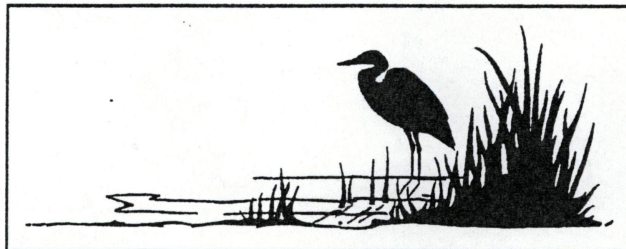


Mitigated Negative Declaration

Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation (OSCAR) Element

An Element of the Oakland General Plan



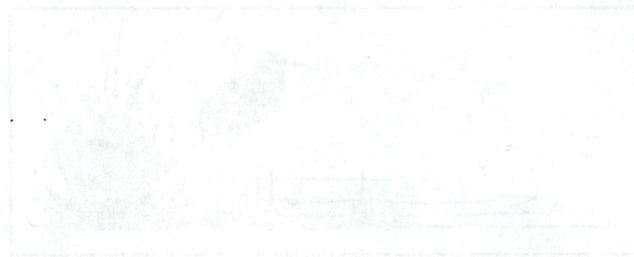
City of Oakland, California

October, 1995

Mitigated Negative Geology

Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation
(OSCAR) Element

An Element of the Oakland General Plan



City of Oakland

Department

File No. ER-95.12
Ref No. CPP 5.12

NEGATIVE DECLARATION
California Environmental Quality Act

I. PROJECT TITLE: Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation (OSCAR) Element of the Oakland General Plan

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide

PROJECT SPONSOR: City of Oakland

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Update of General Plan Elements

II. **MITIGATION MEASURES**

() No mitigation measures have been required

(X) The project has been modified to include mitigating measures which will reduce potentially adverse impacts to an insignificant level. These mitigation measures are described in an attachment to the Initial Study.

III. **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT**

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the reasons documented in the attached Initial Study.

WILLIE YEE, JR
Zoning Manager

Date: 11-1-95

By: [Signature] ANU RAUD, Environmental Review Coordinator

(To be completed after public review and consideration of challenges to the Negative Declaration by the City Planning Commission.)

IV. **DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Guidelines issued by the Secretary for Resources and the City of Oakland's Statement of Objectives, Criteria, and Procedures for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Challenges to the Negative Declaration received by the City Planning Commission were rejected for the following reasons:

WILLIE YEE, JR
Zoning Manager

Date:

By: _____ ANU RAUD, Environmental Review Coordinator

NEGATIVE DECLARATION
California Environmental Quality Act

PROJECT TITLE: Open Space Conservation and Recreation, 1000
Carnegie Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109

PROJECT LOCATION: City of Oakland

PROJECT SPONSOR: City of Oakland

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Under a General Plan Element,

MITIGATION MEASURES

(1) No mitigation measures have been identified.

(2) The project has been analyzed to determine whether it has a significant effect on the environment. The project has been analyzed to determine whether it has a significant effect on the environment. The project has been analyzed to determine whether it has a significant effect on the environment.

FINING OR NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT

The project does not have a significant effect on the environment for the reasons documented in the attached report.

DATE: 11-1-12
BY: [Signature]
MILITARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COORDINATOR

The project has been analyzed to determine whether it has a significant effect on the environment for the reasons documented in the attached report.

IV. DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Guidelines issued by the Secretary for Resources and the State's Statement of Objectives, and Procedures for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act. Changes to the Negative Declaration report, which are being made, are being made for the following reasons:

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PREFACE

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq. The purpose of this Initial Study is to determine if the adoption of a revised Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the Oakland General Plan would have significant effects on the environment. An Initial Study is an informational document used in the local planning and decision-making process. It is not the purpose of this environmental document to recommend either approval or denial of a proposed project. The information contained within this study will be utilized by the City in its review of the proposed project pursuant to CEQA.

Section 15021 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines requires governmental bodies in California to "...give major consideration to preventing environmental damage...in regulating public or private activities..." In order to implement this charge, CEQA requires public agencies to evaluate potential environmental effects of proposed activities. The Act further requires that agencies identify methods of avoiding environmental damage, that such measures for avoiding harm be implemented if found to be feasible, and finally, that government agencies identify to the public the reasons for approving a project in the face of potential harm to the environment. (CEQA Guidelines § 15002).

Under the CEQA Guidelines, the agency with the primary role in carrying out or approving a project is designated as the Lead Agency, and other agencies with "discretionary approval power" over the project are identified as Responsible Agencies. The City of Oakland is therefore the designated Lead Agency for approval of the proposed project.

Once a public agency has determined that CEQA would apply to a proposed action, the first step in the environmental process is to determine if a proposed project would have one or more significant impacts on the environment. This determination is made using a document called an Initial Study. An Initial Study is a systematic method of assessing a project's impact on various aspects of the environment such as traffic, biology or air quality. (CEQA Guidelines § 15063).

CEQA requires that a proposed Negative Declaration be circulated for public review and comment. (CEQA Guidelines § 15074). After members of the public have reviewed the proposed Negative Declaration, the public agency considers the proposed Negative Declaration together with any comments received during the public review process. If the public agency finds on the basis of the Initial Study and any comments received that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant impact on the environment, the public agency approves the Negative Declaration. (CEQA Guidelines § 15074).

Section 21064.5 of the Public Resources Code (CEQA), as amended by AB 1888 and effective January 1, 1994, adds the current definition of Mitigated Negative Declaration to CEQA. The definition states that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is a Negative Declaration prepared when an Initial Study has identified potentially significant environmental effects but that contains revisions made by or agreed to by the project applicant, before public review of the proposed Negative Declaration, that clearly mitigate the effects of the proposed project to less-than-significant levels, and when there is no substantial evidence "in light of the whole record" that the project, as revised, may have a significant environmental effect, not previously analyzed.

The attached Initial Study presents mitigation measures for all impacts which could be potentially significant without mitigation. Where appropriate, it also presents mitigation measures for impacts determined to be less than significant at the project level. This acknowledges the potential for cumulative impacts without such mitigation measures and also recognizes standard practices (environmental review for subsequent

projects) designed to protect public health and safety and reduce future adverse environmental impacts.

This proposed Initial Study and Negative Declaration will be available for public review as required under State Law. During this period, comments on the document's accuracy and completeness may be submitted by public agencies, other groups, and concerned individuals. All comments relevant to the content of the Negative Declaration received during the public comment period will be considered by the City of Oakland in the course of its action on this Mitigated Negative Declaration.

INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

I. PROJECT PROPONENT

The project proponent is the **City of Oakland**.

II. PROJECT NAME

The project name is the **Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation (OSCAR) Element of the Oakland General Plan**.

III. PROJECT ADDRESS AND LOCATION

The project encompasses all land and water within the City of Oakland and unincorporated properties within the City's Planning Area.¹

IV. LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the City of Oakland Office of Planning and Building located at 1330 Broadway, Suite 310, Oakland, CA 94612. The agency contact can be reached at 238-3941 (510).

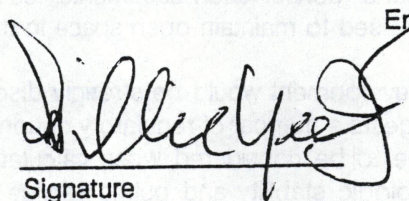
V. ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial environmental evaluation, I find that:

- I find that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the attached *mitigation measures* have been incorporated into the project. Therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to assess the effects on the environment.

WILLIE YEE, JR
Zoning Manager

By: ANU RAUD
Environmental Review Coordinator


Signature

11/1/95
Date

¹ *Unincorporated properties within the Planning Area are very limited and consist of a few small parcels east of Skyline Boulevard.*

VI. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The project consists of adoption of an updated Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation (OSCAR) Element of the Oakland General (Comprehensive) Plan. The Element would reinforce and update a number of 1976 General Plan goals and policies and would also establish new goals, policies, objectives, and actions to help preserve open space, conserve natural resources, and manage Oakland's park and recreation system.

The Element includes 142 policies and 255 actions. The potential environmental impact of these policies and actions is evaluated in the attached checklist. Many of the actions suggest specific projects, including new facilities and capital improvements. In most cases, such projects will be subject to future environmental review and analysis at a much greater level of detail than is appropriate here. The CEQA guidelines indicate that environmental review for general plans should focus on "the secondary effects that can be expected to follow from adoption or amendment" but "need not be as detailed as an EIR on the specific construction projects that might follow." (Section 15146 (b)).

Major Recommendations of the OSCAR Element

The OSCAR Element is divided into four major chapters (Open Space, Conservation, Recreation, and Area Plans). Each chapter contains several sections.

Open Space. This Chapter is divided into three major sections. *Open Space Land Uses* discusses the different types of open space within the city and presents policies for their future use. *Shoreline and Creeks* explores ways to make shoreline and creek areas more accessible. *Open Space for Community Character* examines open space as an element of Oakland's form and explores how open space can be used to enhance the appearance and "sense of place" in the city.

The **Open Space Land Uses** section makes the following recommendations:

1. About 1,600 acres of *existing* parks and wetlands, including most of the rugged hill area parks, would receive a new General Plan designation called "Resource Conservation Areas" (RCAs). A new Resource Conservation zoning district would be created and would be applied to all RCAs except those within Port of Oakland boundaries. The new zoning would replace the existing residential zoning (or unzoned status) that currently applies on the hill parks.
2. Specific, measurable criteria would be established for the City to follow when acquiring new parkland in the hills and in the flatlands. A priority would be placed on flatland open space acquisition, with other means (conservation easements, less permissive zoning on steep slopes, EBRPD participation, etc.) used to maintain open space in the hills.
3. As in the 1976 OSCAR, development would be strongly discouraged on slopes over 30 percent. The updated Element suggests a number of regulatory options, such as a slope-density ordinance, which would require slope to be considered when calculating the number of lots allowed in a subdivision. Proof of geologic stability and public service availability would be required when developing very steep lots in existing subdivisions.
4. Schoolyards are acknowledged as an underutilized open space resource in the flatlands. Policies and actions direct the City to work collaboratively with the Oakland Unified School District to make schoolyards more accessible and attractive.

5. The emerging community gardens movement is supported and promoted. A new community-based gardening program is recommended, with City staff providing technical support.
6. A variety of new options for open space dedication would be supported by the City, including land banking, donations of land to city, transfer of development rights, land trusts, and street closures. The emphasis would be on increasing open space in underserved areas and protecting environmentally sensitive areas.
7. Retention of institutional open spaces (universities, military bases, etc.) would continue to be supported, with public access promoted wherever feasible. Action programs include incorporation of open space as a major component of military base re-use planning; and designation of most of the University of California's Oakland landholdings as a Resource Conservation Area.
8. As in the 1976 OSCAR, the Element recommends that cemeteries and golf courses continue to be maintained as open space. A new zoning category for private open space is recommended. The OSCAR Element suggests replacing residential zoning of cemeteries with this category.
9. Policies in the Element suggests that the City make the most of "functional open spaces," including freeway rights of way, EBMUD tank sites and watershed lands, large parking lots and storage areas, and the airport.
10. The rural "open space" character of large lot residential areas would be conserved, with one-acre zoning considered in a number of existing rural areas now zoned R-10.
11. Private open space would continue to be required in multi-family residential development, although the requirements would be reconsidered. The Element also suggests that lot coverage requirements be explored to maintain a sense of openness and visual relief on single family lots.
12. The concept of a citywide linear park and trail system would be endorsed. This system would incorporate existing parks, creeks, the shoreline, and open space corridors such as freeway buffers, land under BART, grassland along transmission lines, and street medians.
13. In tandem with its linear park policies, the OSCAR Element supports an integrated network of bicycle and pedestrian trails in the City. The Element would place a priority on links between the flatlands and the hills/ bay, and interconnections between the hill area parks. Priority trail segments are identified, including the Bay Trail, the Lake Merritt perimeter trail, and the Lake Merritt to Estuary connector. Maintenance of mid-block stairsteps and easements also is recommended, with an eye towards a future interconnected Urban Trails system.
14. Coordinated open space planning with EBRPD, adjacent cities and counties, and non-profit organizations is supported as a means of conserving regional open space resources.

