
Attachment 2

San Vicente Redwoods Public Access Plan



SAN VICENTE REDWOODS PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT
JUNE 2018



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June 2018

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Cover photos courtesy of Ian Bornarth
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1-1
2	SAN VICENTE REDWOODS OVERVIEW	2-1
3.	GOALS AND POLICIES.....	3-1
4.	RECREATION ACCESS PLAN	4-1
5.	EDUCATION ACCESS PLAN	5-1
6	IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN	6-1
7	DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES	7-1
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	8-1

Appendices

Appendix 1: Conservation Values

Appendix 2: Adaptive Management Overview

Appendix 3: Questionnaire Summary

Appendix 4: Biological Resources Assessment

Figures

Figure 1-1	Regional Context.....	1-2
Figure 2-1	Existing Conditions.....	2-2
Figure 4-1	Access at Buildout.....	4-3
Figure 4-2	Phase 1: Trail Phasing	4-4
Figure 6-1	Initial Access Organizational Structure.....	6-6

Tables

Table 4-1	Trail Network Summary (Buildout).....	4-8
Table 4-2	Trail Phasing.....	4-10
Table 6-1	Phasing Strategy	6-9
Table 6-2	Implementation Plan	6-11
Table 6.3	Emergency Prevention and Response Strategies.....	6-17
Table 6-4	Overview of Adaptive Management Strategies	6-22
Table 6-5	Summary of Financial Analysis	6-25
Table 7-1	Trail Dimensions by Use Type.....	7-3

1 INTRODUCTION



The San Vicente Redwoods is generally located in the Santa Cruz Mountains between the Davenport and Bonny Doon communities. As shown in Figure 1-1, San Vicente Redwoods is a contiguous 8,160-acre property with the exception of the 373-acre area located to the southeast of the main property that is referred to as San Vicente Redwoods: Laguna Tract. Combined, the main property and the Laguna Tract total 8,533 acres.

The purchase of the property by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), Sempervirens Fund, Save the Redwoods League (SRL), and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (Land Trust) in December 2011 resulted in the creation of approximately 27,500 acres of contiguous protected land, as it fills a long standing gap between the numerous protected lands that surround it. Although San Vicente Redwoods is currently owned by POST and Sempervirens Fund, the ongoing protection of the San Vicente Redwoods is due to the successful collaboration between these organizations and the Land Trust and SRL, with additional financial assistance from other organizations. The two owners are currently responsible for the protection and management of the property, the Land Trust is responsible for implementing the San Vicente Public Access Plan as the Public Access Manager, and the SRL will provide Conservation Easement monitoring and enforcement. These four organizations are collectively referred to as the Conservation Partners, and their roles and responsibilities are further described in Chapter 6, Implementing the Plan.

LAND TRUST OF SANTA CRUZ
SAN VICENTE REDWOODS PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN



- SV Redwoods Boundary
- Public Lands - Open Access
- Public Lands - Restricted Access
- State Highways
- Major Roads

FIGURE 1-1
REGIONAL CONTEXT

The land uses and activities envisioned for the San Vicente Redwoods property are both as complementary and diverse as the stakeholders that have come together towards the property's protection. The Conservation Vision (completed in 2011) for the property envisions integration of preservation, restoration, and sustainable timber harvesting with research, education, and recreation. Recreation, education, and research activities at the property provide unique opportunities to further the property's Conservation Values, which contribute to the property's on-going protection. Recreation and education increases public exposure to and therefore understanding of these unique ecosystems and natural processes, and research can inform successful management of San Vicente Redwoods and other properties. Together, such uses have the potential to make a substantial impact towards the conservation goals for San Vicente Redwoods.

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN

The provision of access for the purposes of recreation, research, and education is a core component of the Conservation Vision, and allowing for public access is a requirement of the Conservation Easement that protects the property. The San Vicente Redwoods Public Access Plan defines the vision for providing this access as well as the tools that will be necessary to establish initial access and maintain appropriate access into the future.

The Public Access Plan includes a Recreational Access Plan and a Research and Education Access Plan, though the focus of the Public Access Plan is recreational access and regional trail connections. While all research and educational activities are not necessarily open to the public, they are included as part of the Public Access Plan because of the education potential and because research and education will be supported by the same trails and access features required for recreational access. Research access will be managed by the owners, while educational and special use will be managed by the Land Trust.

