

## 4.16 Recreation

This section describes recreation in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment, as well as the potential impacts that could result from construction and operation of the IC Project and its Alternatives.

### 4.16.1 Environmental Setting

The Environmental Setting section describes the existing conditions for recreation in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment. The IC Project Alignment is located in unincorporated Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino counties and the City of Barstow. The land along and proximate to the IC Project Alignment is primarily open space. Agricultural and mineral extraction activities are found along the alignment. Residential land uses are scattered along the IC Project Alignment, generally concentrated in developed communities. Portions of the IC Project Alignment is located on and adjacent to China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, Edwards Air Force Base, and the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Barstow Yermo and Nebo annexes. Generally, dispersed recreation on public lands is the principal recreational opportunity available to visitors within the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment; few developed recreational areas are present along the IC Project Alignment.

Parks and recreation areas were identified by reviewing the Inyo County General Plan, Kern County General Plan, Kern County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, San Bernardino County General Plan, City of Barstow General Plan, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) information accessible online, and federal land management documents. Parks and recreation areas located within approximately one mile of the IC Project Alignment are identified and discussed below, are listed in Table 4.16-1, and are shown on Figureset 4.16-1.

**Table 4.16-1: Parks and Recreation Areas Within One Mile of the IC Project Alignment**

Project Segment	Name	Management Entity	Distance from IC Project Alignment (miles)
1	Sacatar Wilderness Area	BLM	~1.0
1	Tinemaha Viewing Area	BLM	0.2
1	Fossil Falls Campground	BLM	0.3
1	Golden Trout Wilderness	BLM	0.5
1	Sacatar Trail Wilderness	BLM	0.7
1	Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor's Center	NPS	1.0
1	Baker Creek Campground	Inyo County	0
1	Glacier View Campground	Inyo County	0.9
1	Mendenhall Park	Inyo County	0.5
1	Diaz Lake Campground	Inyo County	0.8
1	Spainhower Park	Inyo County	1.0
1	Eastern Sierra Visitor Center	Multiple Agencies	1.0
1	Mt. Whitney Golf Course	Private	1.0
1	Boulder Creek RV Resort	Private	1.0
3N	Harper Dry Lake Site	BLM	1.0
3N	Barstow/Calico KOA	Private	0.4
3S	Barstow Heights Park	City of Barstow	0.1
3S	Robert A Sessions Memorial Sportsark	City of Barstow	0.2
4	Hollow Hills Wilderness	BLM	0.8
4	Soda Mountains Wilderness	BLM	0.25
4	Mojave Wilderness	NPS	0.3
4	Camp Cady Wildlife Area	CDFW	1.0

#### **4.16.1.1 Federal Lands**

The IC Project Alignment traverses lands managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Barstow Field Office, Bishop Field Office, Needles Field Office, and Ridgecrest Field Office (Figureset 4.16-1). Recreation on these lands is generally dispersed, and not tied to developed infrastructure. In Segment 1, the IC Project Alignment passes within approximately 0.2 miles of the Tinemaha Viewing Area, which allows visitors a 360 degree view of this portion of the Owens Valley. Tule elk, a variety of birds, and stunning geology can be seen from the location overlooking Tinemaha Reservoir. The IC Project Alignment is also within 1 mile of the Sacatar Trail Wilderness, which offers dispersed backcountry recreation.

The IC Project Alignment in Segment 3N is located approximately 1 mile from the Harper Dry Lake site, which offers interpretative programs, hiking, wildlife viewing, and photography. No other developed recreational facilities have been identified on BLM-managed lands in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment, although dispersed recreational opportunities can be found on BLM lands across the IC Project Alignment.

Segment 4 of the IC Project Alignment crosses near the northwest corner of the National Park Service's Mojave Trails National Monument (Monument), in the Afton Canyon Natural Area. The Monument comprises approximately 1.6 million acres; it is home to rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and sand dunes. Historical resources including ancient Native American trading routes, World War II-era divisional training camps (Patton Camps), and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66. Recreational opportunities in the Monument include auto touring, bicycling, rock climbing, historical and cultural sites, camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, picnicking, wildlife viewing, wilderness, and photography. There are few developed recreational areas within the Monument; the Afton Canyon campground is located approximately 1.3 miles south of the IC Project Alignment.