The **Shoreline and Creeks Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. The Element would establish a policy framework for shoreline open space based largely on a 1992 report by the Oakland League of Women Voters. Policies and actions emphasize the Jack London to High Street waterfront as an opportunity area for improved public access, recreational amenities, and land uses which capitalize on the waterfront's presence.
2. The Element would also encourage public access opportunities in the Airport and Harbor areas, although it recognizes that maritime and aviation uses preclude water access in most areas. It is

noted that maritime and aviation activities are of interest to residents and visitors and that access points to view these activities are desirable. Vista points on the south side of the Bay Bridge approach and at the airport are recommended.

3. The Bay Trail would be supported along the alignment already endorsed by the City Council.
4. A priority would be placed on linkages between the waterfront and nearby flatland neighborhoods deficient in open space. Opportunities for connections are identified.
5. Oakland's major creeks would become the framework for a system of open space corridors linking the hills to the bay, while also providing much-needed open space in flatland neighborhoods. Specific access improvements to creeks on public properties (Sanborn Park, etc.) are recommended. On private properties, a variety of erosion control, vegetation management, and building setback requirements are recommended.
6. The concept of creek "daylighting" (unearthing buried creeks) would be supported, where certain conditions are met. Consistent with existing City practices, storm drain stenciling and other projects which raise public awareness of creeks would be promoted.
7. The City would encourage Alameda County Flood Control to incorporate recreation/ public access in any creek improvement/ flood control project.
8. Public input and community involvement would continue to be mandated in creek planning.

The **Open Space for Community Character Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. The basic elements of Oakland's landform (hills, canyons, shoreline, creeks, etc.) would be respected and conserved as development occurs.
2. Where feasible, open space (or natural landscape features) would be used as a way to define the edges of the city and individual neighborhoods.
3. Development would be required to protect and enhance views and create new points of visual interest where appropriate.
4. Urban plazas and other civic open spaces, such as rooftop gardens, would be encouraged downtown and at BART stations.
5. Current requirements for public art are supported and possible ways to expand the public art program are suggested.
6. A broad policy framework supporting street trees is presented. The OPR and OPB are directed to adopt a Street Tree Plan and pursue its implementation. The Street Tree Plan would prioritize planting projects and identify tree palettes that are appropriate and cost-effective. The Element also mandates public involvement in street tree selection, planting, maintenance, and removal and establishes general criteria for tree removal.

Conservation. The Conservation Chapter consists of five sections, each dealing with a major natural resource area.

The **Earth Resources Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. Soil would be conserved, carefully managed, and considered as a factor in building and road design. Grading, sedimentation, and erosion control ordinances would continue to be maintained and enforced.
2. General provisions for development would be set forth to reduce landslide risks, seismic hazards, and subsidence in new construction.
3. Grading practices which minimize benching, removal of large vegetation, erosion, and adverse visual impacts would be promoted.
4. Soil testing would be required for new development on sites with a suspected history of soil contamination.
5. The existing rhyolite (rock quarry) deposits would be conserved. Continued extraction at the Leona Quarry would be permitted, subject to mitigation measures (to established by the conditional use permit process) and an approved reclamation plan.

The **Water Resources Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. Measures to conserve groundwater would be supported, including maintenance of open space in high recharge areas and minimizing the risks of groundwater pollution from leaching pesticides, gasoline tanks, etc.
2. Water conservation and recycling strategies would be supported, consistent with EBMUD's Long Range Plan. Public education on water conservation would be promoted, along with the use of drought-tolerant landscaping, and increased use of reclaimed wastewater for landscape irrigation. Adoption of a Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance is recommended, consistent with State law.
3. A policy framework for implementing the Alameda County Urban Clean Water Runoff Program is presented, including the following components:
 - Limited requirements for stormwater retention and pre-treatment, consistent with State and federal law but sensitive to local economic constraints;
 - Regular City maintenance of the storm drain system, collection of litter and household hazardous waste (to avoid illegal dumping), street sweeping, and hazardous spill control plans;
 - Continued requirements for new construction which mitigate potential impacts from runoff and erosion;
 - Continued water quality monitoring by Alameda County and the Regional Board;
 - Correction of runoff problems from the old sulfur mines near Ridgmont;
 - Management of marina development and houseboats to minimize illegal discharges;
 - Continued upgrading of the regional wastewater treatment plant;
 - Continued public education on water pollution, including billboards and storm drain stenciling
4. Continued efforts to improve water quality in Lake Merritt would be supported, including catch basins, monitoring, and replacement of cardboard garbage bins.

5. Development in the watershed of Redwood Creek/ Upper San Leandro Reservoir would be discouraged, though not prohibited. The OSCAR Element suggests that stormwater detention be used where development does occur in this watershed.
6. Flood control projects would be required to preserve the natural character of creeks rather than burying creeks or creating concrete culverts.
7. Dredging of the Estuary would be supported, subject to mitigation of potential water quality impacts and monitoring of dredge spoils.
8. Management of San Leandro Bay and the Emeryville Crescent as estuarine sanctuaries would be supported, and land or water activities which would impede this function without providing sufficient benefits would be discouraged.
9. Preparation of a Creeks Master Plan would be endorsed, along with development guidelines for properties abutting creeks and strengthening of the existing Watercourse Protection Ordinance. Also, stronger penalties for creek dumping, and additional creek maintenance, clean-up, and education campaigns are recommended.

The **Plant and Animal Resources Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. The Element calls for conservation of Oakland's remaining oak woodlands, redwood forests, native perennial grasslands, and riparian areas. Precise mapping of these plant communities is recommended. Standardized mitigation measures for development on properties containing these plant communities are suggested, and the use of conservation easements to protect these resources is encouraged.
2. Plant diversity would be encouraged in wildland areas, and the use of native and drought-tolerant plants would be promoted in developed areas.
3. Tree removal would be discouraged without due cause; continued enforcement of the tree preservation ordinance is recommended.
4. Wetlands (around San Leandro Bay and at Emeryville Crescent) would be afforded protection from potential adverse impacts resulting from development and increased public access.
5. Pre-development surveys would be required where rare, endangered, and threatened species are potentially present, and (pursuant to CEQA and NEPA) any potential adverse impacts would need to be mitigated. A list of these species and their habitat is included in the Element.
6. The Element emphasizes strategies for fire prevention on public properties (through vegetation management), private properties (through fire safety laws), and in new development (through landscaping and site planning practices). It suggests that grant funding be pursued for a demonstration garden showing fire-resistant landscaping. It also recommends that guidelines for fire-resistant landscaping be prepared and distributed to homeowners in high hazard areas.
7. Wildlife corridors would be created on specific undeveloped (mostly public) areas in the hills. Where such corridors are in private ownership, habitat protection would be recommended if new development occurred.

8. The Element would promote public education and programs on Oakland's natural environment.

The **Air Resources Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. The Element would endorse a land use pattern which reduces auto dependency, minimizes vehicle miles travelled, and reduces the necessity of long commutes. The Element calls for a transportation system which reduces auto dependency by making ridesharing, transit, pedestrian, and bike circulation more viable.
2. Reduced air quality impacts from new development would be achieved through landscaping, energy efficiency, transit-friendly design, and other measures.
3. Construction, demolition, and grading practices would be required to minimize dust emissions.
4. Coordinated air quality planning at the regional level would be endorsed, including increased monitoring of air contaminants in Oakland. An Air Quality General Plan Element is suggested.

The **Energy Resources Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. Energy conservation in municipal operations, local businesses, and residences would be promoted.
2. A land use and transportation pattern which conserves energy (by minimizing dependence on single passenger autos) would be promoted.
3. The use of energy-efficiency construction methods and materials would be promoted.
4. Site planning which maximizes energy efficiency (solar access, etc.) would be encouraged.
5. Alternative energy sources, particularly solar, waste-to-energy, and cogeneration, would be supported and accommodated where feasible.

Recreation. The Recreation Chapter consists of four major sections.

The **Park Land Use Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. A classification system for parks would be created based on their characteristics, functions, and service areas. Ten categories would be created (region-serving, community, neighborhood, active mini-park, passive mini-park, linear park, resource conservation area, special use park, athletic fields, schoolyard). Management and future development of each park would need to be consistent with its classification.
2. An "Urban Parks" zoning district would be recommended, with a list of permitted, conditionally permitted, and prohibited uses developed for the zone. The list of uses would be different for each category of park.
3. To avoid erosion of Oakland's limited urban parklands, no net loss of open space in city parks would be allowed. New buildings in existing city parks would be required to set aside replacement open space of comparable value as mitigation.

4. An official process for changes in use within parks would be established. This process would ensure public input and require that findings of fact be made by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) or Planning Commission.
5. An Oakland Parks Master Plan is recommended, including a 5-year capital improvement program. Master plans for individual parks are also recommended, especially where land use issues or conflicts exist.
6. To the maximum extent practical, new non-recreational buildings in city parks would be prohibited unless construction was a matter of necessity and no other options existed. For recreational buildings, the OSCAR Element recommends that sites adjacent to rather than within parks be considered to avoid erosion of park open space. In any case, park master plans are recommended prior to building construction.
7. The Element recommends that park activities be sited to minimize conflicts between uses, ensure compatibility with surrounding areas, respect the natural environment, and maintain a high standard of design.
8. Historic resources within City parks are to be conserved. Certain City parks and park features are recommended for designation as local landmarks. The Element recommends continued inventory of historic resources within parks.
9. Level of Service standards would be formally adopted as a means of prioritizing where future park improvements and acquisitions should be located.
10. A commitment would be made to prioritizing investment in underserved areas, as identified in a series of maps showing areas with insufficient access to parks.
11. Basic principles to be followed in the layout and design of new parks would be established.

The **Park Operations Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. Park maintenance, rehabilitation, and safety would be made priority concerns in future budgets. Renovation of existing facilities would be emphasized as a more cost-effective alternative to new construction.
2. On-going maintenance costs would need to be seriously considered when evaluating any new City park or recreation project.
3. A strategy for making parks safer would be established. Components would include increasing park activities and bringing new users to the parks; incorporating physical design changes (lighting, fencing, signage, emergency response features, etc.); using vandal-resistant construction; creating drug-free zones around parks; providing program alternatives for youth; improving law enforcement and neighborhood watches; promoting civic responsibility; and addressing equipment and environmental hazards.
4. The Element promotes sharing of facilities between OUSD and OPR to maximize service delivery to the community. It also identifies Peralta College facilities and major utility (EBMUD, PG&E) properties as having the potential for joint use.

5. Private or non-profit projects which meet public recreational needs would be encouraged, particularly where lower income communities are served.
6. Interagency coordination is recommended to avoid redundancies and to maximize cost-effective service delivery.

The **Human Resources Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. It emphasizes that programs should be diverse and equitably distributed. Future recreation programs would need to be oriented to meet the needs of the communities they serve and to reflect local priorities.
2. Adequate staffing of recreation centers is emphasized. The use of underutilized recreation centers for other social services would be encouraged to increase activity levels in underused parks.
3. Volunteer involvement would continue to be actively promoted.
4. Coordination with the school district (and other recreational service providers) in service delivery would be promoted. Expansion of the After School Program is also suggested.
5. Recreational services which reflect the multi-cultural make-up of the city, including non-English speaking persons, are stressed. Festivals and other programs which celebrate diversity would be promoted.
6. Programs which meet the needs of certain target groups, including latch-key children, youth-at-risk, seniors, very low income households, and disabled persons would be made priorities.
7. Increased citizen involvement and participation would be encouraged, using the Recreation Advisory Councils as building blocks. Interaction between OPR staff, park neighbors, and community groups would be encouraged. Community participation in park construction, landscaping, maintenance, and safety would be encouraged. Involvement of the local arts community in park design and improvement also would be encouraged.
8. The OSCAR calls for improved public information on Oakland's parks, including press releases, coordination with transit agencies, brochures, kiosks and maps, better signage, and information targeted towards children.

The **Funding Section** makes the following recommendations:

1. Adoption of a Quimby Act (park impact) fee would be supported to cover the cost of recreational service delivery generated by new residential development. In theory, recreational needs created by future growth would be offset by resources contributed by that growth.
2. A diverse strategy for park funding would be followed, including use of the general fund, redevelopment funds, special assessments, public-private partnerships, gifts and donations, grants, state and federal program funding, user fees, bond financing, and additional EBRPD investment in Oakland.

VII. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Environmental Setting of the City of Oakland Planning Area is described at length in OSCAR Technical Report Volume 1. This report was published in December 1993 and is available at the Office of Planning and Building Counter at 1330 Broadway Suite 310, Oakland, CA 94612. An overview of the City's environmental setting follows.

