

Introduction

This section describes the affected environment and regulatory setting for recreation and evaluates potential impacts on recreation that would result from implementation of the proposed project.

Project construction activities could result in a temporary disruption of existing recreational facilities along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. PG&E will take proactive measures to avoid any potentially significant adverse impact to use of the Historic Trail during construction, which will reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level. Although the proposed Project will help to accommodate planned growth (due to the installation of increased electrical capacity), it will not induce population growth in the area.

Methodology

Existing conditions were determined from a review of published literature, examination of aerial photographs, and site-specific field inspection of the locations of project components.

Affected Environment

Regulatory Setting

No federal, state, or local plans or policies concerning recreation apply to the proposed project.

Project Setting

This section discusses the existing conditions related to recreation, including parks, trails, and bikeways, in the study area. The discussion below focuses on recreation facilities within a 2-mile radius of the project alignment; Figure 4.14-1 shows both the nearby facilities and facilities in the broader vicinity.

Federal Recreation Resources

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is within the vicinity of and directly crosses the proposed Project alignment. This trail is a 1,210-mile historic route from Nogales, Arizona to San Francisco, California. The trail commemorates the story of the 1775–1776 Spanish Expedition whose members, consisting of some 30 families, used this overland route on their trek to Alta (or upper) California. They founded and established the Mission and Presidio of San Francisco, the Mission in Santa Clara, and the Pueblo of San José. Most settled in what is today the San Francisco Bay Area.

Specifically, the trail parallels the alignment in Monterey County, approximately along Towers 37/233 through 3/20. In San Benito County, just north of the City of San Juan Bautista, the trail crosses the alignment path approximately between Towers 13/10 and 13/16 along the San Juan Highway.

Figure 4.14-1 identifies the historic trail corridor and the national trail auto tour route that follows the path of the original trail. The auto tour route provides a means to follow the historic trail, and cultural and recreation facilities are sited along the route—such as in the City of San Juan Bautista.

State of California Recreation Resources

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park

Located in the City of San Juan Bautista, approximately 1.5 miles south of the proposed project alignment, the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park is the only state recreational facility in the project vicinity. The park is located on Second Street, between Washington and Mariposa Streets, 3 miles east of Highway 101 and 7 miles west of Hollister. This park is part of a historic landmark and is adjacent to a Spanish-era mission church site. The park and its plaza represent what was once the town square of the largest town in central California. The park site includes several structures built in the 1800s, with interpretive learning areas (California Department of Parks and Recreation 2008). It encompasses 6 acres and includes a free picnic area, open lawn, and restrooms, as well as

historic buildings and a maintenance yard. The mission includes a 10-acre rodeo ground north of the church, but the area is presently not in use (City of San Juan Bautista 1998).

San Benito County Recreation Resources

PARKS

No public parks are located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project that are within the jurisdiction of San Benito County.

TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

In 2001, the County of San Benito adopted a Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan that is designed to provide plans for trail connections between parks, special use facilities, major shopping centers, and employment centers over the next 20 years (County of San Benito 2001). The proposed bikeways in the county would consist of on-street bike lanes (Class II), in which a 5-foot-wide bike lane is designated on the street by striping and bike routes (Class III), with right-of-ways designated by signs. Currently, the only trails and bike paths within the jurisdiction of San Benito County are located within the City of Hollister.

City of Hollister

PARKS

The Parks Facility Master Plan for the City of Hollister (City of Hollister 2002) indicates that Hollister currently provides approximately 4.1 acres of parks and recreational facilities per 1,000 residents. This is above the standard of 4 acres per 1,000 residents that has been established by the Parks Facility Master Plan. The city parks in the immediate vicinity of the power line and substations are as follows:

Calaveras Community Park

Located approximately .5 mile south of the proposed project alignment, in the general vicinity of the Hollister Tap Substation, this 7-acre multi-use community park adjacent to Calaveras School on Buena Vista Road includes a softball/soccer field; children's area; tot lot; family picnic areas; group picnic pavilion; and turf amphitheater with stage, restroom, and parking lot.

