small steatite disc beads. Stone artifacts comprise distinctive, small, side-notched concave based projectile points, bowl mortars, and infrequent manos and metates. Pottery occurs, with baked clay "spindle whorls" and a few baked clay cylinders of unknown function. Burials are primary and flexed; some are cremated. Architectural remains include very large structures from 30 to 50 feet in diameter; post holes indicate that a multiple, circular arrangement of posts is typical, supporting a superstructure made of grass or tule. Very large structures (50 to 90 feet in diameter) are the culmination of the architectural sequence in the San Luis-Pacheco region. Historic items indicate contact with Spanish and Anglo-Americans, probably through trade rather than direct contact. In many cases the continuity between the prehistoric past (the "Late Period") and the "ethnohistoric period" is deficient or non-existent because of the massive impact suffered by the indigenous tribes of the California coast and interior region when the Spanish missions were established. Many Native Americans simply did not survive the contact experience, and by the time that early-day ethnographers such as Alfred Kroeber began to obtain information concerning the affected tribes, individuals who could have provided it were long since deceased. Few substantive excavations or major testing projects are known from San Benito County.

City of Hollister General Plan EIR

The City of Hollister General Plan/Final Program EIR states that less than 10 percent of the Planning Area has been surveyed for the presence of archeological resources. Nevertheless, the analysis found three prehistoric sites have been found in the Hollister Planning Area to date. These include CA-SBN-14, a Native American burial site, CA-SBN-15, a site containing human modified flakes, and CA-SBN-181, a site adjacent to the Planning Area containing a flake scatter, suggesting the location of a campsite. The analysis also states that these remains are suggestive of one or more village sites in the Planning Area vicinity and point toward the need for project-level archeological investigations.

A geoarcheological study prepared by Rosenthal and Meyer in 2004 demonstrated that both regional topographical and hydrological conditions change over time. As such, the present configuration of geologic formations may not adequately reflect conditions that prevailed during prehistoric times. For this reason sensitivity maps based on contemporary conditions can be inadvertently misused to convey an impression to contractors and other project stakeholders that archeological resources are unlikely to occur in certain areas. While few archeological sites are known from the vicinity of Hollister and the Bolsa and Hollister valleys, given the numerous sites in the adjacent southern Santa Clara Valley and the apparent suitability, it is quite likely that important sites will be found during projects that involve ground disturbance.

Another archeological survey was conducted by Breschini and Haversat in 1978 along a 47-mile long route of the San Felipe Division, Central Valley Project. The results of this survey are important for several reasons. The project corridor begins at the north in Santa Clara County, north of Morgan Hill, enters San Benito County, branching to the northeast into the canyon drained by Pacheco Creek, and circles immediately south of Hollister, terminating at the San Justo Reservoir. The survey party found 11 cultural resources consisting of six prehistoric and five historic sites. Based on the results of the surveys of this corridor, project scientists determined that surface survey was not an effective method for locating cultural resources in the project area. Their recommendation was that a subsurface survey needs to be conducted along the entire route of the project



The corridor survey found that most of the prehistoric sites occurred in five locations: upper canyon, canyon mouth, river bank, alluvial plain, and marsh. Approximately 73 percent of large archeological occupation sites identified occurred in upper canyon or canyon mouth locales. The team stated that many of the archeological sites are buried, and cannot be easily located by survey restricted to surface examination.

San Juan Bautista

The neophyte village at San Juan Bautista was the focus of archeological investigations conducted in 1961 by Clemmer. Excavations have also been conducted recently inside the old mission (Mendoza 1996, 2009; St. Clair 2005).

Pinnacles National Monument

Two major surveys and two overviews have been conducted concerning the prehistory of Pinnacles National Monument. These studies, including Breschini et al. (1983), Fritz and Smith (1976), Haversat et al. (1981) and Olsen et al. (1967), are important since few archeological investigations have taken place in the Gabilans. Archeological surveys within Pinnacles Monument located 22 prehistoric cultural resources and five historic sites. Eight of the prehistoric sites have bedrock milling stations. Other sites consist of lithic scatters and occupied rockshelters.