The City is located on the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay and encompasses approximately 54 square miles of land and 26 square miles of water. The City is defined by the Bay and Estuary on the southwest, the crest of the Berkeley-Oakland Hills on the northeast, and other urban areas on the north and south. Most of Oakland's development is located on the coastal shelf, which varies in width from two to four miles. However, significant portions of the City are rolling or hilly, with elevations in the City limits extending from sea level to over 1,760 feet at Grizzly Peak. The Hayward Fault defines a straight high "valley" near the base of the hills.

More than a dozen named creeks traverse the City, generally flowing from the crest of the hills south and west to the Bay. The shoreline extends for some 19 miles from the Bay Bridge to San Leandro. It has been modified extensively by past landfilling activities and creation of the Shipping Channel between Oakland and Alameda. The City also contains a number of lakes, including Lake Merritt, Lake Temescal, and a portion of Lake Chabot. Most of Oakland's natural hydrology has been altered by urban development, including major flood control projects that buried or culverted many of the flatland creeks.

The City includes a number of distinct plant and animal communities. Approximately 20 percent of the land area in the City limits can be characterized as non-urbanized woodland, brushland, grassland, or wetland. Most of the city's natural vegetation has been modified, first by redwood logging, then by grazing, agriculture, and planting of non-native species, and finally by urbanization. However, significant pockets of oak woodlands, redwood forests, riparian woodlands, native grasslands, and wetlands remain in the City. These plant communities harbor a diverse mix of plants and animals, including several listed as rare, endangered, or threatened. The City's natural landscape is complemented by an urban landscape which include yards, street trees, gardens, and "urban" wildlife. In some areas, the urban landscape and natural landscape flow together, enhancing community character but increasing the potential for wildfire.

The City is part of the San Francisco Air Basin. Winds and air currents are dominated by the Pacific Ocean, with prevailing winds from the west. Westerly winds in the summer are generated by the cool marine air flowing to the warmer interior. Temperatures are moderate, with a mean annual reading of 56.4 degrees. The Air Basin is in non-attainment for federal standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. However, air quality in Oakland is generally better than in the downwind cities of the South Bay and inland valleys.

The City had a population of about 372,000 in the early 1990s and contains a wide range of residential, commercial, industrial, public, transportation, and open space land uses. Just over one-quarter of the City may be classified as open space. Residential areas vary from very dense neighborhoods consisting of high- and mid-rise apartments to rural neighborhoods with large lots. Parts of the City have densities exceeding 25,000 persons per square mile. Commercial areas include downtown, which is a major regional employment center, and numerous neighborhood commercial districts and thoroughfare shopping "strips." Most industrial areas are located along the waterfront and on the fringes of the City's older residential neighborhoods along the Nimitz Freeway. The City is served by several major

2. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off-site, due to increased water runoff caused by conversion of pervious to impervious surfaces or other factors?

 X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR will not cause an increase in erosion and will not increase runoff rates as a result of increased paving. Many of the policies and programs in the Element are specifically designed to reduce erosion and limit the extent of paving in future development as a means of slowing down runoff and maintaining urban aesthetics.

Some of the trail, park facility, playfield, community garden, creek access, street tree planting, and other improvements recommended in the OSCAR have the potential to increase soil erosion. Such projects will be subject to subsequent environmental review, with provisions to mitigate erosion hazards made as they are considered for approval. These provisions are spelled out in general form in the OSCAR Element and in fact, would apply to most future development in the City with the potential to create erosion hazards.

Policy CO-1.1 requires development to take place in a manner which protects soil from degradation. Actions implementing this policy recommend enforcement and periodic updating of grading and erosion control ordinances and collaboration with the Soil Conservation Service. Policy CO-2.4 requires minimal cuts and fills during hillside development, reducing the likelihood of soil loss. Policy CO-6.1 requires protection of creeks, further reducing the potential for water-induced erosion. Secondary benefits would result from policies in the Open Space chapter which protect steep, erosion-prone slopes and recommend conservation or acquisition of several erosion-prone hillside parcels.

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will have a net positive effect on erosion caused by runoff from increased impervious surfaces. The Element recommends that groundwater recharge areas along creeks be protected (Policy CO-5.1), and suggests that lot coverage limits be considered in single family residential zones (Action OS-4.2.1). The Element further suggests that all parks be zoned, with consideration given to impervious surface or lot coverage limits based on park classification and size. This would ensure that substantial portions of large parks remain available to receive runoff before it reaches storm drains or creeks.

Action CO-5.1.2 recommends that the City consider stormwater dispersion provisions rather than directing all stormwater to creeks and storm drains. This could potentially increase water-driven erosion where the soils were not sufficiently permeable to absorb runoff. If the City adopts such provisions, percolation rates, slope, and other factors will need to be considered before they are permitted on a development site.

3. Changes in deposition or erosion that result in changes in siltation, deposition, or erosion, which may modify the channel of a creek, inlet, lake, or any other waterway?

 X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR will not cause siltation, deposition, or erosion which modifies a surface waterbody. The Element includes several policies and programs deliberately designed to reduce siltation of Lake Merritt and Lake Temescal, to reduce erosion of creekbanks, and to ensure that dredging of the Estuary occurs in an environmentally sound manner.

Some of the projects and programs identified in the OSCAR Element, particularly the daylighting of creeks (Policy OS-8.2), establishment of community gardens (Policy OS-2.3), reduction of asphalt in schoolyard play areas (Policy OS-2.2), development of creek trails (Policy OS-5.1) and transmission line ROW trails (Policy OS-5.2), and provision of additional creek access points (Policy OS-8.2) could result in increased sedimentation of streams. Construction of trails, gardens, and other projects would be required to contain soil and reduce

including the Oakland Army Base and Naval Supply Center sites. These areas of loose fill sustained varying levels of damage during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. In at least one instance (Portview Park), the damage was significant enough to require demolition of facilities and relocation of the park. Similar impacts could occur in future earthquakes of similar or greater magnitudes if new facilities are developed in these areas.

The Element identifies a number of projects that could be constructed on filled soils, including a vista point at the Bay Bridge approach (Action OS-7.3.1), the Bay Trail (Action OS-7.5.1), a pedestrian/bicycle overpass from Channel Park to Estuary Park (Action OS-7.5.3), and improved crossings of the Nimitz Freeway at 16th and 66th Avenues (Action OS-7.5.4). The Element also recommends promotion of the new Maritime Museum (Action OS-7.3.4) and placement of plaques and markers along the waterfront at the sites of historic events or places (Action OS-7.3.3). Nine potential waterfront park sites are identified in Action OS-7.4.1.

The net effect of these policies and actions will be to increase the level of recreational activity on the waterfront. Because the primary activity at these locations will be outdoor recreation, exposure to earthquake related hazards will be minimal. If structures are sited in these parks, environmental review must ensure that seismic hazards are appropriately mitigated. The design of roads, parking areas, trails, piers, and other outdoor improvements should consider the effects of settlement and subsidence, as well as liquefaction and groundshaking hazards.

Several policies in the OSCAR Element address the issue of development on filled soils directly and are designed to reduce potential hazards. Policy CO-2.3 requires development on filled soils to make provisions to safeguard against subsidence and seismic hazards. Policy CO-2.2 recommends that geologically unstable features be retained as open space. Other policies and actions discourage the placement of loose fill in the bay (Policy CO-6.6) and in riparian canyons (Action CO-7.1.4).

The Element will also have direct beneficial environmental impacts on loose fill by designating the Emeryville Crescent and portions of King Regional Shoreline as Resource Conservation Areas (Action OS-1.2.7) and by recommending open space buffers around wetlands (Action CO-8.1.2). The Element's recommendations to pursue mitigation banking (Action OS-7.2.2) should expedite efforts to increase open space along the waterfront.

Existing building permit provisions require that any structures built in a waterfront park area will have adequate seismic resistance. Likewise, existing permit procedures require the design of roads, walkways, piers, and other improvements to anticipate settlement and subsidence, as well as future groundshaking and liquefaction hazards.

Mitigation Measures

No additional mitigation is required.

6. Construction within one-quarter mile of an earthquake fault?

| | | |
|-------|-------|------------|
| _____ | _____ | X _____ |
| Yes | No | Maybe |

Adoption of the OSCAR Element may indirectly result in the construction or renovation of recreational facilities within one-quarter mile of the Hayward Fault. The Element recommends establishing new parks and recreational features in underserved neighborhoods, including portions of Elmhurst, Central East Oakland, and the South Hills located proximate to the fault line. The Plan's text also includes suggestions as to the re-use of Chabot Observatory and the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital for recreational purposes; both of these areas are within the Alquist Priolo Special Studies Zone.

Twenty existing parks in Oakland are located within one-quarter mile of the Hayward Fault. Adoption of OSCAR could result in more intense levels of activity in some of these parks. However, for the most part, the OSCAR Element recommends that these parks retain their current character and in some cases be protected as Resource Conservation Areas. The OSCAR's designation of several major parks near the fault line as Resource Conservation Areas (including Claremont Canyon, Garber Park, King Estates, and parts of Lake Temescal, Shepherd Canyon, Knowland Park, and Leona Park) will reduce the probability of potentially hazardous recreational development in the future. Perhaps more significantly, the OSCAR's list of potential new resource conservation areas includes several sites along the fault line that might otherwise be developed. These include Dunsmuir Ridge, the UC Berkeley hill property, the west slope of Ridgmont, and the headwaters of Peralta Creek. These properties will eventually be rezoned in a manner which precludes the possibility that increased numbers of persons will be exposed to seismic hazards immediately along the Hayward Fault.

Environmental review for individual projects will ensure that seismic hazards are thoroughly considered for all park improvements, but particularly for projects within one-quarter mile of the Hayward Fault. These parks are: Claremont Canyon, Garber, Temescal, North Oakland Sports Center, Chabot, Montclair, Montclair Golf Club/Diamond Canyon, Shepherd Canyon (lower), Pinto, Leona (lower), Chabot Observatory, Knowland (lower), Hellman, Sheffield, Dunsmuir House, King Estates, Burkhalter, Redwood Heights, Avenue Terrace, and McCrea.

Other policies in the document, including the mandate that development density be related to slope (Policy OS-1.3), and the requirement that geologic stability be demonstrated before allowing homes on very steep lots (Policy OS-1.4) are included in OSCAR to mitigate seismic hazards. The concepts of park zoning and classification (Policy Rec-1.1) and "no net loss of open space" (Policy Rec-1.2) provide a vehicle to help reduce future construction projects within City parks along the fault line.

Other policies address seismic hazards directly. Policy CO-2.2 recommends that unstable geologic features (including fault lines and traces) be retained as open space. Policy CO-2.3 requires development on filled soils to take seismic hazards into consideration. Implementation of these policies and related actions will ensure that hazards associated with recreational facilities near the fault are appropriately mitigated.

Mitigation Measures

1. Utilize park zoning as a means of: (a) ensuring review of park projects within the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone (SSZ); (b) limiting the development potential of parks within the SSZ by appropriately classifying parks and by limiting the construction of buildings in parks. Require future City open space acquisitions within the SSZ to designate the areas closest to the fault for passive recreation only.
2. Require future private development within 1/4 mile of the Fault to follow OSCAR Policies which reduce seismic hazards, including Policies OS-1.3, OS-1.4, OS-3.1, CO-2.1, CO-2.2, and CO-2.3.

7. Substantial depletion of a non-renewable natural resource or inhibition of its extraction? _____ _____ _____
Yes No X Maybe

The OSCAR Element is based on principles of urban sustainability and was specifically crafted to promote conservation of non-renewable resources. Most of its policies and actions endorse and promote decisions that would result in lower consumption of groundwater, petroleum, lumber, topsoil, and other materials which have supply limitations. The Element also emphasizes ways to maintain clean water and air in Oakland and to sustain a balance between people, plants, and animals (including rare and endangered species) in the City.

Policies under Objective CO-3 could indirectly impact mineral extraction. Policy CO-3.2 prohibits new quarries in the City unless the benefits will outweigh the costs. This could inhibit the extraction of some mineral resources, such as oyster shells on the floor of the Bay or sand and gravel from the hills. However, the policy as worded would allow such mining if the benefits outweighed the costs.

Policy CO-3.1 specifically recommends conserving the rhyolite deposits in the Oakland Hills, which are a non-renewable resource of regional significance. Adoption of OSCAR would not directly constrain extraction of the rhyolite but would require that compatibility problems between the quarry and surrounding development continue to be mitigated to the maximum extent feasible. This is current City policy and would not change as a result of OSCAR's adoption. The OSCAR Element anticipates that the quarry will cease operations by the time the Conditional Use Permit expires in 2008, but the Element does not mandate its discontinuance. It does require mine clean-up and reclamation. This supports the goals of sustainability and does not inhibit resource extraction.