The IC Project Alignment crosses lands designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) or Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), including: Alabama Hills SRMA and Olancho SRMA (Segment 1); El Paso/Rand SRMA and Red Mountain SRMA (Segment 2); Stoddard/Johnson SRMA (Segment 3S); Afton Canyon SRMA, Shadow Valley ERMA, and Ivanpah Valley ERMA (Segment 4). No developed recreational facilities within these SRMAs or ERMAs beyond those listed above are located within 1 mile of the IC Project Alignment.

#### **4.16.1.2 State Lands**

Segment 4 of the IC Project Alignment is located approximately 1 mile north of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Camp Cady Wildlife Area, an area of approximately 1,900 acres around the Mojave River. Recreational opportunities at Camp Cady include wildlife viewing, birdwatching, hiking, and hunting. Hunting opportunities include dove, quail, and rabbits. There are restrooms and camping areas. Camping is allowed at Camp Cady.

#### **4.16.1.3 Inyo County/Los Angeles Department of Water and Power**

The City of Los Angeles, through the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), owns approximately 250,000 acres in Inyo County along Segment 1. The Los Angeles Aqueduct is located in the Owens River Valley, proximate to the IC Project Alignment. Most LADWP-owned land is leased to private individuals or organizations for agricultural and livestock purposes; however, to maintain public access, approximately 75 percent of LADWP-owned land in Inyo County is open to the public for recreational uses. A number and variety of recreational facilities are located on LADWP-owned lands in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment in Segment 1:

- Baker Creek Campground is crossed by the IC Project Alignment. The campground is located at Baker Creek Road near Big Pine; the campground is leased to Inyo County Parks and Recreation. It has 70 camping sites, recreational vehicle (RV) hookups, vault toilets, drinking water, tables, grills, fire rings, and stream fishing.
- Glacier View Campground is located approximately 0.9 miles from the IC Project Alignment, near Big Pine. It has 40 camping sites, restrooms, drinking water, tables, and grills.
- Mendenhall Park is located approximately 0.5 miles from the IC Project Alignment, in Big Pine; the park is leased to Inyo County Parks and Recreation. It has a basketball court, restrooms, picnic gazebo, horseshoes, playground, and two baseball diamonds.
- Diaz Lake Campground is located approximately 0.8 miles from the IC Project Alignment, at South Main Street near Lone Pine; the campground is leased to Inyo County Parks and Recreation. It has 200 camping sites, grills, tables, drinking water, and restrooms. Diaz Lake has a boat launch and concession stand along with fishing, water-skiing, and swimming opportunities.
- The Eastern Sierra Visitor Center is located approximately one mile from the IC Project Alignment, south of Lone Pine. The Interagency Visitor Center is a cooperative venture between LADWP, USFS, BLM, the National Park Service (NPS), California Department of Fish and Game, Caltrans, CALFIRE, and Inyo and Mono counties. The Center features a native plant garden, restrooms, picnic facilities, exhibits, maps, brochures, and books about the Eastern Sierra area. In addition, wilderness permits can be obtained there.
- Mt. Whitney Golf Course is a nine-hole course located approximately one mile from the IC Project Alignment near Lone Pine.
- Spainhower Park (formerly Lone Pine Park) is approximately one mile from the IC Project Alignment in Lone Pine; the park is leased to Inyo County Parks and Recreation. It has a basketball court, tennis court, restrooms, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, drinking water, and a playground.
- Owens Lake is located south of Lone Pine and owned by LADWP. There are three public access trails (Owens Lake Trails) and viewing areas in the vicinity of Owens Lake. Of these, the “Dirty Socks Route” is located nearest the IC Project Alignment at a distance of approximately 3 miles from the IC Project Alignment. The Owens Lake area is a popular bird watching location; more than 100 species of birds have been spotted there.