This Public Access Plan will be used by the Conservation Partners and any other partners to guide the management of public access on the property. Members of the organized groups and/or general public with an interest in public access at San Vicente Redwoods may use the Public Access Plan to understand opportunities for use and identify avenues for participation. The Public Access Plan is intended to guide the provision of access for at least 10 years, at which



point it may be revisited and updated as necessary, in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The Plan may also be revised if another entity assumes public access management responsibilities, as further discussed in Chapter 6. This Plan will remain the active plan until revised.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The development of the Public Access Plan included background and on-site research, coordination with related planning efforts, consultation with experts and Regulatory agencies, and extensive public outreach.

The Conservation Partners provided guidance throughout the planning process, with designated representatives of each Partner participating in the 'Working Group.' Working Group meetings were held almost every week from 2013 to 2017, and members engaged Conservation Partner leadership at quarterly meetings of the Living Landscape Initiative.

The outcomes of background research and field reconnaissance are summarized in Chapter 2, San Vicente Redwoods Overview. A summary of related planning efforts, consultation with experts and regulatory agencies, and the community engagement conducted as part of the planning process are provided below.



RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

Prior to the development of this Public Access Plan, substantial planning work was conducted for the San Vicente Redwoods property, including existing conditions analysis and the development of an strategy to conservation, the preparation of the Conservation Vision (2011), Conservation Easement (2014), and the first Timber Harvest Plan (2015). Timber harvest activities on the property are governed by Timber Harvest Plans, which further inform the development of the Public Access Plan and are summarized below as they pertain to public access.

SAN VICENTE REDWOODS ANALYSIS AND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Conservation Partners have mapped and analyzed various features of the site, including aquatic, marbled murrelet, and mountain lion habitat; climate resilience based on stream buffers and topographic shading; vegetation communities; geology, soils, and erosion sensitivity; and road density, usage, steepness, and hydrologic connectivity. Relative Conservation Values were then

applied for each feature type to the 21 “Planning Watershed” units that were identified on the property. Based on the cumulative analysis, the “Planning Watersheds” were further grouped and delineated as two Preservation Reserves, three Restoration Reserves, and two Working Forest Reserves of various acreages. These management areas are the basis for the conservation strategies that the Conservation Partners will incorporate into all planning and management efforts. The management areas are described below.

- **Preservation Preserve.** Two areas were delineated as Preservation Reserves. These areas are to be managed to preserve and maintain existing old forest and other rare plant communities.
- **Restoration Reserve.** Three areas were delineated as Restoration Reserves. These areas are to be managed to allow limited timber harvesting primarily for the restoration and enhancement of native ecosystem values.
- **Working Forest.** Two areas were delineated as Working Forest. Working forests are areas to be managed to emphasize Sustainable Forest Management.

SAN VICENTE REDWOODS CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The general purpose of the Conservation Easement, executed December 2014, is to preserve and protect in perpetuity the natural, ecological, habitat, scenic, open space, and forestry resources located on the property, including management and maintenance by the Grantor (POST and Sempervirens Fund) and the Grantor’s successors. The Conservation Easement gives the SRL the right to allow public access. The Conservation Easement identifies seven Conservation Values and explains the role San Vicente Redwoods plays in providing each value. These are summarized in Chapter 2. The full text of the Conservation Values is provided in Appendix 1 (Conservation Values).

TIMBER HARVEST PLAN

Timber harvesting activities are governed by the California Forest Practice Rules and other relevant statutes, and Timber Harvest Plans describe individual harvest projects. The Timber Harvest Plan (THP# 1-14-117 SCR) for the first harvest at San Vicente Redwoods was approved by CAL FIRE in 2015. Subsequent timber harvest plans are anticipated for the property.



CONSULTATION WITH EXPERTS AND REGULATORY AGENCIES

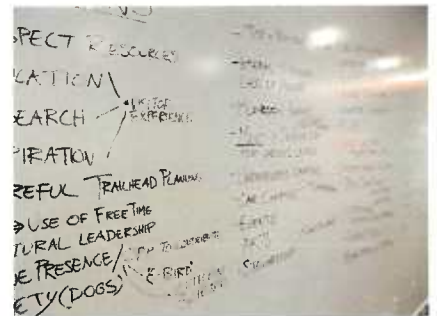
The Land Trust and the Conservation Partners solicited guidance from experts in the fields of conservation science, public access management, biological resources, cultural resources, and engineering. In addition, Regulatory Agency staff was consulted in an effort to minimize potential resource impacts through proactive planning and design. These efforts include but are not limited to:

- The Working Group consulted the University of California Santa Cruz Puma Project to understand the areas of the property that support mountain lion denning, movement and foraging, and supplemented their data with game camera data managed by the San Vicente Property Manager.
- Potential trail corridors and staging area were flagged on site by professional trail designers and builders; evaluated by the civil and environmental engineers for stability related to erosion and geotechnical considerations; and surveyed by biological and cultural resource experts. Through close coordination with technical experts, trail alignments were refined to minimize potential impacts to resources.
- Site visits were conducted with representatives from the County of Santa Cruz and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In addition, the proposed project was presented to California Coastal Commission.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Public outreach for the project consisted of interviews with key stakeholders, including the owners, partners, and potential buyers/lesers; two facilitated meetings, one with recreation stakeholders and the other with research/education stakeholders; a community meeting in March 2014, which built upon the initial public meeting held in May 2012; an online questionnaire open to the public; and additional neighborhood outreach. The public was notified of the opportunity to participate through extensive media coverage of the topic, including newspaper articles (five in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, one in the Contra Costa Times), television stories (one on KSBW, two on KION), and news websites (three stories on Hilltromper.com). Adjacent property owners and several government agencies were contacted by phone or email. Outreach efforts are summarized below.

- **Interviews.** A series of interviews and small meetings with interested parties was conducted by the Land Trust between October 2013 and July 2014. This effort focused on people and organizations that could be substantially affected by the project, such as: owners of adjacent lands, emergency service providers, water purveyors, utilities, law enforcement, and local community groups. Local experts and agencies were also consulted from the following fields: biology, geology, forestry, cultural resources, recreation, and education. Approximately 150 individuals and groups were identified and contacted. In total, such meetings were held with approximately 190 people. The meetings covered a range of topics typically set by the interviewee. Additional interviews were conducted between 2014 and 2017 as part of ongoing outreach by the Land Trust.
- **Stakeholder Meetings.** In addition to interviews, two small group meetings were held, one for education and research interests, and one for representatives of recreational user groups. Both meetings were facilitated by PlaceWorks and involved a short overview of the project, followed by a roundtable discussion about opportunities and constraints. Attendees of the education meeting included representatives from Swanton Pacific Ranch and University of California Santa Cruz. Attendees of the recreational meeting included hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, dog-walkers, nature interpreters, representatives from the Sierra Club, the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz County, Bureau of Land Management, the Santa Cruz Bird Club, the 8 Shields Institute, and the Fungus Federation.
- **Questionnaire.** To gain a broad understanding of public concerns and interest in public access, an online questionnaire was hosted from November 2013 through April 2014 to seek public input from neighbors, residents, agency staff and others. Survey participants were asked to express their hopes and concerns for the project by indicating their preferences for various recreational activities, by selecting their top concerns, and by judging proposed access points. The survey also allowed participants the opportunity to provide public and private feedback. To reach individuals without computer access, hard-copies of the survey were distributed by request. Additionally, in May 2014, questionnaires were also shared with a local non-profit to interface with the local Spanish speaking community. In total 2,326 people filled out the questionnaire. In June 2014, questionnaire responses were downloaded and summarized. Public



comments were also organized. The results and public comments are posted and accessible on the Land Trust's website, and provided in Appendix 3 (Questionnaire Summary).

- **Community Meetings.** A community meeting was hosted in March 2014 by the Land Trust. Over 300 people attended the meeting to share their views on public access. At the meeting, the draft access map was presented, and attendees were asked to form small groups to discuss opportunities and constraints. Each group was given the opportunity to share their views and conclusions in front of all the attendees as well as the planners. An additional community meeting was held in September 2014 to present the Draft Public Access Plan (2014) and hear from the community regarding preferences, priorities and concerns. Approximately 150 people attended this meeting, and the Public Access Plan has been revised to reflect feedback received from the public.
- **Neighborhood Outreach.** Neighborhood outreach included presentations at four meetings of the Rural Bonny Doon Association and more than 15 smaller meetings.

Throughout the planning process, the community was engaged through over 125 separate meetings and interviews with a cumulative attendance of over 1,500. The Land Trust, in collaboration with the other Conservation Partners, continues to engage and reach out to local stakeholders during the planning process.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The Public Access Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – San Vicente Redwoods Overview
- Chapter 3 – Goals and Policies
- Chapter 4 – Recreation Access Plan
- Chapter 5 – Education and Research Access Plan
- Chapter 6 – Implementing the Plan
- Chapter 7 – Design and Maintenance Guidelines

The first three chapters of the Public Access Plan provide an overview of the property and establish broad goals and objectives for the project. The Recreational Access Plan and the Research and Educational Access Plan are provided as Chapters 4 and 5, respectively. Chapters 6 and 7 provide further detail to guide the development and management of public access.