Other policies in the OSCAR Element support increased emphasis on sustaining or even restoring non-renewable resources. For instance, Policy OS-2.3 promotes community gardens as a source of food. Policy OS-8.2 promotes daylighting of creeks and restoration of creek habitat. Policy CO-4.3 emphasizes the expanded use of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation. Policy CO-4.4 emphasizes development patterns which make sound use of water. Policy CO-12.2 promotes fuel conservation, with recommendations to increase use of non-gasoline powered cars. Policy CO-13.4 promotes alternative energy sources, including solar and waste-to-energy plants. Existing conservation policies, and the local commitment towards a sustainable future, should be strengthened by OSCAR's adoption.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required. Possible adverse effects of the OSCAR Element's adoption of the Leona Quarry are mitigated by the fact that the quarry's conditional use permit allows continued operation through the year 2008.

Air. Will the project result in:

| | | |
|-------|----|-------|
| _____ | X | _____ |
| Yes | No | Maybe |

8. Substantial air emissions, deterioration or ambient air quality, or the creation of objectionable odors?

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will have substantial positive impacts on air quality and air emissions. An entire section of the Conservation Chapter focuses on air quality, with several policies and actions aimed at reducing air pollution.

Policy CO-12.1 conserves air quality by promoting a less auto-dependent land use pattern. Policy CO-12.2 promotes a coordinated bus, trail, and ferry transit system which reduces dependence on single passenger autos. Policy CO-12.3 promotes the same goal through transportation systems and demand management. Policy CO-12.4 requires new development to be designed in a manner which reduces potential adverse air quality impacts. Policy CO-12.5 requires the use of best available control technology for industry. Policy CO-12.6 requires construction, demolition, and grading to minimize dust emissions. These policies and their associated actions may ultimately become mitigation measures for adoption of the Land Use and Transportation Elements of the General Plan, as well as for future development projects unrelated to the OSCAR Element.

Indirect benefits will result from other policies in the OSCAR Element. Policy OS-3.6 recommends that open space and landscaping be retained along freeways as a means of absorbing carbon monoxide (as well as noise). Policy OS-5.1 promotes trail development and bicycle/pedestrian circulation as a viable alternative to

the automobile. Policy OS-12.1 encourages street trees as a means of absorbing air emissions (among other benefits). Policy OS-2.3 promotes community gardening, which could ultimately create odor impacts (from fertilizers, etc.) on nearby residences or schools. However, such impacts are expected to be less than significant and would be mitigated on a case-by-case basis if problems arose.

9. Alteration of air movement, moisture, temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR will not substantially alter air movement or climatic conditions in the City. Policy OS-12.1 promotes street tree planting, and Policy CO-7.3 urges that the forested character of wooded lots be maintained. The increased density of trees may ultimately effect micro-climates in the City, but the effect is not expected to be significant.

Water. Will the project result in:

10. Discharge into surface waters resulting in substantial degradation of surface water quality, including but not limited to turbidity, absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate or amount of surface runoff? X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will not have an adverse impact on surface waters and will not result in surface water quality degradation. The Conservation Chapter emphasizes strategies for improving water quality throughout the City and reducing the cumulative impacts of future development. Following the Element's water quality policies and implementing water quality actions would create significant environmental benefits.

The Element does identify recreational and open space improvements which might have water quality impacts without proper mitigation. Specifically, trail construction (recommended by Policy OS-5.1) could result in stream turbidity if eroding soil from trails is not properly contained. Creek daylighting (recommended in Policy OS-8.2) could result in changed absorption rates, turbidity, and drainage patterns. Increased creek access (Policy OS-8.1) could alter erosion and drainage patterns. Other recreational projects, such as schoolyard enhancement, community gardens, and new park facilities, could have construction impacts if soil is not contained during grading. Such impacts will be mitigated by following standard sedimentation and erosion control measures during construction.

Provisions in the OSCAR Element for community gardens (Policy OS-2.3) and schoolyard "greening" (Policy OS-2.2) will have the net effect of increasing pervious surfaces and increasing absorption rates. Consideration of lot coverage limits (Actions OS-4.2.1 and CO-5.1.1) and stormwater dispersion systems (Action CO-5.1.2) would provide a means of maintaining absorption and runoff rates and lessening the adverse water quality impacts of future private construction. Other policies in the Element with potential water quality impacts include the increased use of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation (Policy CO-4.3); however, the level of treatment provided prior to re-use should be sufficient to mitigate any threat to surface waters.

A number of policies in the Element speak directly to surface water discharges, and mitigation of existing water quality problems. Policy CO-5.3 aims to reduce pollution from urban runoff, hazardous spills, and improper dumping. Twelve action programs are identified in the Element to implement the policy, including pre-treatment of urban runoff, improved storm drain maintenance, improved street sweeping and litter collection, public education, and estuary clean-up. Policy CO-5.4 targets development in the watershed of Upper San Leandro Reservoir and includes actions to reduce the probability of runoff and animal waste discharges to the reservoir. Policy CO-3.2 requires clean-up of mine tailings as a means of improving downstream water quality and clarity.

Mitigation Measures

1. Conduct environmental review as required for all future projects involving the daylighting or restoration of creeks. Implement mitigation measures as needed for specific daylighting or restoration projects which might alter the course of flood waters.
2. Implement Action OS-8.2.2 which requires coordination of all creek daylighting or reconstruction projects with the County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other City departments and agencies with jurisdiction over surface waters.
3. Implement Actions CO-6.1.1 (Creeks Master Plan) and CO-6.1.2 (Watercourse Protection Ordinance upgrades). Request Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District participation in implementing Action CO-6.1.3 (Flood control design guidelines). The cumulative effect of these actions will be to minimize the exposure of people and property to flooding hazards that might otherwise result from increased creek access and creek daylighting.

12. Change in groundwater quantity, through direct addition or withdrawal or interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavation?

| | | |
|-------|----|-------|
| _____ | X | _____ |
| Yes | No | Maybe |

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will not significantly affect existing groundwater quantity. The Element may lessen future drawdown of groundwater by designating much of Oakland's remaining open space as resource conservation areas (Policy OS-1.1 specifically mentions groundwater recharge as a criteria for designating a park for resource conservation). Other policies which retain golf courses, cemeteries, university lands, and creek corridors will have similarly positive impacts. Policies CO-5.1 and CO-5.2 address groundwater directly. Policy CO-5.1 encourages groundwater recharge while Policy CO-5.2 promotes efforts to improve groundwater quality.

Several OSCAR Element policies and actions may impact groundwater, but the impacts will be less than significant. For example, development of community gardens, removal of asphalt at "pilot" schoolyards, and conversion of parking lots to parks would increase pervious surfaces and thus increase groundwater recharge. Actions OS-4.2.1 and CO-5.1.1 respectively suggest that lot coverage and impervious surface limits be explored in single family zones. Both actions would affect recharge rates by limiting the percentage of a parcel that could be covered by surfaces through which water does not pass. Action Rec-1.3.1 considers similar limits for City parks. Various policies on creek daylighting and conservation will also tend to improve recharge through percolation along streambeds.

Plant and Animal Life. Will the project:

13. Reduction in quantity or diversity of plant and animal species in the project vicinity, interfere with migratory or other natural movement patterns, or require extensive vegetation removal?

| | | |
|-------|----|-------|
| _____ | X | _____ |
| Yes | No | Maybe |

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will not have a significant adverse impact on plant or animal diversity or quantity. The Element may impact natural movement patterns and result in vegetation removal but the impacts will be less than significant. The philosophy of the OSCAR Element is to promote plant and animal diversity, encourage the movement of wildlife, and ensure that vegetation removal occurs in an ecologically sound manner. The Conservation Chapter of the OSCAR Element includes a major section on plant and animal resources, with policies and actions to mitigate the impacts of future development on biotic resources. Policy

CO-7.1 protects native plant communities from future development. Policy CO-7.2 restores native plant communities in areas where they have been compromised by development. Policy CO-7.4 discourages tree removal. Policies under Objective 8 deal specifically with wetlands, with recommendations to limit uses in wetland parks to activities that are consistent with the fragile wetland environment.

Policy CO-11.2 acknowledges the importance of wildlife corridors and recommends that such corridors be conserved in specific locations in the Oakland Hills. The corridors may take on increased biotic significance as they are conserved while other parts of the hills are developed (the net effect may be that wildlife is more channeled into specific areas). The impacts of the corridors will be beneficial rather than adverse. The corridor approach is preferable to the alternative of having no corridors and blocking wildlife movement with development.

Policy CO-10.1 and CO-10.2 recommend vegetation removal as a strategy for suppressing fire. Potential adverse impacts are mitigated by Policy CO-7.5, which requires a valid management strategy before removing non-native species, and Action CO-11.1.1, which requires wildlife surveys before major open spaces are cleared for fire prevention purposes. The fire suppression strategy is not to destroy plant and animal habitat, but to strike a safer balance between the built and natural landscapes of the Oakland Hills. In any case, the fire suppression recommendations of the OSCAR Element represent existing City policy and would not substantially change existing practices for vegetation management.

The Element also advocates construction of trails and other access improvements along creeks and in parts of the hill and shoreline areas that are currently inaccessible (Policy OS-5.1). Trail construction would require some vegetation removal, and the presence of hikers could impact wildlife and possibly even affect migratory patterns. Such impacts are mitigated by Policy OS-5.3, which establishes design principles for trails to ensure that environmental disturbance is minimized. Other policies (such as those requiring trails through wetlands to be elevated or those recommending enforcement of leash laws) are included to ensure that impacts on plant and animal species are minimized.

The promotion of drought tolerant landscaping (Policy CO-4.2) could impact plant and animal diversity by limiting the use of exotic plants. Such impacts are unlikely to be significant, since they mainly impact existing urbanized areas and since landscape guidelines would be advisory rather than mandatory.

There are also numerous OSCAR Element policies and actions that will have indirect beneficial impacts on plant and animal life. The designation of large hill and wetland parks as Resource Conservation Areas, along with the conservation of University open space, watershed lands, steep slopes, and creek corridors, will ensure that large areas in the City remain permanently protected from urbanization. Policies in the Element encourage the use of conservation easements, the transfer of development rights, and other measures which mitigate the impacts of future development on sensitive habitat. Policy OS-1.2 specifically includes plant and animal habitat as a criteria for targeting sites for public acquisition. Other policies in the Element provide similar benefits, for example, by retaining the forested character of wooded lots (Policy CO-7.3) and the rural character of large lot subdivisions (Policy OS-4.3), by promoting restoration of creek habitat and the daylighting of creeks (Policies OS-8.1 and 8.2), and by creating an "urban forest" through street tree planting (Policy OS-12.1). Water quality policies will provide additional benefits by improving the ability of Oakland's creeks and estuarine waters to sustain fish and wildlife.

14. Reduce the numbers of any unique, rare, or endangered species of plants and animals?

 X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will not adversely affect unique, rare, or endangered species of animals. Policy CO-9.1 specifically protects such habitat and recommends that the potential adverse impacts of future development on habitat be mitigated. Action CO-9.1.1 recommends that standardized mitigation measures, performance criteria, and development standards be developed to protect the habitat of species identified as unique, rare, or endangered. Action CO-9.1.2 requires pre-development surveys where appropriate. Action CO-9.1.3 calls for a Habitat Conservation Plan for an area that spans several cities and counties in the East Bay.

Other policies in the Element would have indirect benefits for rare and endangered species. Policy CO-5.4 discourages development in the watershed of Upper San Leandro Creek, thereby protecting endangered steelhead trout in Redwood Creek. Policies CO-6.5 and CO-8.1 protect the Bay, Estuary, and wetlands from incompatible land uses, thereby protecting endangered shorebirds and small mammals in places like the Emeryville Crescent, San Leandro Bay mudflats, and the Lake Merritt bird refuge. Policy CO-7.1 is designed to protect native plant communities, some of which contain species listed as rare or endangered.

As mentioned in the response to (13) above, many policies and actions in the Element will indirectly benefit rare and endangered species by designating large sections of the hills for resource conservation and by promoting the use of easements and corridors to ensure that wildlife is conserved. Various policies promoting habitat restoration and native planting will positively affect Oakland's ability to sustain unique plants and animals.

15. Introduce a new species of plants or animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the replenishment of existing plant or animal species, or the migration or movement of animals?