Chalone Archeological District

This district (P-35-000140) consists of three prehistoric archeological sites, including rockshelters, lithic scatters, inhumations, and occupational debris. The district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historic Resources.

Clear Creek

An archeological reconnaissance conducted by BLM in the Clear Creek Off Road Vehicle Area identified 12 prehistoric sites (Napton 1975). An archeological survey at Pinnacles and Clear Creek revealed that many prehistoric archeological cultural resources located in mountainous terrain often are small, seasonally occupied resource gathering sites, but large village sites have been found at comparatively high elevations (Napton and Greathouse 2001).

Laguna Mountain Region

Cultural resources reconnaissance conducted on 24,960 acres of land south of Laguna Mountain in southern San Benito County located 18 cultural resources, including a very large prehistoric archeological site with six milling features displaying 46 milling cups, indicative of a medium- to large-size village (Napton and Greathouse 2001). Numerous pieces of lithic debitage (flaked chert) were observed, and geochemical analysis of an obsidian implement found at the site revealed that it is made of obsidian from Casa Diablo, an important source located near Mammoth, east of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The sites found in the survey area demonstrate that significant cultural resources occur in the high upland valleys of the southern Coast and Diablo ranges.

Ethnographic Setting

San Benito County is part of an extensive region occupied by Native Americans known, during the Historic Period, as "Costanoans" (Spanish "Costanos" or "coast people"). Anthropologists including Kroeber (1925:462-473) and Levy (1978:485-495) refer to the tribe as Costanoans, the usage followed in this discussion. Many contemporary scholars, however, prefer the term Ohlone (Bean 1994; Wildesen 1969).

According to Levy (1978:485-495) eight Costanoan languages subsumed several dialects spoken by members of 50 discrete, politically separate tribelets, each of which consisted of some 50 to 500 persons. The Costanoan tribelets occupied permanent village sites in the valleys of San Benito County, and maintained numerous seasonally occupied hunting camps in the county's mountain terrain.

Linguistic evidence indicates that the ancestral Costanoans probably came from the Delta region of the San Joaquin-Sacramento River system. Levy (1978) suggests that their arrival in the region coincides with the appearance in the Santa Cruz region of Late Horizon artifact assemblages. Information concerning the later days of the Costanoans has been gleaned from accounts of the Spanish explorers between 1769 and 1776. Seven Franciscan missions were established in Costanoan territory between 1770 and 1797. The records of the Spanish missions, particularly baptismal records, indicate that by 1810 the traditional lifeway of the Costanoans had virtually ceased. Cook (1943, 1968) states that during the mission period, between 1770-1835, the Costanoan population declined from more than 10,000 to as few as 2,000 individuals, with concomitant decline of their cultural traditions. By 1970 according to Levy (1978), the total number of living persons of Costanoan descent "was probably considerably more than 200."

At least five tribelets are believed to have occupied all or part of San Benito County and adjoining counties. These included the Mutsun, Pagsin, Chalon, Tamarron, Ausaima, and Salinan. The Mutsun lived in the San Juan Canyon area, the Pagsin near Hollister, the Ausaima in the San Juan Valley and northeast of Hollister, the Tamarron in the Diablo Range on the east side of the county, the Chalon in the southern-central area, and the Salinan in the southernmost part of the county (Sayers 1993).

Costanoan subsistence, according to Levy (1978:491), depended heavily on acorns, the most important plant food that they gathered and consumed. Preferred were acorns of the Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). Tan-bark oak (*Lithocarpus desiflora*) was considered superior because it produced whiter meal; California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) was also preferred. Low on the list of consumable was buckeye (*Aesculus californica*); the nuts, while large, are difficult to process, requiring repeated leaching. Other seeds collected and consumed included dock (*Rumex* sp.), tarweed (*Madia* sp.), and California foothill or grey pine (*Pinus sabiniana*). Plant foods provide important clues for the archeologist as to why certain archeological sites are located where they are, and when they were occupied. During appropriate seasons various species of plants provided food or industrial materials. Locations where such vegetation grew were visited seasonally or from time to time as needed.