LAND TRUST OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
SAN VICENTE REDWOODS PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN
INTRODUCTION

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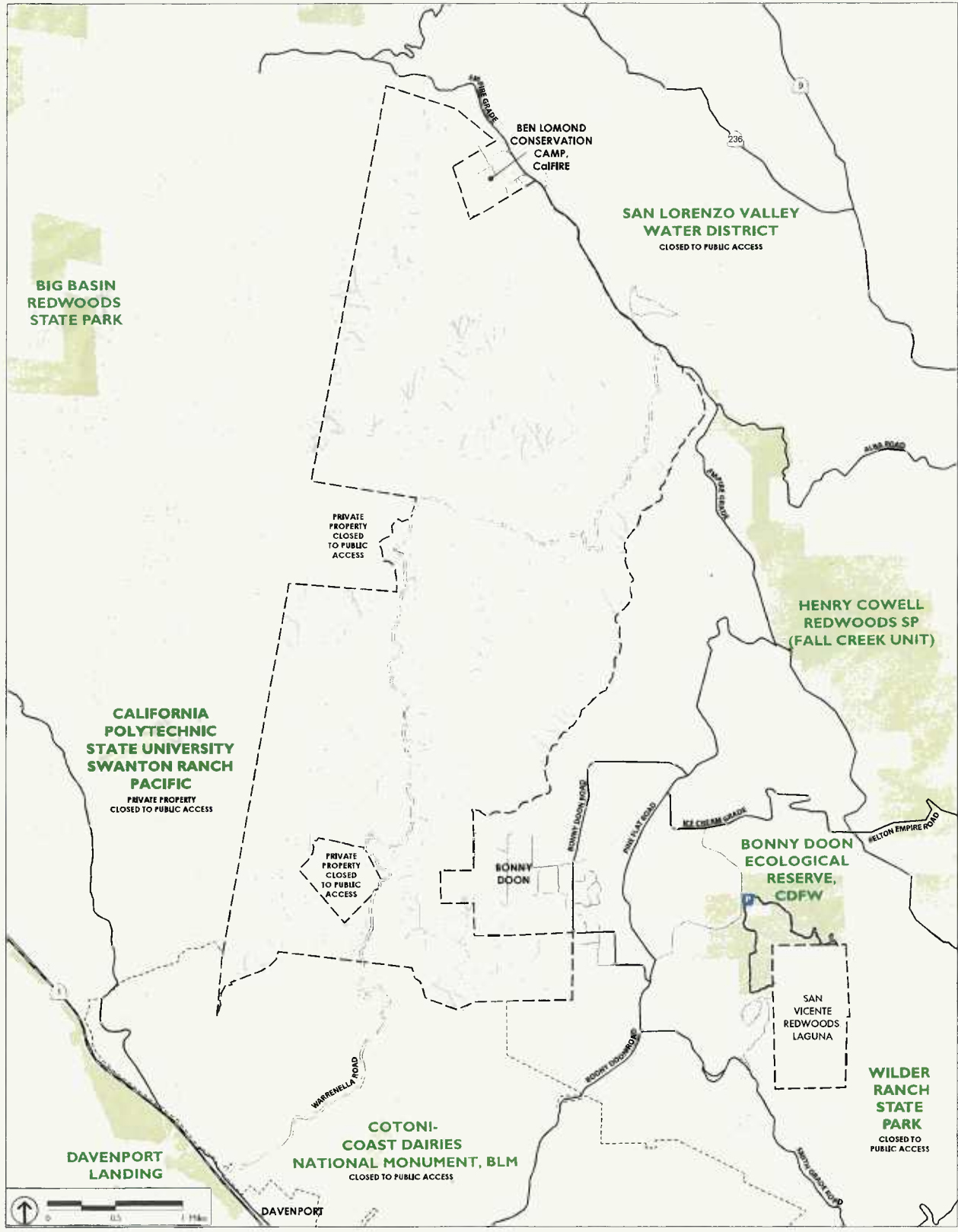
2 SAN VICENTE REDWOODS OVERVIEW



