

5.16 Recreation

This section presents the environmental setting and potential impacts on parks, open space, and recreational resources that could result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project and alternatives.

5.16.1 Setting

Existing recreational and open space resources in the Proposed Project area are discussed below by managing agency.

National Parks

There are four national parks in Ventura County. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is the closest to the Proposed Project area and is approximately 2.5 miles south of Newbury Substation (NPS, 2014).

State Parks

There are six state parks in Ventura County. Point Mugu State Park is the closest to the Proposed Project area and is approximately 10 miles southeast of Newbury Substation (CDPR, 2014).

Ventura County

The Ventura County Parks Department is responsible for the planning, development, maintenance, and operation of 20 recreational facilities throughout Ventura County (VCPD, 2014a). As identified in **Table 5.16-1, Parks within 1 Mile of the Proposed Project and Alternatives**, there is one county park near the Proposed Project area (VCPD, 2014b).

Conejo Recreation and Park District

The Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD) maintains over 50 parks covering over 1,000 acres with a variety of recreation amenities, including sports fields, picnic areas, and community centers in the City of Thousand Oaks and unincorporated Ventura County (CRPD, 2014a). As identified in Table 5.16-1, four of these parks are located in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (CRPD, 2014b).

Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency

The Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) is a joint powers agency that was formed between the City of Thousand Oaks and the Conejo Recreation and Park District. COSCA currently owns or manages over 11,300 acres of open space and maintains more than 140 miles of trails. COSCA's mission is to preserve, protect, and manage all of the natural resources that exist within the open space system (COSCA, 2014a). As identified in Table 5.16-1, there are five open space units in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (COSCA, 2014b).

**TABLE 5.16-1
PARKS WITHIN 1 MILE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	Distance From Proposed Project
Glenwood Park	City of Moorpark PRCSO	0.3 mile southeast of Moorpark Substation
Poindexter Park	City of Moorpark PRCSO	0.3 mile east of Moorpark Substation
Arroyo Vista Community Park	City of Moorpark PRCSO	0.5 mile southeast of Moorpark Substation
Tierra Rejada Park	City of Moorpark PRCSO	0.9 mile southeast of Moorpark Substation
Mountain Meadows Park	City of Moorpark PRCSO	0.8 mile south of Moorpark Substation
South Meadows Park	City of Moorpark PRCSO	0.8 mile south of Moorpark Substation
Villa Campesina Park	City of Moorpark PRCSO	0.8 mile southeast of Moorpark Substation
County Trail Park	City of Moorpark PRCSO	0.8 mile east of Segment 2
Peppertree Playfield	CRPD	1 mile southwest of Segments 3 and 4
Knoll Park	CRPD	0.8 mile southwest of Segment 3
Newbury Gateway Park	CRPD	1 mile southeast of Newbury Substation
Wildwood Regional Park	CRPD	1 mile east of Segments 2 and 3
Wildwood Open Space Unit	COSCA	1 mile east of Segments 2 and 3
Conejo Canyons West Open Space Unit	COSCA	Segments 3 and 4 traverse this unit
Vallecito Open Space Unit	COSCA	0.7 mile southwest of Segment 3
Old Conejo Open Space Unit	COSCA	0.6 mile southwest of Segment 3
Arroyo Conejo Open Space Unit	COSCA	0.9 mile northeast of Newbury Substation
Santa Rosa Valley Regional Park	VCPD	0.4 mile east of Segment 2
Camarillo Grove Park	PVRPD	1 mile west of Segment 3

NOTES: City of Moorpark Parks, Recreation & Community Services (City of Moorpark PRCSO); Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD); Conejo Open Space and Conservation Area (COSCA); Ventura County Parks Department (VCPD); Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District (PVRPD).

SOURCES: CRPD, 2014b; COSCA, 2014b; VCPD, 2014b; City of Moorpark PRCSO, 2014b; and PVRPD, 2014.

The City of Moorpark

The City of Moorpark Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department (PRCSO) is responsible for the development, implementation, and promotion of all recreation activities in Moorpark, including 18 park sites totaling approximately 160 acres (City of Moorpark PRCSO, 2014a). As identified in Table 5.16-1, there are eight parks in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (City of Moorpark PRCSO, 2014b).

Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District

The Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District (PVRPD) maintains over 300 acres of parkland, open space, and recreation areas that provide a wide array of opportunities for residents within the City of Camarillo. As shown in Table 5.16-1, there is one PVRPD park near the Proposed Project area (PVRPD, 2014).

Regulatory Setting

Federal

No federal plans or policies concerning recreation apply to the Proposed Project or alternatives.

State

No state plans or policies concerning recreation apply to the Proposed Project or alternatives.

Local

California Public Utilities Commission General Order No. 131-D explains that local land use regulations would not apply to the Proposed Project or alternatives. However, for informational purposes, the goals and policies of local general plans and other planning documents pertaining to recreation that would otherwise be relevant to the Proposed Project and alternatives are described below.

Ventura County General Plan

The following goals and policies pertaining to recreation in the Ventura County General Plan are relevant to this analysis (Ventura County, 2013):

Goal 4.10.1-4. Promote the multi-use of existing physical resources through coordination with other public and quasi-public agencies (i.e., utility easements, flood control easements, school district facilities, etc.).

Goal 4.10.1-7. Ensure compatibility between recreation facilities and adjoining land uses.