Costanoan domestic structures were domed-shaped and thatched with tule, grass, or other vegetation (Levy 1978:492). Assembly (dance) houses were large and centrally located in their villages; domestic dwellings surrounded the assembly houses. To make weapon tips and other flaked-stone tools the Costanoans had access to sources of chert (notably Monterey Chert), but since there were no deposits of obsidian within their territory they traded for this valuable toolstone, often (as the archeological



record indicates) obtaining it from distant sources such as Annadel near Napa or Casa Diablo near Mammoth. A very important local material, highly prized by Native Americans living along the Pacific Coast, was cinnabar, obtained from deposits at New Almaden in Costanoan territory (Heizer and Treganza 1972; Schneider 1992).

The Costanoans and their neighbors were among the first contacted and most severely impacted Native American tribes in California. Contact was firmly established in their territory with the founding of the Mission Nuestra Senora de la Soledad in 1791 and other missions in the region, notably San Juan Bautista, established in 1797. The Costanoans, like many other California Indian tribes, suffered disenfranchisement and cultural collapse during the post-contact period (Cook 1943, 1968; Heizer and Almqvist 1971). In 1971 descendants of the Costanoans united as a corporation—the Ohlone Indian tribe. This legally recognized entity received title to the cemetery at Mission San Jose, but the Ohlone have not been compensated for loss of their land or for the hardships the tribe endured following contact with the European world (Galvan 1968).

The pertinent ethnographic literature includes contributions by Bean (1994), Favre (1968), Gamman (1973), Kessler (1974), Margolin and Harney (1978), Morrow and Naeem (1982), Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association (1975), Ohlone/Costanoan/Esselen Nation (2000), Skowronek (1998), Spencer (1982), Teixeira (1997), and Wildesen (1969). These sources, especially the first-listed, provide detailed information concerning the Costanoan/Ohlone tribe.

Historical Setting

San Benito County was created in 1874 from part of Monterey County and expanded in 1887 by adding portions of Fresno and Merced Counties (Guinn 1910). Hollister was designated as the county seat as it still remains today.

The Mission Period

Spain's interest in the New World began with coastal navigation by Juan Rodriques Cabrillo in 1542, but the vast inland region was not explored until 1769 when Don Gasper de Portola proceeded north along the coast (Teggart 1911). Based on the explorer's favorable reports, sites were selected for construction of a chain of missions. It was the intention of the Spanish viceroy to establish a series of missions between San Diego and San Francisco. One of these was Mission San Jose. Shortly after it was founded, Father Lasuén entered the San Benito Valley and founded Mission San Juan Bautista in 1797, the sixteenth mission to be built. Temporary buildings were constructed to house the mission, and it was not until 1803 that the cornerstone of the new church was laid. The new building was an impressive construction, "about one hundred and ninety feet long, 30 feet wide and 40 high" (Hoover et al. 1958:286). The church and adjacent buildings were made of adobe. Next to the church was a corridor of 20 arches supported by pillars of brick. This phase of construction was completed by 1812. The early history of San Benito County revolved around San Juan Bautista mission. It was secularized in 1835 and José Tiburcio Castro was made majordomo. Following secularization the mission was neglected until restoration began in 1884.

On the opposite side of the mission plaza José Castro built a two-story adobe and in 1844 conveyed the property to Francisco Pacheco. In 1849 Castro's home was in turn deeded to Patrick Breen who, with his family, survived the ill-fated Donner party disaster in the snowbound Sierra Nevada. Breen was the first

English-speaking settler in San Juan Bautista. The San Juan adobes are part of the San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District (Milliken 1950). The district is a National Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historic Resources. Within San Juan Bautista are two other National Historic Landmarks, the Juan de Anza house and the José Castro house, as well as another historic district listed on the National Register, the San Juan Bautista Third Street Historic District.