 X
Yes No Maybe

OSCAR Element policies could change the composition of plant species in some Oakland neighborhoods, although the changes would affect areas that are already urbanized and would have little impact on natural plant communities. In any event, the changes would be beneficial rather than adverse. Policy OS-12.1 promotes urban street tree planting. Possible adverse affects (such as planting exotic trees that are poorly suited for Oakland's climate) would be mitigated by adoption of a Street Tree Plan which considers local soil and climatic factors. Similarly, Policy CO-4.2 emphasizes the use of drought-tolerant landscaping, which could introduce new plant species into an area. In this instance, the impacts also would be positive rather than negative.

Policy CO-7.2 specifically recommends the restoration of native plant communities in areas where they have been compromised by development. While this would introduce new plants into an area, the policy's intent is to correct past environmental damage. Policy CO-7.6, which requires replacement of dead street trees, would have similar positive impacts. Policy CO-10.1, which promotes the control of flammable vegetation to suppress fire hazards, would create a barrier to the replenishment of existing plant species and also may affect wildlife movement. Such impacts are mitigated by the fact that any vegetation clearance must take place as part of a coordinated vegetation management plan which considers the cumulative effects on plant and animal life. Such a Plan was recently prepared for the East Bay Hills and is now being implemented.

Other OSCAR policies will have less than significant impacts on plant and animal life. Policy OS-2.3 promotes community gardening and could result in a greater variety of plant life (e.g., vegetables) in Oakland parks and schoolyards. Action OS-3.6.1 recommends a fire-resistant demonstration garden in Caldecott Canyon. This would result in replacement of existing plant life with new species. Policy OS-8.2 promotes creek restoration,

which would entail planting new species along denuded creek beds; the environmental impacts of such projects would be beneficial rather than adverse.

As in the responses to (13) and (14), the designation of hill area parks and other large open spaces as Resource Conservation Areas will promote the replenishment of plant and animal species and the unimpeded movement of animals. Policy CO-11.1 protects wildlife from the impacts of urbanization and Policy CO-11.2 identifies corridors for the movement of wildlife that will be protected in the future. The net effect of the OSCAR Element will be to increase species diversity, remove barriers to the replenishment of plant and animal species, and encourage the migration and movement of wildlife.

Mitigation Measures

1. Implement Action OS-12.1.1 (adoption of a Street Tree Plan) to ensure that tree species to be planted are appropriately suited for the area and do not create adverse impacts.
2. Follow Action CO-10.1.1 (implementation of the 1995 Vegetation Management Plan for the Oakland-Berkeley Hills) to ensure that fire suppression efforts do not have cumulative adverse impacts on plant and animal species.

16. Cause deterioration of existing aquatic or wildlife habitat?

 X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will positively impact aquatic and wildlife habitat and will have no significant adverse effects. As mentioned above, the Conservation Chapter contains extensive policy and action language recommending habitat conservation and restoration.

Potential impacts are posed by policies in the Open Space Chapter which advocate increased access to hillside parks, wetlands, the shoreline, and creeks. Without proper planning, trails (as proposed in Policy OS-5.1) and other recreational amenities (such as soccer fields along the shoreline) could degrade aquatic or wildlife habitat. These impacts will be mitigated by other policies and actions in the Open Space and Conservation Chapters which protect habitat from deterioration. Policy OS-5.3 establishes criteria for trail design to avoid adverse impacts. Policy CO-8.2 requires activities in wetland parks to be compatible with the natural environment (Action 8.2-1 goes a step further by requiring limited access and elevated boardwalks within wetlands). Policies throughout the Conservation Chapter strive to minimize conflicts between urban uses and natural habitat. Policy REC-2.3 requires environmentally sensitive design within parks.

The designation of large hill area parks, university lands, watershed lands, and other open spaces as Resource Conservation Areas will positively impact aquatic and wildlife habitat. In fact, the value of aquatic and wildlife habitat are among the criteria to be considered when selecting new sites for open space acquisition (Policy OS-1.2). Other policies in the OSCAR Element directly promote the protection of habitat. Native plant communities are protected by Policy CO-7.1, the restoration of such communities is encouraged by Policy CO-7.2, and the preservation of trees in forested neighborhoods is recommended by Policy CO-7.3. Policy CO-9.1 specifically protects the habitat of rare, endangered, and threatened species, while Policy CO-11.1 protects wildlife from the hazards of urbanization.

Action OS-7.2.2 promotes mitigation banking for wetlands. This could accelerate the restoration of wetlands and have positive impacts on aquatic habitat. Policy OS-7.4 promotes the development of waterfront parks. Potential impacts on aquatic habitat are mitigated by Policies in the Conservation chapter which prohibit bay fill (Policy CO-6.6) and protect wetlands (Policy CO-8.2).

Water quality and wetlands conservation policies in the OSCAR Element will have secondary beneficial impacts on aquatic habitat. For instance, Policy CO-5.3 (and its 12 associated action programs) stress improvements to urban runoff quality, which in turn will improve aquatic habitat in creeks, lakes, and San Francisco Bay. Policy CO-6.1 protects creek habitat, Policy CO-6.4 protects lake habitat and Policy CO-6.5 protects bay and estuarine habitat. The net effect of these policies and their related actions will be to mitigate many of the effects of additional development in the City of Oakland.

Noise. Will the project result in:

17. An increase in existing ambient noise levels near sensitive noise receptors? _____ _____ _____
Yes No X
Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element could result in increased noise levels in certain natural open space areas, and in residential areas where new parks are sited, existing parks are more intensively used, or existing open spaces are used more diversely.

In the former case, the Element advocates better access to wetland and hill area parks for passive recreation (Policy OS-5.1) and environmental education (Policy REC-7.4). The introduction of human noise in such areas could upset wildlife and may impact nesting, breeding, and foraging patterns. Such impacts will be mitigated by following other OSCAR policies which require that recreational uses in such parks be appropriately scaled and sensitively designed. Policy OS-1.1 designates most of the impacted parks as Resource Conservation Areas and limits activities to those which do not alter the natural park environment. The policy affords a much higher level of protection from noise impacts than is currently provided and would limit such impacts to daytime hours when hiking trails are in use. Other policies, such as Policy CO-8.2, present further restrictions on recreational uses in wetland parks.

In the latter case, the Recreation Chapter of the OSCAR could diversify the range of uses in many flatland parks. Actions under Policy REC-5.1 would promote community gardening, non-recreational use of recreation centers, and after-hours opportunities for youth at Oakland parks. Action REC-7.5.2 promotes neighborhood fairs and festivals in parks as a means of introducing new users to the parks and promoting neighborhood pride and culture. Such activities could result in higher ambient noise levels for residents in the vicinity of the parks. Such impacts would be mitigated through a number of other policies in the Element. Policy REC-1.1 would establish a classification system that ensures that new activities are appropriate for the scale and function of the park. Policy REC-2.4 emphasizes that activities must be compatible with surrounding land uses. Policy REC-9.1 identifies a more active role for the Recreation Advisory Councils to ensure that a forum for concerns about noise and other impacts exists. Policy REC-1.4 establishes a formal process for changing uses in parks, to provide additional opportunity for neighborhood input.

Policy REC-3.1 of the OSCAR Element establishes level of service standards for parks and thus targets a number of Oakland neighborhoods for new parks in the future. These new parks would have associated noise impacts and could affect nearby sensitive uses such as homes or schools. Such impacts will be mitigated as needed at the time the parks are developed. Policy REC-3.3 specifically identifies compatibility with surrounding uses as a factor to be considered when siting new parks.

The OSCAR Element also emphasizes the joint use of non-park open space for recreational uses. Policies OS-2.2 and REC-6.1 emphasize the use of schoolyards for after-hours recreation. Potential noise impacts on nearby residential areas would be mitigated through joint use agreements between the OUSD and the City of Oakland. Hours of use could be restricted to address public concerns about noise. Policy OS-2.3 promotes community gardens in residential areas; such uses are not anticipated to generate significant noise levels.

Policy OS-3.4 promotes the joint use of EBMUD water tanks for recreation. As many of these tanks are in residential areas, surrounding homes could be subject to playground noise. Where this is an issue, mitigation measures (shrub planting, etc.) should be prescribed as needed. Similarly, the Element advocates maintaining a network of mid-block paths (Policy OS-5.4) and increasing access to creeks (Policy OS-8.1). These actions could increase noise in residential side-yard and backyard areas. The impacts would be less than significant and would be dealt with on a case by case basis as projects were proposed.

Other OSCAR policies mitigate the cumulative impacts of development on noise and will have beneficial impacts. For instance, Policy OS-12.1 promotes street tree planting and Policy OS-3.6 retains landscaping along freeways. Similar policies which conserve vegetation will allow sound to continue to be absorbed and maintain quiet conditions in residential areas.

Mitigation Measures

1. Implement Policy REC-1.4 which establishes a formal process for changing uses in City parks. This process will ensure that noise concerns may be aired and resolved as needed for individual projects.
2. Conduct noise studies and implement mitigation measures when needed to address public concerns where joint use of a public open space (such as a water tank site) could increase ambient noise levels for sensitive receptors.
3. Adopt the park classification system (Policy REC-1.1) to ensure that new park facilities and activities in parks reflect the intended function of that park and are compatible with surrounding uses.

18. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?

| | | |
|-------|-------|------------|
| _____ | _____ | X _____ |
| Yes | No | Maybe |

Adoption of the OSCAR Element could indirectly expose people to severe noise levels by encouraging the development of parks and recreational facilities in areas where ambient noise levels exceed normally acceptable standards for recreational use. The impacts are expected to be less than significant due to the types of uses planned in loud areas, the limited duration or transient nature of the exposure to loud noise, and the availability of mitigation measures, including landscaping, to reduce noise levels. In some cases, the presence of loud noise may even enhance of the recreational experience. For example, the experience of biking on the Bay Trail near the airport or the harbor might be made more exciting by the opportunity to see a plane taking off, or ship containers being off-loaded on a "working waterfront."

The OSCAR Element makes the most of "functional" open spaces, including freeway rights-of-way (Policy OS-3.6) and arterial medians and traffic islands (Policy OS-5.2). Ambient noise levels in such locations may exceed 70 dB L_{dn} limiting the suitability of these areas for certain recreational activities.² Policies REC-2.2 and REC-2.3 mitigate such impacts by requiring environmental factors (including noise) to be taken into consideration when preparing park master plans and siting recreational uses. Some activities (skateboarding, biking, etc.) may be acceptable in very loud locations while other activities (tot lots, playgrounds, etc.) may be unacceptable.

² According to the State Office of Planning and Research Noise and Land Use Compatibility Guidelines, ambient noise levels of 70-75 dB L_{dn} are "Normally Unacceptable" for neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and recreational open space and levels above 75 dB L_{dn} are "Clearly Unacceptable" (State General Plan Guidelines, 1987).

The Element also emphasizes development of park facilities along the waterfront, which could result in greater numbers of persons present in industrial and transportation areas with high noise levels. Action OS-7.3.1 promotes a vista point on the south side of the Bay Bridge approach. Action OS-7.4.1 identifies nine prospective park sites along the shoreline, several of which adjoin active industrial areas or railyards. Action OS-7.5.2 encourages increased use of the Broadway/I-880 underpass, while Action OS-7.5.4 recommends pedestrian/bicycle lanes on the 16th and 66th Avenue overpasses. Although noise levels exceed "normally compatible" levels, the impacts on human comfort will be less than significant due to the nature of the activity. The park classification system (described in Policy REC-1.1) and procedure for park land use change (described in Policy REC-1.4) will help ensure that noise impacts are duly considered when siting new parks and recreational facilities.

Mitigation Measures

1. Noise studies will be conducted as needed and appropriate for specific park improvement projects located in areas where the ambient noise levels exceed 70 dB L_{dn}. Such studies will be performed as part of normal environmental review for park projects.
2. Existing noise compatibility criteria for recreational facilities and activities will be refined as part of the new Noise Element of the Oakland General Plan. These criteria will then be applied on a case by case basis as new activities and uses are considered in Oakland's noise-prone parks. Completion of the Noise Element is expected in 1997.

Light and Glare. Will the project result in:

19. New light or glare in areas sensitive to light and glare (i.e., residents near industrial and commercial uses, freeways, and parks)?
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes | No | Maybe |

Adoption of the OSCAR could indirectly result in new night lighting or recreational facilities or increased use of night lighting where it already exists. Athletic field and stadium lighting could adversely impact nearby natural habitat areas and residential neighborhoods.