Policy 4.10.2-1. The County shall maintain and enforce the local parkland dedication requirements (Quimby Ordinance), to acquire and develop neighborhood and community recreation facilities. Parkland dedication shall be based on a standard of 5 acres of local parkland per 1,000 population, including neighborhood and community parks.

Policy 4.10.2-3. Developers shall be encouraged to make unused open space available for recreation.

Conejo Canyons Open Space Management Plan

As discussed in Section 5.11, *Land Use and Planning*, the Conejo Canyons Open Space Management Plan (plan) is a comprehensive guide for the long-term management of the Conejo Canyons natural, cultural, and scenic resources while providing for compatible passive multi-use, trail-based recreational activities. The plan contains goals and policies for management of the area, but none that are relevant to the Proposed Project or alternatives (COSCA, 2009).

City of Moorpark General Plan

The City of Moorpark General Plan does not contain policies concerning recreation that would be relevant to the Proposed Project or alternatives (City of Moorpark, 1986).

City of Thousand Oaks

The City of Thousand Oaks General Plan does not contain policies concerning recreation that would be relevant to the Proposed Project or alternatives (City of Thousand Oaks, 2013).

5.16.2 Significance Criteria

According to Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, a project would result in significant recreation effects on the environment if it would:

- a) 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
- b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

5.16.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

Southern California Edison (SCE) has not identified any applicant proposed measures to reduce impacts on recreation.

5.16.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Approach to Analysis

This impact analysis considers the potential recreation impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project.

- a) 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.**

Impact 5.16-1: Construction activities could result in adverse impacts to recreational areas. Less than significant (Class III)

In general, a project could increase the use of parks and other recreational facilities by increasing demand through inducing population growth, and/or by displacing use from one facility to another. As shown in Figure 5.1-1, approximately 1.4 miles of subtransmission line in Segment 3 would border the Conejo Canyons Open Space area, and approximately 0.9 mile in Segment 3 and 1 mile in Segment 4 would traverse the area, including portions of the Western Plateau and the Peninsula Loop Trails (COSCA, 2014c). However, these portions of the Proposed Project alignment would be located within SCE existing rights-of-way (ROW).

Direct effects would include construction equipment blocking access to trails for activities including tower removal, foundation and pole installation, and conductor stringing within the Proposed Project alignment. For example, the proposed construction laydown area located at poles 35 and 36, the stringing site near pole 40, and other construction activities in Segment 3 could impede access to the Western Plateau Trail and/or Peninsula Loop Trail. Indirect effects

would include visual impacts, exhaust emissions, and noise generated by construction equipment that could temporarily make the trails near the Proposed Project alignment less desirable and displace recreational users. As a result, the use of other trails in the park and other nearby recreational facilities could increase during the construction period as users are displaced from facilities along the Proposed Project alignment; however, the increase would be temporary. Construction generally would last several days near each pole location; conductor stringing activities would progress at a rate of approximately 3 days per mile of strung conductor. Therefore, the increased use of alternative recreational facilities due to the potential displacement of users would not be substantial, and so would not likely cause or accelerate any substantial physical deterioration of those facilities. Further, increases in demand for recreational facilities typically are associated with substantial increases in population. The Proposed Project would not include a residential component, nor would it induce population growth in the electrical needs area that would result in an increased use of existing recreational facilities. As discussed in Section 5.14, *Population and Housing*, approximately 217 construction workers would be required to construct the Proposed Project at its peak, and these workers are expected to commute from within Ventura County rather than relocate into the Proposed Project area. No new permanent staff would be needed. Impacts to recreational facilities from construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant (Class III).

Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would be similar to operations and maintenance of existing facilities in SCE's ROW, and would require only a minor increase in activity above existing levels. Proposed Project operation and maintenance would not result in a measurable change in the existing level of use at neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, and so would not cause or accelerate any substantial physical deterioration of those facilities (No Impact).

Mitigation: None required.

b) 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 does not include recreational facilities, nor would it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. As described under criterion a), the Proposed Project would not induce population growth, and so would not affect the County of Ventura's General Plan policy of providing 5 acres of local parkland per 1,000 people. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in any adverse physical effects on the environment from construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities (No Impact).

5.16.5 Alternatives

No Project Alternative 1

If No Project Alternative 1 is implemented, the Proposed Project would not be constructed, and the demand for recreational facilities described in subsection 5.16.1, *Setting*, would remain the same. Therefore, there would be no impact related to recreation (No Impact).

No Project Alternative 2

Under No Project Alternative 2, the Proposed Project would not be constructed and the infrastructure already constructed for the Moorpark-Newbury 66 kV Subtransmission line would be removed, with the exception of the previously installed LWS poles and energized conductor. Construction impacts associated with No Project Alternative 2 would be similar to those of the Proposed Project because this alternative would require construction activities within the same SCE ROW, potentially requiring temporary trail closures, and could make adjacent recreational areas less appealing to users. However, No Project Alternative 2 would include less work in the Conejo Open Space area, and would result fewer trail closures in this location. No Project Alternative 2 would have a similar temporary construction workforce in the Conejo Open Space area as the Proposed Project and would last a slightly shorter amount of time than the Proposed Project. Therefore, construction would not result in an increase the local population, the need which would typically be associated with increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. Impacts to recreational facilities from construction of No Project Alternative 2 would be less than significant (Class III). Furthermore, No Project Alternative 2 would not include construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment (No Impact).

References – Recreation

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