The Land Grant Ranchos

Land surrounding San Juan Bautista Mission was ceded to wealthy Spanish ranchers during the era of Mexican land grants. In 1839 Rancho San Justo, a 36,620 acre land grant, was awarded to José Castro. Near San Juan were two large parcels: Rancho de las Animas (southern Santa Clara Valley) and Rancho de Solis. A total of 13 Mexican land grants were awarded in San Benito County between 1836 and 1862 (Beck and Haase 1974; Breschini et al. 1983:150; Cowan 1956). Among the largest grants were Santa Ana y Quien Sabe, Cienega del Gabilan, and San Lorenzo (Sanchez), each of which encompassed more than 48,000 acres.

Historic Sheep Drives and the Founding of Hollister

In 1853 two epochal sheep drives were organized to bring sheep to San Benito County from other regions. The two sheep drives were of great importance for the future development of the county and its principal city, Hollister. One of the enterprises was the Flint-Bixby drive that started from Illinois with 2,000 head of sheep. The drive was led by Dr. Thomas Flint, his brother, and a cousin named Llewellyn Bixby. The other was the Hollister drive that started from Ohio with 6,000 sheep, led by Colonel (honorary title) William W. Hollister and his brother Joseph Hollister. Both drives proceeded west via a southern route from Salt Lake City in order to avoid early winter snow in the Sierra Nevada. The two parties met in Nevada and entered California in 1854, spending an entire year in Southern California replenishing their flocks (Flint 1924; Smith 1931).

In October 1855 Flint-Bixby and Company bought Rancho San Juan Justo from Pacheco, with the understanding that Colonel Hollister would acquire a half-interest in the ranch in 1857, but Flint and Hollister had a falling out and the land was divided, Flint taking all the land east of the San Benito River, Hollister land west of it, with the sheep being divided equally. In 1868 Hollister sold his part of the rancho (20,773 acres) to the San Juan Homestead Association. Members of the new civic-minded Association as part of the development project founded a town that they elected to call Hollister. Some 12,000 acres were divided into 50 homestead lots of approximately 172 acres each, and 100 acres were reserved for the town of Hollister. The Association auctioned off land to the highest bidders in 1868; lots sold for \$100 each. The City of Hollister now contains two notable historic districts that highlight its historical character.

Hollister Historic District. There are two historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the Hollister Planning Area. One of these is the downtown Hollister Historic District, concentrated along San Benito Street and intersecting streets between 4th and South Streets. The district's period of significance spans from 1880 to 1942. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 1993, the district contained 83 buildings constructed over the course of the past 120 years; however, in the Loma Pieta earthquake of 1989 and a subsequent fire in 1993 damaged buildings on the 400 block of Monterey Street. The district comprises 54 buildings (65 percent of total) that contribute to the historic character of downtown and 29 non-contributing buildings. The integrity of the district is high due to the concentration of resources. San Benito Street forms the spine of the district, extending north and south



for more than four blocks. About half of the district's buildings front San Benito Street. All but a few of the remaining buildings front on five crossing streets, the most important of which is Fifth Street.

Monterey Street Historic District. This district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The City of Hollister General Plan/Final Program EIR (2005:4.6-5) states:

“The district contains 252 buildings of which 188 (75 percent) contribute to its historic character. Major contributing structures mark each intersection. The district's integrity is high due to the concentration of resources and the large proportion of contributors, as well as the arrangement of the streets and the placement of buildings on their lots.”

New Idria

Mining began in the 1850s at the New Idria quicksilver mine on San Carlos Peak in the Gabilan Range. The exact date when mining commenced is obscure. The Mission Fathers are said to have made assays of the deposits and determined it was cinnabar, while Bret Harte (1878) asserts that the resource was discovered accidentally by prospectors. The New Idria records date from 1854 to 1972 (Averill 1947; Frusetta 1991; Iddings 2008; State of California Mining Bureau 1917). In 1861 William Brewer of the Whitney Geological Survey inspected the mine workings and reported that a force of two or three hundred men worked in the mines (Brewer 1930). Mining operations continued and mercury was produced at New Idria from the 1859 to 1972. Today the mines and surrounding land is a California Historical Landmark (No. 324), but is privately owned. The remains of the mining operations and adjacent community are in ruins. Many buildings on the site were destroyed by fire on July 28, 2010.