Policy REC-1.1, which would establish a classification system for parks, could designate underutilized parks in a manner which suggests they are suitable for night lighting or increased night use. Similarly, Policy REC-3.1 establishes level of service standards for recreational facilities. Achieving these standards could mean that lights become a programmed capital improvement for existing softball/baseball fields, soccer/football fields, and tennis courts in underserved areas. ...

Policy REC-5.2 specifically identifies night lighting (of buildings and parking lots) as a security measure, while Policy REC-5.1 encourages evening recreational activities such as midnight basketball. Policy REC-6.1 promotes after-school programs, which could lead to use of night-lights at school athletic fields and play areas. Policy REC-2.5 promotes park visibility, which could result in lighting improvements around park signs, paths, and entrances. Action REC-7.5.2 promotes small neighborhood festivals and fairs in parks; such events might require limited duration evening lighting.

The potential impacts of these policies will be mitigated by implementing OSCAR Policy REC-1.4 and by following the design principles embodied in Policies REC-2.4, REC-3.3, REC-9.1, and REC-9.2. Policy REC-1.4 requires the involvement of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) before any improvement or change of use (including night lighting) occurs in an Oakland park. This provides a forum for voicing public concerns and also allows potential lighting impacts to be studied and discussed on a case by case basis. Policy REC-2.4 requires the management of park activities to minimize conflicts with surrounding land uses. This concept is echoed in Policy REC-3.3, which requires that surrounding land uses and citizen wishes be

these sites as it reflects recent acquisitions or committed acquisitions that have occurred since 1980. The Land Use Element will be updated by the end of 1996 to achieve internal consistency.

The new OSCAR Element generally continues the principles and goals of the 1976 OSCAR Element; the primary difference is the emphasis of the new Element on improving underutilized open space resources in the flatlands and along the shoreline, and its less conditional language regarding the conservation of steep slopes, native habitat, creeks, and other environmentally sensitive areas.

The most obvious direct impact of the OSCAR Element on the Oakland Comprehensive Plan is that it alters the existing land use classification system. Policy OS-1 creates "Resource Conservation Areas" (RCAs) and applies this designation to more than 1,600 acres of hill and wetland parks. Other open spaces in the City, including golf courses, cemeteries, and urban parks, would receive a General Plan designation of "Urban Parks and Other Open Spaces." The two designations would replace the existing land use category of "Parks, Watershed Lands, or Natural Areas."

Policy OS-2 targets several hundred acres of non-park lands for the RCA designation, including the Emeryville Crescent, Dunsmuir Ridge and other sites to be purchased by the City with Measure K bond proceeds. Policy OS-3.1 recommends designating most of the University of California Hill property as an RCA, while Policy OS-3.4 would apply the designation to EBMUD watershed lands. A few of the proposed RCA sites, such as Dunsmuir Ridge, are presently designated for residential use on the Land Use Diagram. In the case of the Emeryville Crescent, the area was previously identified as being "suitable for future shipping facilities." The RCA designation will have beneficial environmental impacts and will reduce the likelihood of future development (or recreational uses) with adverse impacts on natural resources.

Policy OS-1.3 reinforces existing general plan policies which discourage the development of slopes greater than 30 percent. However, as worded in the OSCAR Element, the policy would make it more difficult to subdivide very steep parcels in the Oakland Hills and could reduce the overall "buildout" potential allowed by previous plans. While the impact of this change is "significant," it is not "adverse." The net result of the change is that buildout potential will bear a greater relationship to environmental carrying capacity. Further reductions in buildout potential may be considered during the update of other General Plan Elements to recognize other constraints such as road width, sewer and water availability, and traffic congestion.

The Element would establish criteria for land acquisition in the hills (Policy OS-1.2) and flatlands (Policy OS-2.5). Adopting these criteria marks a change from the previous Comprehensive Plan, which used the level of neighborhood open space deficiency as the main criteria for acquiring land. The impact of the new criteria should be less than significant, but may result in more serious consideration being given to certain types of properties as potential parks. City-owned real estate, abandoned gas stations, parking lots, storage yards, vacated military bases, surplus schools, land trust sites, parkway medians, and water tanks are all among the sites that could be considered as new parks. The Element also emphasizes the expansion of existing parks based on a classification system that sets target sizes for parks of various functions. This could result in land use changes on underutilized properties on the perimeter of existing parks.

Policy OS-4.3 of the OSCAR Element could impact planned land uses in Hillcrest Estates, the Lands of Drinnen, and other rural residential neighborhoods which are zoned R-10 and R-20. The policy emphasizes retaining the rural character of such areas, possibly by creating a one-acre minimum zoning district. The Policy would not change current uses but would protect these areas from future environmental impacts resulting from inappropriately dense development. Similarly, the Element's recommendations to retain single family residential yards (and to consider lot coverage limits) and to continue requiring useable open space in multi-family development could impact future land uses but will have beneficial environmental effects.

The Element could indirectly alter present and planned land uses along the Oakland waterfront. Policy OS-7.1 promotes the beneficial uses of the Estuary and Bay shoreline and would preclude the use of the waterfront

the park would be eyed first, and it is possible that such sites could be acquired and cleared for park expansion if they contained substandard buildings or were otherwise underutilized. Similarly, Policy REC-1.3 recommends that new park buildings be accommodated by expanding parks rather than filling them with structures. This could place pressure on parcels on the perimeter of parks and could result in eventual City purchase of some parcels when facilities were proposed. Although the preference would be to acquire vacant land (including parking lots, storage yards, etc.), it is possible that housing could be acquired or relocated as park boundaries are expanded.

Policies REC-1.1 and REC-3.1 compel the City to expand parks that are too small to fulfill their intended functions. For instance, adopting area standards of 7.5 acres for community parks and 3 acres for neighborhood parks (see Table 9) could provide the justification for future capital outlays to buy land to expand existing "substandard" parks. Although it seems unlikely at this time, homes or businesses on the perimeter of undersized parks such as Brookdale and Rainbow might be targeted for acquisition. In any case, displacement impacts would be mitigated by following a "willing seller" approach to land acquisition and by following existing City policies which require replacement of housing that is converted to non-residential use.

23. Cause a substantial alteration in neighborhood land use, density, or character?

 X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element could cause alterations to neighborhood land use, density and character but the alterations would generally be positive or less than significant. The purpose of the Element is to minimize the likelihood of adverse alterations by conserving open space, enhancing natural resources, and providing safe, clean, useable parks. While the presence of such amenities could induce growth and impact neighborhoods in that regard, such impacts are unlikely to be directly attributable to the adoption of the Element.

A number of Element policies could result in land use changes which may ultimately have effects on the character of neighborhoods. For instance, Policy OS-2.2 promotes aesthetic improvements to asphalt schoolyards and Policy OS-2.3 promotes neighborhood community gardens. The development of new parks, constructed to achieve level of service standards outlined in Policy REC-3.1, could also impact neighborhoods. In addition to the direct land use impact of replacing an existing use with a park, the parks could become "magnets" for peripheral redevelopment and could ultimately attract reinvestment to an area. Potential adverse impacts will be mitigated by implementing OSCAR policies which require land use compatibility to be considered when siting new park facilities (Policy REC-2.4), considering surrounding land use when selecting park sites (Policy REC-3.3), and emphasizing park master planning at the citywide, neighborhood, and individual park level (Policy REC-1.5).

The Element's approach to managing park development will have direct land use impacts. Adopting a classification system (Policy REC-1.1) will determine the range of uses that may be considered in any given park. Policy REC-1.2, which requires no net loss of park open space, would affect land use by requiring the designation of additional parkland when land is covered by buildings in City parks. Discouraging new buildings in City parks could result in new facilities outside park boundaries, possibly impacting nearby uses. Impacts on land use, density, and neighborhood character will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis as subsequent projects are proposed.

The emphasis of the OSCAR Element on increasing the range of activities in parks, improving lighting and signage, attracting new users to parks, and promoting after-school activities and programs could impact the character of the areas immediately adjacent to parks. Potential adverse impacts of such actions would be mitigated by providing an open process for citizen input (Policy REC-1.4), and improving communication between the Recreation Advisory Councils, City Staff, and community residents (Policies REC-9.1 and REC-9.2).

Similar impacts could result from the OSCAR Element's emphasis on park maintenance and building rehabilitation. Land use impacts in such cases would be positive and would generally not require mitigation.

Overall, the Element's adoption should positively impact neighborhood character and land use by protecting many of the resources and qualities that make Oakland neighborhoods unique and by emphasizing parks as a focal point of neighborhood life. The designation of Resource Conservation Areas (Policy OS-1.1), the conservation of very steep slopes (Policies OS-1.3 and OS-1.4), the conservation of open space along freeways (Policy OS-3.6), the protection of rural character (Policy OS-4.3), the protection of golf courses and cemeteries (Policy OS-3.3), the discouragement of blighted vacant lots (Policy OS-4.4), and the maintenance of mid-block paths (Policy OS-5.4) will all have positive impacts on community character. Similarly, the Element's emphasis on respecting natural landforms (Policy OS-9.1), creating community gateways and edges (Policies OS-9.2 and OS-9.3), and the protection of scenic views (Policy OS-10.1) will positively impact neighborhoods. The Element identifies many of the natural and aesthetic factors that contribute to neighborhood character and strives to protect and enhance them in the future.

A number of open space recommendations could have land use impacts on specific neighborhoods. For instance, Policy OS-3.2 could impact land uses in the Oak Knoll area by recommending that steep slopes and the creek corridor on the reused military base be retained as open space. Policies OS-7.1 and OS-7.4 could impact shoreline uses between Jack London Square and High Street by emphasizing more a diverse mix of development, including parks. Policies OS-11.1 and OS-11.2 could impact land use in downtown Oakland and the areas around BART Stations by promoting access to downtown open space and suggesting new plazas and rooftop gardens. Land use impacts may also result from the Element's recommendations to promote the joint use of roadway and utility rights-of-way. For instance, recreational uses in the Mandela Parkway median, in PG&E rights-of-way and on EBMUD water tank sites would all represent changes in current land use. In addition, the Element identifies projects which could impact specific parks, including the re-use of the Chabot Science Center and the development of an East Oakland Swim and Diving Center. Potential impacts will be mitigated on a case by case as individual projects are proposed.

Policy OS-12.1 encourage citywide street tree planting, which could impact neighborhood character and appearance. Potential adverse impacts will be mitigated by following an approved street tree plan to guide tree selection, planting, maintenance, and removal practices.

Finally, the Plan's air quality recommendations could impact land use and density by promoting a development pattern which minimizes dependence on the automobile. Policy CO-12.1 recommends higher densities, live-work development, mixed uses, and transit-oriented development as a way of mitigating the air quality impacts of growth. The environmental impacts of such growth patterns would be positive. The new Land Use Element should reflect a similar emphasis.

Additional environmental review will be required for future park and recreational projects and will prescribe mitigation measures as needed for projects which could adversely impact neighborhood land use, density, and character.

Mitigation Measures

1. Implement Policy REC-1.5, which promotes park master planning as a means of reducing conflicts between park development and neighborhood land use, density, and character.
2. Implement Policy REC-1.1, which recommends a park classification and zoning system to regulate land use change within park boundaries.

Human Health and Safety. Will the project involve:

24. The risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances, including oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation, in the event of an accident that could create or expose people to potential health hazards? _____ X _____
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will not substantially affect the risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances. Mitigation of potential hazards associated with the reuse of contaminated sites is incorporated within the Element.

Action CO-2.5.3 promotes the use of abandoned gas stations (which may have leaking underground gasoline tanks) for recreational purposes. Policy OS-7.4, which promotes shoreline parks, and Policy OS-3.4, which promotes parks within former military base sites, both could result in new parks being developed on former industrial sites, some of which may be contaminated. Potential hazards will be mitigated by implementing Policy CO-1.2, which requires soil testing prior to the development of any park or community garden on a site where contamination is suspected (Action REC-5.5.2 further requires soil testing at existing parks where soil toxicity may be an issue). Environmental review will be required for subsequent park projects and will identify remediation measures where necessary.

Policy CO-13.4 promotes waste-to-energy plants in Oakland as a means of reducing the depletion of fossil fuels. Mitigation measures for any hazards associated with such plants would be determined during environmental review if and when such plants are proposed.

