PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION

THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS THOSE MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST IDENTIFIED BY THE PUBLIC; INTEREST GROUPS; LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES; ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS. THIS INFORMATION WAS THE RESULT OF NUMEROUS MEETINGS, BRIEFINGS, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD ALONG THE CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST OVER THE COURSE OF NEARLY ONE YEAR(1/12/01 TO 10/10/01). THESE AREAS ARE:

I RESOURCE PROTECTION
II. ACCESS
III RESTORATION/INTERPRETATION
IV MANAGEMENT
V. RESEARCH

GOALS

- THE MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION ARE TO PROTECT THE NATURAL, SCENIC, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE.

- CONSISTENT WITH ITS MOST RECENT FUNCTION AS A RESEARCH FACILITY, RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE AND SERVE TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEAR SHORE AND OFF SHORE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT.

- THE LIGHT STATION SHALL BE RESTORED CONSISTENT WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES, THE APPEARANCE SHALL REFLECT THE PERIOD WHEN THE STATION WAS UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE.

- PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE FACILITY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH SCHEDULED AND STRUCTURED ESCORTED TOURS WITH VISITOR PARKING OFF SITE AND SHUTTLE TRANSPORATION PROVIDED.

- EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE HISTORY OF THIS UNIQUE SITE WILL BE PROVIDED. THE NATURAL, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE SITE WILL PROVIDE THE FOCUS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES.

OBJECTIVES

I. RESOURCE PROTECTION

Activities within the Piedras Blancas Light Station shall be designed so as to minimize impact on natural, scenic, cultural and historical resources. Planning and operation decisions and all subsequent scheduling activities shall take into account the habitat requirements of resident, migratory, nesting and sensitive species (marine/non-marine). Within the Station the preservation of flora, fauna, and wildlife habitat shall be the primary consideration in management, restoration/interpretation and maintenance operations.

No hunting, harvesting, or collecting of animals, plant life, marine organisms or artifacts by the visiting public shall be allowed, except as allowed by permit issued by BLM or their designee. Sensitive areas will be identified and protected.

A review of existing literature will be undertaken to determine the extent of "gaps" in the natural resource inventory record for the Piedras Blancas Site. "Gaps" in the record may necessitate the collection of base line inventories that may be required to support subsequent management decisions and operation of the site. Stabilization and restoration activities will be guided by these requirements. Monitoring programs shall be developed to determine the actual impacts of these activities.

Parking within the Light Station shall be minimized. Parking areas, which may be necessary to conform to special needs requirements, shall be located to avoid sensitive resource areas and minimize the loss of scenic values. A program of landscape control and restoration shall be designed and supported. The program shall provide for replanting of eroded or denuded sited and control of invasive exotic plants. Restoration activities must be done in a manner that will minimize and/or avoid impacts to cultural resources.

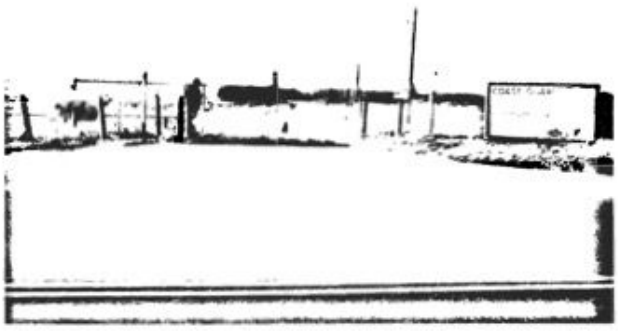
The archaeological resources located at the Piedras Blancas Site shall be protected and monitored with the assistance of local and regional Native American Organizations. Specific sites requiring additional protective measures will be identified and monitored. Historic Native American uses of the Piedras Blancas site will be examined and documented.

Remediation of existing health & safety concerns associated with correcting the Light Station's administrative infrastructure shall assure that such activities are in conformance with all local, state and federal requirements. The fire protection system for the Light Station shall be corrected and maintained. In addition a Light Station Security Plan shall be developed and Communication Site requirements shall be in conformance with the historical integrity of the Light Stations National Register Properties. A Communication plan shall be developed reflecting these requirements. Removal and relocation of existing equipment to less intrusive locations will be undertaken in concert with those Organizations requiring such uses.

A **Federal Register Notice** is being prepared for the Site delineating those actions that will be restricted in order to protect: The conservation of the scenic, natural, cultural, and historic values of the area; The continued use of the area for purposes of education, scientific study, and public enjoyment will be promoted however such use will be managed as to not impair the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Piedras Blancas Site. These restrictions will be provided to all publics and users of the site. The primary purpose of this NOTICE is to provide a means by which the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, may protect the resources of the site while controlling and managing public use and encouraging and protecting research and preserving historical and cultural features.