Pinnacles National Monument

An unusual geological area of volcanic origin, Pinnacles National Monument is one of the principal natural attractions in San Benito County. Discovered in 1794 by Vancouver and a party of horsemen, it is located at the southern end of the Gabilan Range. Vancouver seems to be the only early-day traveler who left any record of exploration of the Pinnacles district. In 1904-1906 David Starr Jordan was instrumental in obtaining Forest Reserve status for the district, and in 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt issued a proclamation establishing it as a National Monument. It has been enlarged by land purchases and now encompasses approximately 26,000 acres, approximately 24,514 acres of which are located within San Benito County. The Pinnacles East Entrance Historical District is listed on the California Register of Historical Resources.

Table 10-6 lists all documented historic properties within San Benito County included in the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Property Data File.

**TABLE 10-6
HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN SAN BENITO COUNTY**

San Benito County
2010

Site/Building	Location	Year Constructed	Designation	National Register /CAL Register Listing Status
Juan de Anza House	San Juan Bautista	1834	NHL	NRHP & CRHR
Jose Castro House	San Juan Bautista	1840	NHL	NRHP & CRHR & CA SHL 179
San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District (multiple properties)	San Juan Bautista	1750-1874	NHL NRHP District	NRHP & CRHR & CA SHL 195
San Juan Bautista Third Street Historic District (multiple properties)	San Juan Bautista	1834-1950	NRHP District	NRHP & CRHR
Chalone Creek Archeological District	NA	3 Prehistoric sites	NRHP District	NRHR & CRHR
Downtown Hollister Historic District (multiple properties)	Hollister	1875-1949	NRHP District	NRHP & CRHR
Monterey Street Historic District (multiple properties)	Hollister	1875-1949	NRHP District	NRHP & CRHR
Joel & Rena Hawkins House	Hollister	1876	NRHP	NRHP & CRHR
Hollister Carnegie Library	Hollister	1911	NRHP	NRHP & CRHR
Marentis House	San Juan Bautista	1873	NRHP	NRHP & CRHR & POI
Roy D. McCallum House	Hollister	1936	NRHP	NRHP & CRHR
Rozas House	San Juan Bautista	1856	NRHP	NRHP & CRHR
Benjamin Wilcox House	San Juan Bautista	1858	NRHP	NRHP & CRHR
George Wapple House	Hollister	1909	Determined Eligible	CRHR
Charles Wagner House	Hollister	1893	Determined Eligible	CRHR
Mitchell Fruit Farm	Hollister	1898	Determined Eligible	CRHR
Blacklock Place	Hollister	1912	Determined Eligible	CRHR
San Felipe Site	NA	Prehistoric	Determined Eligible	CRHR
Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District	Paicines	1880	Determined Eligible/District	CRHR
Pinnacles East Entrance District	Paicines	1932	Determined Eligible/ District	CRHR
John Breen Farm	San Juan Bautista	1852	Determined Eligible/ District	CRHR
Bear Gulch Cave Trail	Paicines	1927	Determined Eligible	CRHR
BLM 870909A CA-019-FS-106	NA	Prehistoric	Determined Eligible	CRHR
Plaza Hotel	San Juan Bautista	1960	CA SHL 180	-
Fremont Peak	San Juan Canyon	1846	CA SHL 181	-
New Idria Mine	Paicines	1917	CA SHL 324	-
San Juan Bautista Congregational Church	San Juan Bautista	1863	POI 1	-
The Pear Tree	San Juan Bautista	-	POI 2	

CA SHL = California State Historic Landmark, CRHR = California Register of Historical Resources, NHL = National Historic Landmark, NRHP = National Register of Historic Places, POI = Point of Historical Interest

Source: Office of Historic Preservation Historic Property Data File, San Benito County 2010.