Dunne Community Park

Approximately 1 mile south of the proposed project alignment, in the general vicinity of the Hollister Tap Substation, Dunne Park is a 3.5-acre community park. It is located on West Street in the downtown area and exhibits an "old town" ambience. Dunne is one of the most popular parks in the City. It is within easy walking distance to nearby residential areas; and it provides a variety of recreational opportunities, including children's play equipment, tennis, horseshoes, picnicking, and ballfields. The park also features a community

room, a rose garden, and characteristic mature trees. The ball fields are used for practice fields.

Vista Park Hill Community Park

Overlooking the entire City of Hollister, Vista Park Hill is one of the most scenic places in the area. It is approximately 0.5 mile south of the proposed project alignment, in the general vicinity of the Hollister Tap Substation. The 15-acre park consists of steep slopes surrounding the developed hilltop.

Hollister Community Center

Located just south of Vista Park Hill Community Park, the community center also is 0.5 mile south of the Hollister Tap Substation section of the alignment. The 10,000-square-foot community center was built in 1980 and accommodates the Recreation Department offices, the majority of recreation classes and programs, and daily senior activities and programs. Special community events are also held at the center. The building is always used to capacity, and demand for additional programs continues to increase.

TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

The City of Hollister currently has a limited system of pedestrian trails and bikeways. The only existing bikeways in Hollister consist of two off-street bike paths (Class I): a 6-foot-wide asphalt path adjacent to Prospect Avenue and Airline Highway between Hawkins Street and Sunnyslope Road, and a 6-foot-wide concrete bicycle and pedestrian path adjacent to Airline Highway between Sunnyslope Road and Sunset Drive. Neither trail is in the vicinity of the proposed project alignment.

City of San Juan Bautista

PARKS

No local parks under the jurisdiction of the City of San Juan Bautista are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project alignment. However, the State-run San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, as discussed previously, is located in the city.

TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

No trails or bikeways under the jurisdiction of the City of San Juan Bautista are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. As discussed above, the nationally run Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is located in the city.

Monterey County Recreation Resources

PARKS

No public parks within the jurisdiction of Monterey County are located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project.

TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

No local trails or bikeways within the jurisdiction of Monterey County are located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. As discussed above, the nationally run Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is located in the county.

Environmental Effects

This section describes the potential impacts on recreational resources of the proposed project and the thresholds used to conclude whether an impact would be significant. The applicant-proposed measures to reduce potentially significant impacts on recreation resources are identified.

Significance Criteria

For this analysis, an impact pertaining to recreation was considered potentially significant under CEQA if it would result in any of the following environmental effects; these criteria are based on professional practice and Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.):

- 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.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Temporary disruption of existing recreational facilities – less-than-significant impact

Project construction activities could result in a temporary disruption of existing recreational facilities along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and associated auto route. The trail crosses the power line corridor in Monterey County approximately along Towers 37/233 through 3/20 and in San Benito County, just north of the City of San Juan Bautista, approximately between

Poles 13/10 and 13/16 along the San Juan Highway (see Figure 4.14-1). PG&E will take proactive measures to avoid any potentially significant adverse impact to use of the historic trail during peak usage hours (generally, weekends and holidays).

Implementation of APM REC-1 described below will ensure that potential impacts on recreational resources associated with construction of the proposed project will be less than significant.

APM REC-1: AVOID DISRUPTION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ALONG THE JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL DURING PEAK USE.

PG&E will limit construction activities that occur in the immediate vicinity of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to weekdays or as otherwise permitted by the National Park Service. PG&E will ensure that the trail is fully accessible on the weekends, as well as any holidays observed by the National Park Service.

Potential for increased demand for recreational facilities – no impact

Increases in overall permanent demand for recreational facilities typically are associated with substantial increases in population. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a substantial increased demand for recreational facilities nor adversely affect the current recreational resources in a permanent manner. Furthermore, the proposed project would not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might result in an adverse physical effect on the environment. Although the proposed Project will help to accommodate planned growth in the area (due to the installation of increased electrical capacity), it will not induce population growth in the area. Additional recreational facilities needed as part of planned growth for the area have been identified in planning efforts for the affected communities. No project-related impact is associated with an increased demand for recreational facilities. (See Section 4.17 for a discussion of growth-inducing impacts.)

References

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