#### **4.16.1.4 Kern County**

Segments 1 and 2 of the IC Project Alignment traverse northeastern and eastern Kern County. The Kern County Parks Master Plan divides Kern County among five areas; the IC Project Alignment falls within Area 1. Within Kern County, there are no regional or other notable recreational facilities in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment. (Kern County Parks Master Plan 2010)

#### **4.16.1.5 San Bernardino County**

The San Bernardino Department of Regional Parks manages nine regional parks throughout the County; none are located in the vicinity of the IC Project Alignment.

#### **4.16.1.6 City of Barstow**

The City of Barstow Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for park and facilities planning, development, and maintenance. The City-owned Robert A. Sessions Memorial Sportspark and Barstow Heights Park are located within one mile of the IC Project Alignment.

#### **4.16.1.7 Private Lands**

Boulder Creek RV Resort and Calico/Yermo KOA are privately-owned campgrounds. The Mt. Whitney Golf Course is a privately-operated recreational area.

#### **4.16.2 Regulatory Setting**

Federal, state, and local regulations were reviewed for applicability to the IC Project.

##### **4.16.2.1 Federal**

##### **4.16.2.1.1 BLM Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision, Recreation Standard Operating Procedures**

The BLM Bishop RMP states that the type of recreation best suited for eastern Sierra BLM land is “predominantly dispersed use in semi-primitive, undeveloped settings.” The RMP strategy is to maintain and enhance these undeveloped settings.

General Policy Number 4 states that “public lands will be managed in a manner that will...provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use”. The area-wide management strategy includes the following:

- Emphasize primitive, semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive nonmotorized and roaded natural experiences.
- Maintain and enhance semi-primitive and other physical settings by providing compatible recreation opportunities within those settings.
- Manage visitor use to conform with semi-primitive and other physical settings.
- Recreation management may include developing trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding; providing off-highway vehicle use opportunities; designating scenic byways; interpreting natural and cultural resources; and establishing an environmental education program.
- Vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails.

More specific management strategies are discussed by area. The IC Project Alignment is located within three different management areas within this BLM resource area.

Portions of Segment 1 are located within the “Owens Valley Management Area,” more than 150,000 acres between Bishop and Lone Pine. The management theme for this area is to “emphasize recreational use and environmental education while providing for land disposals.” One of the needs for this area is to “coordinate mutual recreation interests with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Inyo County.”

Portions of the IC Project Alignment are located within the “South Inyo Management Area,” 65,000 acres at the southern end of the Inyo Mountain Range. The management theme for this area is to “manage to protect wilderness, wildlife, visual and cultural values and to enhance recreation opportunities.” It additionally includes:

- Manage for primitive recreation opportunities in the proposed Southern Inyo Wilderness Area.
- Provide for semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities in the remainder of the area.

Portions of Segment 1 are also located within the BLM “Owens Lake Management Area,” approximately 15,800 acres near Owens Lake. The management theme for this area is to “protect and enhance wildlife habitat.”

#### **4.16.2.1.2 BLM Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, Land Use Plan Amendment (DRECP LUPA)**

The DRECP LUPA includes two types of recreation designations: Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs).

SRMA-designated lands are recognized and managed for their recreation opportunities, unique value and importance. SRMAs are high-priority areas for outdoor recreation as defined in the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1 (2005). It is a public lands unit identified in land use plans to direct recreation funding and personnel to manage for a specific set of recreation activities, experiences, opportunities and benefits. Both land use plan decisions and subsequent implementing actions for recreation in each SRMA are geared to a strategically identified primary market—destination, community, or undeveloped areas.

ERMA-designated lands require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use and demand. The ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and associated qualities and conditions. Recreation management actions within an ERMA are limited to only those of a custodial nature. Management of ERMA areas are commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses.

#### **4.16.2.2 State**

There are no state regulations pertaining to the IC Project and this resource.

#### **4.16.2.3 Local**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has sole and exclusive state jurisdiction over the siting and design of the IC Project. Pursuant to CPUC General Order 131-D (GO 131-D), Section XIV.B, “Local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations, or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the CPUC’s jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters.” Consequently, public utilities are directed to consider local regulations and consult with local agencies, but the counties’ and cities’ regulations are not applicable as the counties and cities do not have jurisdiction over the IC Project. Accordingly, the following discussion of local land use regulations is provided for informational purposes only.