This chapter provides a brief overview of the 8,532-acre San Vicente Redwood property with respect to the biological resources, cultural resources, existing access and circulation system, views, and adjacencies, as well as opportunities for regional connectivity, as they pertain to access opportunities and constraints. An overview of the property is provided in Figure 2-1. The Conservation Easement defines the Conservation Values for which the property was protected. These seven Conservation Values are: (1) statewide and regional conservation significance, (2) forests, (3) biodiversity, (4) watershed protection, (5) viewshed protection, (6) landscape and habitat connections, and (7) public recreation, education, and scientific study.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

San Vicente Redwoods is comprised of a range of habitat types, including, but not limited to, redwood forest, chaparral and riparian habitats, which together have the potential to support a wide range of plant and animal species. An existing conditions review and biological sensitivity analysis were conducted by professional biologists with the purpose of identifying potential biological constraints in relation to the implementation of the Public Access Plan.



- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| SV Redwoods Boundary | Highway |
| Coast Dairies Boundary | County |
| Public Lands - Open Access | Street |
| Public Lands - Restricted Access | Arterial |
| Streams | Parking |
| Access-Phase Path | |

FIGURE 2-1
EXISTING CONDITIONS

The review and analysis was based on review of existing plans and data, including, but not limited to, the Conservation Blueprint for Santa Cruz County (2011), a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Native Diversity Database (CNDDDB) search (2016), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Santa Cruz County quadrangle list of listed species (2016), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) rare plant list (2016), and review of the University of California Santa Cruz Puma Project.

Based on this review and analysis, it has been determined that the property either has or has the potential to support onsite and offsite sensitive biological resources, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Special-status wildlife species such as the San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), the Oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), the anadromous steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), the coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), the Townsend's big-eared bat, (*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*), the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), as well as the Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*).
- Special-status plant species such as the Anderson's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos andersonii*), Point Reyes horkelia (*Horkelia marinensis*), Santa Cruz Mountains pussypaws (*Calyptridium parryi* var. *hesseae*), Dudley's lousewort (*Pedicularis dudleyi*), Santa Cruz Mountains beard tongue (*Penstemon rattanii* var. *kleei*), white-flowered rein orchid (*Piperia candida*), Brewer's red maids (*Calandrinia breweri*), bristly sedge (*Carex comosa*), deceiving sedge (*Carex saliniformis*), robust spineflower (*Chorizanthe robusta* var. *robusta*), and the mountain lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*).
- Movement corridors for mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) along gentle slopes and broad ridge top lands, as well as denning sites in other areas.
- Unique and sensitive terrestrial and aquatic habitat types such as maritime chaparral, coastal scrub, coast live oak woodland, redwood forests, the endangered Anderson's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos andersonii*) habitat, seeps and seasonal wetlands, shrub-scrub wetlands, and the Zayante sandhills habitat.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

During the time of European settlement, the land that is now the San Vicente Redwoods property was inhabited by the Awaswas division of Ohlone, who were hunter-gatherers that lived in large settlements, often near fresh water sources and surrounded by diverse and abundant plant and animal life. Through the second half of the 19th century, the majority of the property was part of the San Vicente (Escamilla) Land Grant and homesteading occurred on portions of the property. Logging activities began in the early 20th century on the northern portion of the property by the San Vicente Lumber Company. Ocean Shore Railroad built a rail line that connected the property down to the coast, which was then sold to San Vicente Lumber Company in 1920 and abandoned when the logging company went out of business in 1923. The Santa Cruz Portland Cement Company also constructed a rail line from their cement plant on the coast to a limestone quarry on the property, following San Vicente Creek. This quarry supported the small community of Bella Vista, which was destroyed in a 1962 landslide.

Based on the available historical and archeological data from the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), as well as additional sources including the office at the CAL FIRE Archaeology Program in Santa Rosa, examination of the library and files of Tom Origer & Associates, field inspection of the project location, meeting with Santa Cruz Forester Nadia Hamey, and contact with the Native American community, there are approximately 25 known cultural resource sites located on the property. However, the property has not been subjected to a survey that covers the entirety of the property and there is the potential for more unknown resources to exist. The areas where development is planned as part of the Public Access Plan (see Chapter 4, Recreation Access Plan) have been surveyed by professional archeologists (2016 and 2017). As part of these surveys, it was determined that five of the identified sites appear to be within or in close proximity to the where development is proposed. These sites are avoided by the trail network layout, and measures will be taken to detect additional sites during construction as further described in Chapter 7.

EXISTING ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Existing access points, internal roads and trails, and the potential for regional trail connectivity are discussed below.