The Element incorporates a number of policies that will have beneficial impacts and will reduce the risk of human exposure to hazardous substances. Policy CO-3.2 requires clean-up of abandoned mine sites, some of which are leaking sulfur into surface waters. Action CO-5.3.6 requires updated provisions for controlling hazardous spills. Action CO-5.3.7 promotes the clean-up of toxic hot spots in the Bay. Action REC-4.2.1 promotes an integrated pest management program to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides. Other policies and actions in the OSCAR Element encourage proper disposal of household hazardous waste and stiffer penalties for illicit dumping.

25. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? _____ X _____
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR will not adversely impact emergency response and evacuation planning. A number of policies and actions in the Element will positively impact the City's ability to respond to emergencies and will improve emergency preparedness. The Element's emphasis on relating development intensity to environmental conditions may reduce the level of new development that occurs in areas that are potentially hazardous due to landslide hazards, proximity to a fault, poor access, and severe fire hazards. The net effect of Policies OS-1.2 (designation of new Resource Conservation Areas), Policy OS-1.3 ((relating development to slope and other natural factors), and Policy OS-1.4 (requiring proof of geologic stability before allowing development on very steep slopes) will be to help the City achieve its emergency response goals. Policies CO-2.1 and CO-2.2, which discourage development in slide zones and on unstable geologic features, will also help achieve these goals.

The OSCAR Element also includes preventive measures which may improve the City's ability to respond to emergencies, or reduce the probability of emergencies. For instance, trails and mid-block paths advocated by Policy OS-5.1 and OS-5.2 could provide additional fire-fighting access points and pedestrian evacuation routes in the hill areas. Policies CO-10.1 and CO-10.2 promote vegetation management to reduce fire hazards, and Policy CO-5.3 promotes spill prevention and clean up of toxic hot spots to avoid future emergencies.

measures needed to address transportation/circulation impacts related to park and recreation facilities will be identified at the time of project-level environmental review.

Mitigation Measures

No further mitigation is required.

27. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods, or alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic? X
Yes . No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element could alter the movement of people and goods in parts of Oakland. The OSCAR Element promotes non-vehicular transportation as a means of conserving natural resources, improving air quality, and providing expanded access to open space and recreational opportunities. The Element also promotes improved access to the shoreline, and better linkages between the flatlands and the hill and waterfront parks. The Element's emphasis on shoreline access is unlikely to affect the movement of goods, as Policy OS-7.2 requires access dedication only where it "can be achieved without interfering with waterfront industrial or maritime uses." On the other hand, construction of the Bay Trail and related spur trails and connections would increase the presence of pedestrians and bicyclists near the waterfront and could ultimately affect truck traffic. Mitigation would be provided by updating the Oakland Circulation Element to include policies and actions addressing potential conflicts. The updated Circulation Element should contain appropriate roadway designations and standards to minimize safety impacts. Additional mitigation should be provided through OSCAR Actions OS-5.3.1 and OS-5.3.2, which call for Urban Trail and Bicycle Master Plans.

Policy OS-5.1 emphasizes the construction of trails in Oakland and call for a more "pedestrian-friendly" City. This would have beneficial air quality and energy impacts and would also improve access to natural resources such as creeks and lakes. Specific actions are summarized in Figure 6 and include improving the perimeter trail around Lake Merritt (Action OS-7.5.3); improving the 16th and 66th Avenue overpasses (Action OS-7.5.4); establishing an Estuary to Channel Park connection; developing trails in the Mandela and Bancroft Parkway medians (Actions OS-5.2.1 and OS-5.2.2); developing trails in PG&E rights of way (Action OS-5.2.4) and Alameda County Flood Control easements (Action OS-8.1.1.); dedicating trails along creeks (Action OS-5.1.2), in parks (Action OS-5.1.5), and on new development sites (Action OS-5.1.4); and maintaining a system of pedestrian short-cuts or mid-block paths (Policy OS-5.4). Cumulative impacts of these improvements on the movement of people may be substantial but will not be adverse.

The OSCAR Element will not alter waterborne, rail, or air traffic. The Element encourages additional water activities (recreational boating, etc.) on the Estuary and Lake Merritt but the impacts on waterborne traffic will be less than significant. The Element discourages power boating and "spectator" recreation on San Leandro Bay; the impacts of this action would be beneficial rather than adverse and, in any case, are consistent with the previous OSCAR Element. The Element promotes the joint use of rights-of-way, including railroad rights-of-way, for recreational trails. Rail traffic would not be impacted because only abandoned track sections or areas under elevated track sections would be considered.

Mitigation Measures

1. Update the Circulation Element of the Oakland General Plan to ensure internal consistency with the OSCAR Element and address the potential impacts of increased pedestrian and bicycle activity in the City.

28. Have a substantial impact on existing transportation systems or circulation patterns?
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element could have indirect or secondary impacts on existing transportation systems. Such impacts could result from the Element's emphasis on non-vehicular transportation modes, especially trails and footbridges, and the emphasis on improving access to Oakland parks for persons without access to a car. The Element also contains general recommendations on roadway landscaping, street closures, vista point "pullouts," and park signage which could impact transportation systems. Such impacts are either less than significant, or would be analyzed on a case by case basis as projects were proposed.

Policy OS-2.6 would allow local street closures as a means of creating "pocket parks" in high-density neighborhoods. Mitigation of circulation impacts would need to be determined at the time specific projects were considered. Policy OS-5.1 promotes a citywide trail system and Policy OS-7.5 promotes the Bay Trail and other links to the waterfront. As the response to Item (27) above indicates, this could impact circulation patterns and might increase the potential for conflicts between cars, trucks, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Policy OS-5.2 promotes the joint use of rights-of-way, including freeways, as linear parks or parkways. The Policy also promotes landscape retention and improvement of traffic islands and medians. Policy OS-5.4 promotes mid-block paths, which could affect pedestrian circulation patterns. These policies will generally have beneficial circulation impacts; the impacts of specific capital improvement projects prepared pursuant to the policies would be analyzed on a case by case basis.

Policies OS-3.6, OS-9.2, and CO-6.6 could impact transportation systems by requiring that landscaping be retained along freeways, City gateways be visually upgraded, and bay fill (for freeway expansion) be severely limited. These policies might make freeway widening and reconstruction more difficult or expensive. Likewise, the emphasis on trails could eventually mean that provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists must be included in highway reconstruction or expansion projects. It is unlikely that such impacts would be linked to the adoption of the OSCAR Element or that they would render highway improvements infeasible. The net effect of such policies should be positive by making Oakland's highways more attractive and by improving the image of the City.

Other OSCAR policies and actions may impact circulation systems in a way that is less than significant. Action CO-5.3.4 recommends increased street sweeping. Policy REC-2.5 recommends improving park visibility and signage. Policy REC-8.7 recommends improved transit service to parks, and Action REC-8.7.1 recommends establishing kiosks at BART Stations with park access information.

The Air Quality recommendations of the OSCAR Element may have secondary impacts on circulation patterns. Policy CO-12.2 calls for a "coordinated bus, rail, and ferry transit system which provides efficient service to major destinations and promotes alternatives to the single passenger auto." Policy CO-12.3 emphasizes transportation systems management as a means of reducing congestion. These measures are consistent with existing City policy and their adoption as components of the OSCAR Element would not have adverse impacts.

The development of new parks and expansion of recreational activities, advocated by the Recreation Chapter of OSCAR, also could impact transportation patterns and circulation systems. Possible impacts and mitigation measures are described in the responses to Items (26) and (27) above. The project-level environmental review process will be used to identify circulation impacts associated with future park projects and to determine appropriate mitigation measures where necessary.

Mitigation Measures

No further mitigation is required.

29. Impose a burden on public services and facilities including fire, solid waste disposal, police, schools, or parks?

 X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element could be regarded as creating a burden for park services due to the proposed levels of service and the extent of new parks and recreational facilities envisioned by the Element. The Element targets many areas of the City for new parks, expanded parks, new facilities, maintenance and rehabilitation improvements, safety improvements, and new recreation programs. However, the Element also acknowledges that such changes can only take place if additional funds are made available. Mitigation measures for the increased levels of service include the development of new funding sources, the privatization of some recreational services, increased community involvement in park development and maintenance, and increased participation by the Oakland Unified School District, the Peralta Colleges, and other agencies in the provision of services.

Policy REC-1.2 could impose a burden for park services by requiring the provision of replacement open space when new buildings are placed in parks (capital improvement costs could increase if replacement site costs must be added in). Policy REC-1.3 could create a similar burden by discouraging the placement of new buildings within existing park boundaries and by proposing coverage limits for each park. Other policies in the Recreation Chapter might be seen as burdensome because they establish a more rigorous process for changing land uses in parks and could increase the time required to construct park facilities. Policy REC-1.1 would establish a park classification system and eventually lead to park zoning. This could further constrain the City's ability to site certain kinds of facilities in certain kinds of parks. Despite these potential impacts, the changes are viewed as positive and desirable, as they protect parks from degradation, inappropriate development, and loss of open space.

Policy REC-3.1 establishes level of service standards and directs the City to reduce deficiencies by targeting underserved neighborhoods for park improvements. This could adversely affect parks in areas identified as adequately served by channeling money to other locations. Policy REC-4.1 requires an emphasis on maintenance and rehabilitation. This could reduce the availability of funds for new facilities. Policy REC-5.1 suggests that the range of activities in parks be increased, while Policy REC-7.1 promotes more diverse programs. Policies REC-8.1 through REC-8.7 emphasizes a wide variety of service improvements for special needs groups. All of these changes will require additional funding and increased community involvement.

Mitigation measures for increased park services include the establishment of a park impact fee (Policy REC-10.2), equitable spending by the East Bay Regional Park District in Oakland (Policy REC-10.3), more private sector provision of recreational services (REC-10.4), the use of other local funding sources like assessment districts (REC-10.5), greater emphasis on gifts and grants (Policy REC-10.6), and an emphasis on fee supported services (Policy REC-10.8). The Element also includes provisions to get neighborhood groups more involved in park beautification (Policy REC-9.3), to solicit volunteers (Policy REC-7.3), to improve coordination with the school and community college districts (Policy REC-6.1), and to promote public private partnerships (Policy REC-6.2).

Impacts on park services also could result from some of the recommendations in the Open Space Chapter. Specifically, the acquisition of new Resource Conservation Areas (Policy OS-1.2) could create more areas for the City to maintain. Policies OS-5.1 and OS-5.4 would require the on-going expense of trail and mid-block path maintenance. Policy OS-12.1 would require greater expenditures for street trees, while Policy OS-12.2 would require expenditures for tree maintenance. Unless additional personnel is provided, it is unlikely that the City can respond to these mandates for increased service.

The Element also might be regarded as burdensome for school services, police services, and fire services. In the case of schools, Policy OS-2.2 suggests that schoolyards be made more attractive and hospitable, possibly by replacing asphalt with grass or turf. The latter could be more expensive to maintain. Policy OS-3.1 promotes retention of open space at colleges and universities, possibly making it more difficult for these

maintenance (Action CO-5.3.2), curbside debris pick-ups (Action CO-5.3.3), street sweeping (Action CO-5.3.4), and litter law enforcement (Action CO-5.3.8). There are also recommendations to install catch basins in Lake Merritt (Action CO-5.3.10) and to consider pre-treatment of urban runoff at particular locations (Action CO-5.3.1). These projects would require additional environmental review at the time they were proposed. The Element's emphasis on reclaimed wastewater for landscape irrigation (Policy CO-4.3) and improving effluent quality at the regional treatment plant (Action CO-5.3.11) could be considered a burden for EBMUD. The Element acknowledges that such improvements will be provided or increased only as funds become available.

Less direct impacts on utilities might be created by the adoption of OSCAR policies promoting community gardens (Policy OS-2.3) and street tree planting (Policy OS-12.1). Both improvements could increase the citywide demand for water. However, such increases will be more than offset by the reductions in water consumption called for in Policies CO-4.1 (promoting water conservation), CO-4.2 (promoting drought tolerant landscaping), and CO-4.3 (promoting reclaimed wastewater). Street tree planting could increase road maintenance costs by increased the incidence of pavement and sidewalk breakage. Such impacts will be mitigated by adopting a street tree plan (Action OS-12.1.1) which identifies appropriate tree species based on (among other things) the size of the available planting area.

EBMUD and PG&E also could be impacted by OSCAR's policies regarding the joint use of "functional open space." Policy OS-3.4 suggests the joint use of water tank sites while Action OS-5.2.4 suggests trail development in transmission line rights of way. Such projects would only be constructed if EBMUD and PG&E concerns were sufficiently addressed and if joint use agreements were developed between the City and the utilities.