##### **4.16.2.3.1 Inyo County General Plan**

The Inyo County General Plan contains a number of goals, policies, and implementation measures related to parks and recreational facilities; none are relevant to the IC Project.

##### **4.16.2.3.2 County of Kern, Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

The County of Kern Parks and Recreation Master Plan contains a number of goals, policies, and implementation measures related to parks and recreational facilities; none are relevant to the IC Project.

### **4.16.2.3.3 San Bernardino County General Plan**

The San Bernardino County General Plan contains a number of goals related to parks and recreational facilities; none are relevant to the IC Project.

### **4.16.2.3.4 City of Barstow General Plan, Resource Conservation and Open Space Element**

The City of Barstow General Plan contains a number of goals, policies, and strategies related to parks and recreational facilities, including the following:

Strategy 7.A.1: Work with the utility companies owning large “cross-town” easements to ensure that these areas remain as open space for recreation, circulation, etc.

## **4.16.3 Significance Criteria**

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to recreational resources are derived from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Checklist. According to the CEQA 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
- Include recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment

## **4.16.4 Impact Analysis**

### **4.16.4.1 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?**

#### **4.16.4.1.1 Construction**

**Less than Significant Impact.** The use of parks and recreational facilities is closely tied to population; as population increases, the use of existing parks and recreational facilities can be expected to increase proportionally. Similarly, the loss of existing parks and recreational facilities would result in a concentration of use at remaining parks and facilities.

As presented in Section 4.14, Population and Housing, the IC Project would not directly or indirectly induce any population growth during construction. During construction, local parks may be used by workers during their lunch or break periods; this would not represent a significant increase in the use of existing parks or recreational facilities.

The limited increase in the use of parks and recreational facilities by workers during construction and the lack of population growth resulting from the IC Project would not result in either a significant increase in the use of existing parks or recreational facilities or the occurrence or acceleration of substantial physical deterioration to existing parks and recreational facilities.

The IC Project would temporarily disrupt access to a portion of the Baker Creek campground in Segment 1; the disruption would occur during the replacement of the existing subtransmission structure located within the campground. This disruption would be temporary, lasting only a number of non-consecutive days when the existing structure is removed, when the new structure is installed, and when conductor is removed and installed. While this short-term disruption could result in potential recreationalists using other campground sites; the use of other campground sites would be typical of the use of these sites, and

would not result in any physical deterioration of these other campground sites. Therefore, less than significant impacts would occur under this criterion.

#### **4.16.4.1.2 Operations**

**No Impact.** As presented in Chapter 3, SCE is currently performing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, including inspections, along the subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt and reconducted under the IC Project. No material changes in O&M activities or the locations of these activities are anticipated with implementation of the IC Project, and therefore no impacts would be realized under this criterion during operations and maintenance.

#### **4.16.4.2 Would the project include recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

##### **4.16.4.2.1 Construction**

**No Impact.** The IC Project does not include any recreational facilities. The IC Project would not result in a population increase and would not require the construction or expansion of 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.

##### **4.16.4.2.2 Operations**

**No Impact.** As presented in Chapter 3, SCE is currently performing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities, including inspections, along the subtransmission lines that would be rebuilt and reconducted under the IC Project. No material changes in O&M activities or the locations of these activities are anticipated with implementation of the IC Project, and therefore no impacts would be realized under this criterion during operations and maintenance.

#### **4.16.5 Applicant Proposed Measures**

Because no significant impacts to recreation resources would occur as a result of the IC Project, no avoidance or minimization measures are proposed.

#### **4.16.6 Alternatives**

Alternatives to the IC Project are addressed in Section 5.2, Description of Project Alternatives and Impact Analysis.

