

3.15 RECREATION

3.15.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes existing conditions and potential impacts on recreation as a result of construction, operation, and maintenance of the project. The analysis concludes that impacts will be less than significant in this area; the Applicant-Proposed Measure (APM) described in Section 3.15.4.2 will further reduce less-than-significant impacts. Temporary construction impacts on parks—such as visual, dust, noise, and trail access—are discussed in Section 3.2, Aesthetics, Section 3.3, Air Quality, Section 3.12, Noise, and Section 3.16, Transportation and Traffic, respectively. The project’s potential effects associated with recreation were evaluated using the significance criteria set forth in Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The conclusions are summarized in Table 3.15-1 and discussed in more detail in Section 3.15.4.

Table 3.15-1: CEQA Checklist for Recreation

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.15.2 REGULATORY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

3.15.2.1 Regulatory Background

No federal, state, or local regulations related to recreation are applicable to the project.

3.15.2.2 Methodology

Recreation resources include recreational facilities such as state, local, and regional parks. The California Department of Parks and Recreation website, Open Space and Resource Conservation Element of the Sonoma County General Plan, and the Town of Windsor General Plan were reviewed as part of the recreational resources evaluation. The websites of the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department and Town of Windsor were reviewed to identify parks and recreation areas within 0.5 mile of the project.

3.15.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.15.3.1 Regional Setting

The project is largely located within unincorporated Sonoma County, with a short span of the alignment located within Foothill Regional Park in the Town of Windsor. The Fulton-Shiloh segment, which extends from Fulton Substation to an existing pole located in the southwest corner of Shiloh Regional Park, traverses predominantly urban and built up lands in the Larkfield-Wikiup residential neighborhood. The Shiloh-Fitch segment extends northwest from Shiloh Ranch Regional Park through a mix of rural and urban residential and agricultural areas, and lands designated for resources and rural development. The existing Fitch Mountain substation is located south of the Russian River, east of Healdsburg. See Section 3.10, Land Use and Planning, for additional information about the land use of parcels crossed by or adjacent to the alignment.

3.15.3.2 Local Setting

The project crosses three Sonoma County parks—Maddux Ranch Regional Park, Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, and Foothill Regional Park. Table 3.15-2: Recreational Areas Summary provides a summary of the locations and features of these parks. Sonoma County Healdsburg Veterans Memorial Beach and the City of Healdsburg’s Badger Park are located within 0.5 mile of the existing Fitch Mountain Substation. Refer to Figure 3.10-1: General Plan Land Use Designations, in Section 3.10, Land Use and Planning, for a map depicting these recreational areas.

Table 3.15-2: Recreational Areas Summary

Park	Location	Features
Maddux Ranch Regional Park	4655 Lavell Road, Santa Rosa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible areas • Picnic facilities • Playgrounds
Foothill Regional Park	1351 Arata Lane, Windsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible areas • Hiking/walking trails • Picnic facilities • Biking • Birding • Equestrian trails • Fishing
Shiloh Ranch Regional Park	5750 Faught Road, Windsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible areas • Hiking/walking trails • Picnic facilities • Biking • Birding • Equestrian trails • Fishing

Park	Location	Features
Healdsburg Veterans Memorial Beach	13839 Old Redwood Highway, Healdsburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible areas • Kayaking/Canoeing • Picnic facilities • Beaches
Badger Park	Off of Heron Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields • Senior activity area • Tot-lot playground • Park benches and picnic tables • Pathways • Dog park

Source: Sonoma County Regional Parks, Town of Windsor 2014

A portion of the project alignment is located within protected lands under the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. Windsor Oaks protected lands include oak woodlands, vineyards, riparian corridors, and open pastures, and Sotoyome Highlands protected lands include more than 1,800 feet of river frontage, grazing pastures, and river and mountain plants and wildlife. In addition, the project crosses Tuxhorn Ranch, a Sonoma County Conservation Easement. See Section 3.10, Land Use and Planning, for additional information about zoning in the project area.

3.15.4 APPLICANT-PROPOSED MEASURES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following sections describe significance criteria for recreation impacts derived from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, provide APMs, and assess potential project-related construction and operational recreation impacts.

3.15.4.1 Significance Criteria

According to Section 15002(g) of the CEQA Guidelines, “a significant effect on the environment is defined as a substantial adverse change in the physical conditions which exist in the area affected by the proposed project.” As stated in Section 15064(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the significance of an activity may vary with the setting. Per Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the potential significance of project impacts on recreation were evaluated for each of the criteria listed in Table 3.15-1, as discussed in Section 3.15.4.3.

3.15.4.2 Applicant-Proposed Measures

PG&E will implement the following APM:

APM REC-1: Coordination with Park Management and Signage

PG&E will coordinate closely with park management for temporary public land closures during project construction activities. If traditional access is temporarily unavailable, signs advising recreational facility users of construction activities, including directions to alternative trails and/or bikeways, will be posted at entrance gates to parks and open space

areas. Signage will be posted at least 1 week in advance of construction, near parks and open space areas.

3.15.4.3 Potential Impacts

Potential project impacts on recreation were evaluated against the CEQA significance criteria and are discussed below. The impact analysis evaluates potential project impacts during construction.

The project includes reconductoring existing 60 kV and 230 kV electric utility lines between Fulton Substation and Fitch Mountain #1 Tap. The O&M activities required for the recondored power and transmission lines will not increase from those currently required for the existing system; thus, no operation-related impacts related to recreation will occur. Therefore, the impact analysis is focused on construction activities that are required to install the new conductor, replace and remove poles, perform minor substation modifications, and establish required access and work areas, as described in Chapter 2.0, Project Description.

a) Would the 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? *Less-than-Significant Impact*

Increases in overall permanent demand for recreational facilities typically are associated with substantial increases in population, either by the construction of new residences or by the creation of a major job generator that will indirectly increase the number of residents in an area. Implementation of the project will not result in a substantial increased demand for recreational facilities or adversely affect the existing recreational resources in a permanent manner. The limited number of workers from outside the area needed for the project will not result in a substantial increase in demand on local parks and recreational facilities, causing their accelerated physical deterioration.

Construction of the project will temporarily impact Maddux Ranch Regional Park, Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, and Foothill Regional Park. Temporary impacts on park lands will occur as a result of the pole replacements, delivery and staging of construction materials, and construction workers traversing the land to access the project area. Short-term, temporary closure of sections of Maddux Ranch, Shiloh Ranch, and Foothill regional parks, including the closure of recreational trails, may occur; however, because construction will progress quickly, construction activities are not expected to take place near any one structure location for more than a few days. Any closures of Shiloh Ranch and Foothill regional parks that are required for public safety during project construction will be temporary and short-term. Primary recreational facilities—such as hiking/walking trails, biking trails, equestrian trails, and picnic facilities—will not be permanently encroached upon or otherwise permanently affected. Therefore, because the project will not have any substantial effects on recreational facilities or uses, and existing recreational facilities will not be permanently altered, impacts will be less than significant.

In addition, implementation of APM REC-1 will further reduce the less-than-significant impact on parks and recreational facilities. Detailed analyses of visual, air quality, and noise impacts resulting from project construction are provided in Section 3.1, Aesthetics, Section 3.3, Air Quality, and Section 3.12, Noise, respectively.

A portion of the project alignment is located within protected lands under the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and a Sonoma County Conservation Easement. These protected lands crossed by the alignment do not contain publicly accessible trails or recreational facilities; therefore, potential impacts resulting from temporary construction will not affect trail users or recreational visitors.

b) Does the 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 project will not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, no impact will occur.

3.15.5 REFERENCES

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