Finally, the designation of several hill area open spaces as Resource Conservation Areas, and the emphasis on relating new development to environmental conditions, will have beneficial impacts on utilities. Policies OS-1.1 and OS-1.2 will preclude the need to extend water and sewer services into areas where it might otherwise be very expensive. Policy OS-1.4 limits the development of very steep lots where water and sewer services are not presently adequate. Action OS-1.4.2 recommends that a Specific Plan be prepared for Panoramic Hill, one of several areas where water and sewer services are inadequate to support development of existing parcels. Similarly, Policy OS-4.3 suggests retaining the rural character of large-lot residential areas; this would reduce the need for water, sewer and road reconstruction in such areas to serve more dense development. Other policies in the Element will benefit utilities by discouraging development in slide zones, along fault lines, and in other areas where damage to infrastructure is likely to occur.

Cultural Resources. Will the project:

31. Destroy, deface, or alter a structure, object, natural feature, or site of prehistoric, historic, architectural, archaeological, or aesthetic significance? Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element will not adversely impact significant structures, objects, natural features, or sites. The premise on which the Element is based is the conservation of these features. The Element's designation of large parks and open spaces as Resource Conservation Areas is intended in part to protect natural features of aesthetic significance. The proposed zoning and classification of urban parks is intended to protect historic and architectural park resources, as well as park aesthetics. No feature will be destroyed or defaced as a result of the Element's adoption.

Several policies and actions in the Element may alter historic sites, but such alterations would either be less than significant or would have beneficial impacts. Policy REC-2.6 specifically indicates that historic features should be respected when designing park improvements. Policy REC-3.3 suggests that new parks should be created at sites of historic significance. This premise is reinforced by Action OS-7.3.3, which recommends

plaques and other markers on sites of historic significance along the Oakland waterfront. Action REC-2.6.1 suggests that certain historic parks be given landmark status. This would further ensure that any alterations to historic features in these parks are compatible with the historic function of the park. The Element's emphasis on rehabilitation could ultimately impact structures of historic significance within parks. Action REC-4.3 states that rehabilitation and maintenance of older recreational facilities should be emphasized before new facilities are constructed. This could promote restoration of historic homes or structures in parks (such as the DeFremery House or Moss Cottage).

Action REC-2.3.1 recommends design guidelines for new parks, which would mitigate the potential impacts on new facilities on historic and aesthetic resources. The concept of "no net loss of open space" set forth by Policy REC-1.2, and the premise that new buildings should generally not be placed within urban parks (Policy REC-1.3) should further reduce the potential for impacts resulting from new facilities in parks.

32. Result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? X
Yes No Maybe

See response to Item (31). Adoption of the OSCAR will have no adverse physical or aesthetic effects on prehistoric or historic features. A major objective of the Element is to reduce the potential for such effects from future development in the City, particularly within park and open space areas. Several policies and actions in the Element, including the zoning of cemeteries and golf courses (Action OS-3.3.1), the landmarking of historic parks (Action REC-2.6.1), the designation of historic sites or homes as parks (Policy REC-3.3), the development of guidelines for siting public art (Action OS-11.4.1), the designation of a formal process to review park land use changes (Policy REC-1.4), and the classification of parks (Policy REC-1.1) should all positively effect sites of prehistoric and historic significance.

Aesthetics. Will the project result in:

33. An increase of 100 feet or more in the height of any structure over any previously existing adjacent structure? X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR would not result in an increase of 100 feet or more in the height of any structure.

34. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public? X
Yes No Maybe

Adoption of the OSCAR Element would not obstruct any scenic view or vista. The Element places substantial emphasis on the protection and enhancement of scenic views, and the protection of visual quality in general. The Element's proposals to conserve much of Oakland's remaining hillside open space and to more carefully manage urban parkland will have a positive effect on vistas throughout the City. Action OS-10.2.2 recommends that visual analyses be conducted for future projects impacting views and vistas, providing mitigation for potential impacts that might arise from OSCAR Element projects.

Within the hill areas, the Element's emphasis on development density bearing a stronger relationship to slope (Policy OS-1.3), its restrictions on existing lots with greater than 50 percent slope (Policy OS-1.4), its limitations on grading (Policy CO-2.4), and its emphasis on protecting the forested or rural character of many hill neighborhoods will have a positive effect on vistas and views. The Element specifically recommends maintaining City-owned parcels along Skyline Drive to preserve panoramic views (Action OS-10.1.1). Policy OS-10.1 promotes the protection of vistas throughout the City, placing a priority on views of the hills from the flatlands, views of downtown and Lake Merritt, views of the shoreline, and panoramic views from the hills.

consumption). Policy CO-12.2 promotes a coordinated multi-modal transportation system, which also should reduce fuel consumption (Action CO-12.2.2 further recommends that the use of non-gasoline powered vehicles be encouraged). Policy CO-12.3 recommends that new development be designed in a manner which emphasizes transit access and bicycle use, rather than total reliance on driving. Policy CO-13.2 emphasizes continued efforts in the area of energy efficiency and conservation, including the use of energy-saving appliances and vehicles. Policy CO-13.3 recommends energy-efficient construction materials, and also suggests retrofitting older homes to reduce energy loss.

IX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE (An EIR is required if the answer to any of the questions is "yes" or "maybe.")

a. Does the project have the **potential to degrade** the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat or an aquatic or wildlife species, cause an aquatic or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? _____ X _____
Yes No Maybe

b. Does the project have the potential to achieve **short-term**, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one that occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time, while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.) _____ X _____
Yes No Maybe

c. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but **cumulatively** considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant). _____ X _____
Yes No Maybe

Cumulative impacts will be avoided by following the mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study.

d. Does the project have environmental effects that would cause **substantial adverse effects** on human beings, either directly or indirectly? _____ X _____
Yes No Maybe

X. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial environmental evaluation:

I find that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration will be prepared

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures specified in the Initial Study have been incorporated into the project. Therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment and an Environmental Impact Report is required to assess the effects on the environment.

Name *Julie Lee*

Date *11/1/95*

Title *zoning manager*

DETERMINATION

On the basis of the information provided...

(1) It is determined that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration will be prepared.

(2) It is determined that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration will be prepared.

(3) It is determined that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration will be prepared.

[Handwritten signature]

Date: _____

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

The following Mitigation Measures were identified in the Initial Study and will require monitoring pursuant to CEQA:

1. Adoption of a park classification and zoning system

What: *Adoption of a park classification system and zoning system pursuant to Policy REC-1.1 of the OSCAR Element. The classification system would establish 10 different types of parks and identify appropriate functions and facilities for each type. Each park in Oakland would be classified and future land use decisions would be consistent with the classification. Parks would also be zoned as either "Urban Parks" or "Resource Conservation Areas." The zoning text would specify permitted, conditionally permitted, and prohibited uses for each district and might also limit impervious surface in the park based on its size and classification.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Items 5, 17, and 23 (potential seismic and slope-related hazards, noise impacts, and land use and density impacts). These impacts were identified in the Initial Study checklist as potentially significant without this mitigation measure.*

Who: *The City of Oakland Office of Planning and Building (OPB) will prepare the amended zoning text and process the proposed zoning map and ordinance amendments. The Planning Commission will hold hearings on the proposed changes before they are adopted.*

When: *Begins within six months after the OSCAR Element's adoption.*

Completion: *Complete by the end of Fiscal 1996-97.*

2. Interdepartmental and interagency coordination

What: *Coordination with other agencies and departments in the planning of future creek restoration projects described by the OSCAR Element.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist item 11 (flood control needs and projects resulting from the implementation of OSCAR Element policies). These impacts were identified in the Initial Study checklist as potentially significant without this mitigation measure.*

Who: *Office of Public Works, Office of Planning and Building.*

When: *Begins within six months after OSCAR Element adoption.*

Completion: *On-going*

3. Preparation of a Creeks Master Plan

What: *Preparation of a Creeks Master Plan and strengthening of the watercourse protection ordinance to include design guidelines for development abutting creeks.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Item 11 (potential impacts on the course of flood waters resulting from creek daylighting and restoration). These impacts were identified as potentially significant without mitigation.*

Who: *Office of Planning and Building (lead), Office of Parks and Recreation, Office of Public Works.*

When: *Begin as funding allows, but not later than 2001.*

Completion: *Complete by 2002.*

4. Adoption of a Street Tree Plan

What: *Adoption of an updated Street Tree Plan for Oakland which includes planting palettes for major streets and neighborhoods, lists of approved street trees, and provisions for tree maintenance, removal, and replacement.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Items 15 and 20 (to ensure that street trees do not adversely impact plant and animal diversity and do not adversely affect shade and shadow conditions). These impacts were identified as potentially significant without mitigation.*

Who: *Office of Parks and Recreation (lead), Office of Planning and Building.*

When: *Begin in 1996.*

Completion: *Complete by 1997*

5. Implementation of the 1995 Vegetation Management Plan for the Berkeley-Oakland Hills

What: *Implementation of fire suppression measures specified in the recently adopted Vegetation Management Plan.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Item 15 (possible adverse impacts of an uncoordinated fire suppression strategy on plant and animal species.) These impacts were identified as potentially significant without mitigation.*

Who: *Oakland Fire Department (lead), Office of Parks and Recreation.*

When: *Underway*

Completion: *On-going*

6. Establishment of permanent controls for changes in park land use

What: *Adoption of a formal process for reviewing proposed changes in land use by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and, where appropriate, the Planning Commission (see OSCAR Policy REC-1.4).*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Items 17, 19, 21, 23 (potential noise, light and glare, planning, and land use impacts resulting from new park projects). These impacts were identified as potentially significant without mitigation.*

Who: *Office of Planning and Building Comprehensive Planning Division (lead), Office of Parks and Recreation.*

When: *Within six months after OSCAR adoption.*

Completion: 1996

7. Project-specific studies

What: *Preparation of project-specific analyses of noise, lighting, and other potential off-site impacts resulting from new parks and recreational projects constructed as a result of the OSCAR Element's adoption.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Items 17 and 19 (potential for exposure of park users to high noise levels and potential for night lighting impacts on nearby sensitive receptors [including residences]). These impacts were identified as potentially significant without this mitigation measure.*

Who: *Office of Parks and Recreation.*

When: *On-going*

Completion: *On-going, no completion date.*

8. Adoption of Updated Land Use and Transportation Elements

What: *Adoption of updated Land Use and Transportation General Plan Elements.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Items 21 and 27 (land use and circulation impacts resulting from the OSCAR Element's emphasis on density bearing a greater relationship to slope, increased access to the central waterfront, development patterns which conserve energy and improve air quality, and provisions for bicycle and pedestrian circulation). Such impacts were identified in the Initial Study as potentially significant without this mitigation measure. The revisions are required to maintain internal consistency in the General Plan.*

Who: *Office of Planning and Building Comprehensive Planning Division.*

When: *Underway*

Completion: 1996

9. Preparation of park master plans

What: *Prepare master plans for individual parks to minimize potential conflicts between park development and neighborhood land use, density, and character.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Item 23 (potential land use impacts of park development). Land use impacts were identified as potentially significant without this measure.*

Who: *Office of Parks and Recreation.*

When: *Begin in 1997 (Lake Merritt Master Plan may commence sooner if funding is available).*

Completion: *Complete as funding allows.*

10. Joint use agreements with the OUSD and Peralta College Districts

What: *Promote maintenance of the existing joint use agreement between the City and the Oakland Unified School District and promote establishing a similar agreement with the Peralta College District to ensure that future service burdens are minimized.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Item 29 (potential impacts of increased schoolyard and school athletic field use, and "greened" schoolyards, on maintenance and administrative costs). These impacts were identified as potentially significant without this mitigation measure.*

Who: *City-School Joint Use Committee.*

When: *Underway*

Completion: *On-going, no completion date.*

11. Development of new funding sources

What: *Develop new funding sources so that the funding mechanisms for achieving OSCAR Element service goals can be put in place. Periodically update the Capital Improvement Program to reflect the availability of funds.*

Mitigates: *Initial Study Checklist Item 29 (impacts of OSCAR policies on operating and maintenance costs, capital costs, land acquisition requirements, and program requirements. Policies REC-10.1 through REC-10.8 provide revenue required to offset higher expenditures and service delivery requirements.) This was identified as a potentially significant impact without this mitigation measure and without the acknowledgement that new parks will be built and new programs added only if additional revenue is committed.*

Who: *Office of Parks and Recreation (lead), City Manager's Office, Office of Planning and Building.*

When: *On-going (new programs to be implemented as funding becomes available).*

Completion: *On-going, no completion date.*