

4. Environmental Impact Assessment

4.15 Recreation

This section identifies the existing recreational opportunities adjacent to and near the Proposed Project and addresses the potential impacts caused by the Proposed Project.

4.15.1 Environmental Setting

There are approximately 187 acres of recreational land within the City of Ridgecrest's 40 square mile Planning Area. Of the 187 acres of recreational land, approximately 104 acres support active recreational facilities such as parks. The City currently owns and operates six parks ranging from as small as 0.5 acres to as large as 56 acres, and operates the Leroy Jackson Park Sports Complex, owned by Kern County. These recreational park sites provide offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including sports fields and courts, playgrounds, picnic areas, open grass areas, and a skate park.

The City of Ridgecrest has a variety of sports complexes to serve youth and adult recreational sports programs and leagues. These sports complexes include approximately 68 acres of baseball fields, football fields, tennis courts, and soccer fields. In addition, the City also operates two special purpose facilities including a skate park and community pool. Ridgecrest has a multifunctional community center (the Kerr McGee Community Center) and a senior center (Ridgecrest Senior Center).

The locations of these facilities are shown on [Figure 4.14-1](#). The Kerr McGee Youth Sports Complex, which contains baseball/softball fields and a multi-purpose recreational field, is the recreational facility or recreational land located nearest to any component of the Proposed Project: It is located less than 200 feet from the fence of the existing Downs Substation and is immediately adjacent to the Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 2 115 kV subtransmission line. There are no recreational facilities or improved recreational lands along the Inyokern-McGen-Searles No. 1 115 kV subtransmission line.

There are additional recreational facilities located on the adjacent CLNAWS, as well as recreational opportunities on state and federal lands in the region.

4.15.2 Regulatory Setting

There are no applicable State or Federal laws for recreation that apply to the project. Local policy is addressed through CEQA.

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4.15.3 Significance Criteria

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to recreational resources come from the CEQA Environmental Checklist. A project causes a potentially significant impact if it would:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

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The use of parks and recreational facilities is closely tied to population; as population increases, the use of existing parks and recreational facilities is expected to increase proportionally. Similarly, the loss of existing parks and recreational facilities would result in an increased concentration of use in remaining parks and facilities.

The construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not result in population increases beyond those currently projected for the area (the Proposed Project is intended to increase reliability of the system and not to increase capacity for future growth). Additionally, the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of any existing parks or recreational facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in no impacts to recreational resources.

Construction and operation of the Proposed Project would result in no impacts for the following CEQA criteria:

Would the Proposed Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. As presented in the Population and Housing section (Section 4.13), the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce any population growth. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in an increase in the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities, and would not result in the occurrence or acceleration of substantial physical deterioration to existing parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur under this criterion as a result of the Proposed Project.

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Does the Proposed Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not expected to result in a population increase and would not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities. The Proposed Project does not include any recreational facilities. As a result, there would be no adverse physical effect on the environment from the construction of new, or expansion of existing, recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur under this criterion as a result of the Proposed Project.

4.15.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

Because the Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to recreation, no Applicant Proposed Measures are offered.

REFERENCES

City of Ridgecrest, Parks and Recreation Department. 2010. Recreation facilities and parks webpage. Accessed at: <http://ci.ridgecrest.ca.us/parks.aspx?id=174>.

City of Ridgecrest. 2008. City of Ridgecrest General Plan Public Draft. October. Accessed at: http://www.westplanning.com/ridgecrest/documents/draft_general_plan/ridgecrest_draft_gp_2008_10.pdf.