II. *ACCESS*

Access and visitor use shall be limited to scheduled interpretive managed activities. Access shall not be directed to any wetlands, the inter-tidal zone and other sensitive habitats. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) shall continue negotiation with the Hearst Corporation with the intent to secure support for structured interpreter led tourism of the site. This activity will require either an amendment of the existing access agreement now in place; fee acquisition of adjoining Hearst property or the development of a new access easement agreement due to the expanding role of the Piedras Blancas Facility. Additionally, the BLM shall continue negotiations with the California State Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) in regard to the proposed Highway I relocation and subsequent effect on Piedras Blancas. Particular attention will be given to proper turnouts and their location.



In order to protect and preserve Piedras Blancas as a unique natural, cultural and historic resource a site specific Public Access Plan shall be developed integrating the requirements of:

- Structured Access (interpreter led programs)
- Visitor Flows (vehicular/pedestrian)
- Barrier Construction (resource protection/health & safety)
- Trail System Identification (resource protection)
- Seasonal Constraints (migration, nesting/sensitive species, research)
- Agreements (Hearst; CALTRANS; CSP- San Simeon District; Research Community)

III. RESTORATION/INTERPRETATION

All existing Natural Register Sites within the Piedras Blancas Light Station shall be restored consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Structures. The appearance should reflect the period when the Station was under the management of the U.S. Lighthouse Service. All subsequent management activities shall support the continued functioning of the USCG Aids to Navigation. Within the Light Station, historic integrity and public safety shall be the primary considerations in management and maintenance decisions, balanced with natural resource protection and concern for potential environmental impacts. The historic integrity of the Light Station shall be retained and preserved. Signing shall be limited and designed to minimize visual contrast with the historic structures and viewshed. Any new buildings within the Light Station complex shall be limited to reconstruction of historic buildings in place during the period when the U.S. Lighthouse Service operated the Light Station.

Interpretative and education programs/exhibits/tours shall be developed to promote understanding of local natural history and to foster awareness of the effect of human activities on the natural/regional environment. Historical programs shall be geared to an understanding of the maritime commerce and Lighthouse activities along the central coast and relationships to early California developmental history. Native American uses of the Site and the importance of the site to early and current Native Americans will be interpreted. The Site shall be made available for Native American Ceremonial uses. An educational/interpretative plan for the Piedras Blancas Light Station shall be developed to include:

- Historical theme identification (significant time periods)
- Research themes interpreted (marine/non-marine)
- Native American uses (pre-history/historical)
- Lighthouse Service Era
- Natural History

The Lighthouse Service Era associated with the Piedras Blancas Site will be interpreted extensively. The selection of the Site, Light Station construction and the families that served at the Piedras Blancas Light Station will provide additional insight into the importance of this unique Site and its contribution to local and regional development. Community involvement in the development of this "theme" will be a critical element.



IV. *MANAGEMENT*

The Bureau of Land Management, as facility manager, will ensure Community involvement in management decisions. This will be done by the development of a non-profit organization, THE FRIENDS OF PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION dedicated to the design, operation and long-term management of the Light Station. The "non-profit" may generate income from the site and outside sources. Income generated by the non-profit shall be retained and used by the non-profit for the benefit of the Light Station.

Management shall provide for meaningful volunteer participation programs, administration, and operations. Volunteers shall have input in the design and management of programs on an on-going basis. In addition to an active volunteer program there shall be developed an active "interpretive" program designed to provide not only tours of the Light Station but provide for educational materials geared toward informing the public of the historical context served by the Light Station in the development of local and regional early California historical development. Educational materials developed will provide the public with insights into a full array of the history of the Piedras Blancas Site. In addition the Piedras Blancas Site offers a unique opportunity to educate a wide array of publics to the beauty and fragile nature of Coastal environments. An environmental education outreach program will also be developed

In order to provide structure to the Management of the Piedras Blancas Site:

- The Bureau of Land Management shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (M.O.A.) with CSP-San Simeon District establishing roles and responsibilities in regard to "support operations" at the Piedras Blancas facility. This may include site security, fire protection, engineering and interpretation assistance, transportation planning etc.

- The Bureau of Land Management shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) with those affected interests currently utilizing the facility for marine research. This mechanism shall be utilized in future cooperative efforts as they evolve. All activities requiring use of the Piedras Blancas Facility for Research, use and/or occupancy will be accomplished through a "Permit" authorized by the Bureau of Land Management.

- The Bureau of Land Management will enter into consultation with the appropriate local, state, federal Agencies and Organizations prior to any significant changes within the Piedras Blancas Facility requiring such consultations.

- The Bureau of Land Management will continue to pursue funding strategies necessary for the operation and support of the Piedras Blancas Light Station. These efforts will involve both Congressional appropriations and Grant/Contributions.



V. ***RESEARCH ACTIVITIES***

Piedras Blancas Light Station has been and continues to be an important area for near/off shore research for over 25 years. The local community is strongly supportive of these activities and indeed desires that these activities be protected and preserved. Numerous research and long-term monitoring projects are currently being carried out that are dependent on the Piedras Blancas Facility. These activities shall continue to be supported and integrated into the fabric of future uses of the Light Station.