#### **4.16.7 References**

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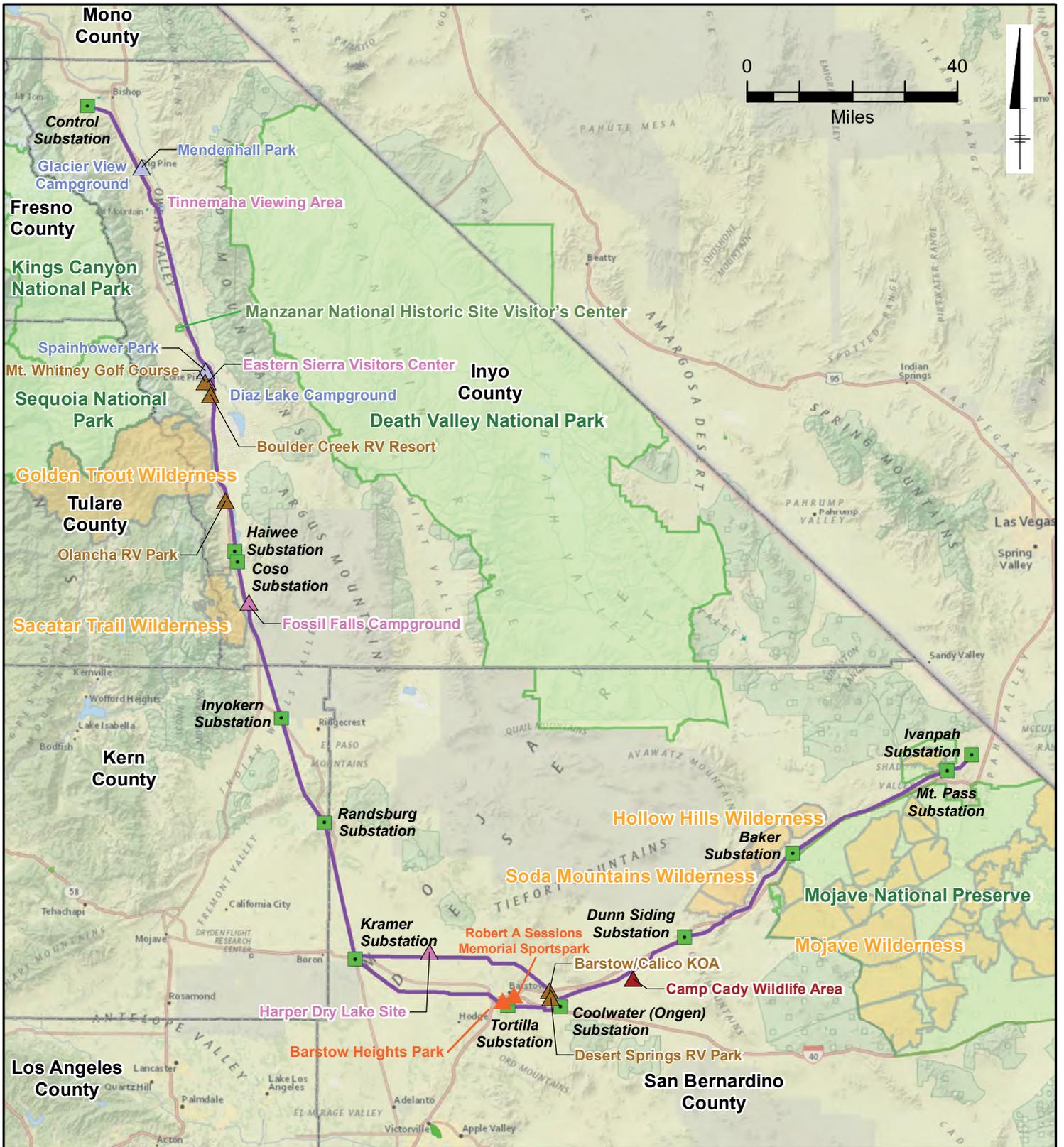
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### Legend

- Substation
- △ Recreation Location
- IC Project Alignment
- County

- Wilderness Area
- BLM Facility
- NPS Facility
- CDFW Facility
- Inyo County Facility
- City of Barstow Facility
- Private Facility

## IVANPAH-CONTROL PROJECT

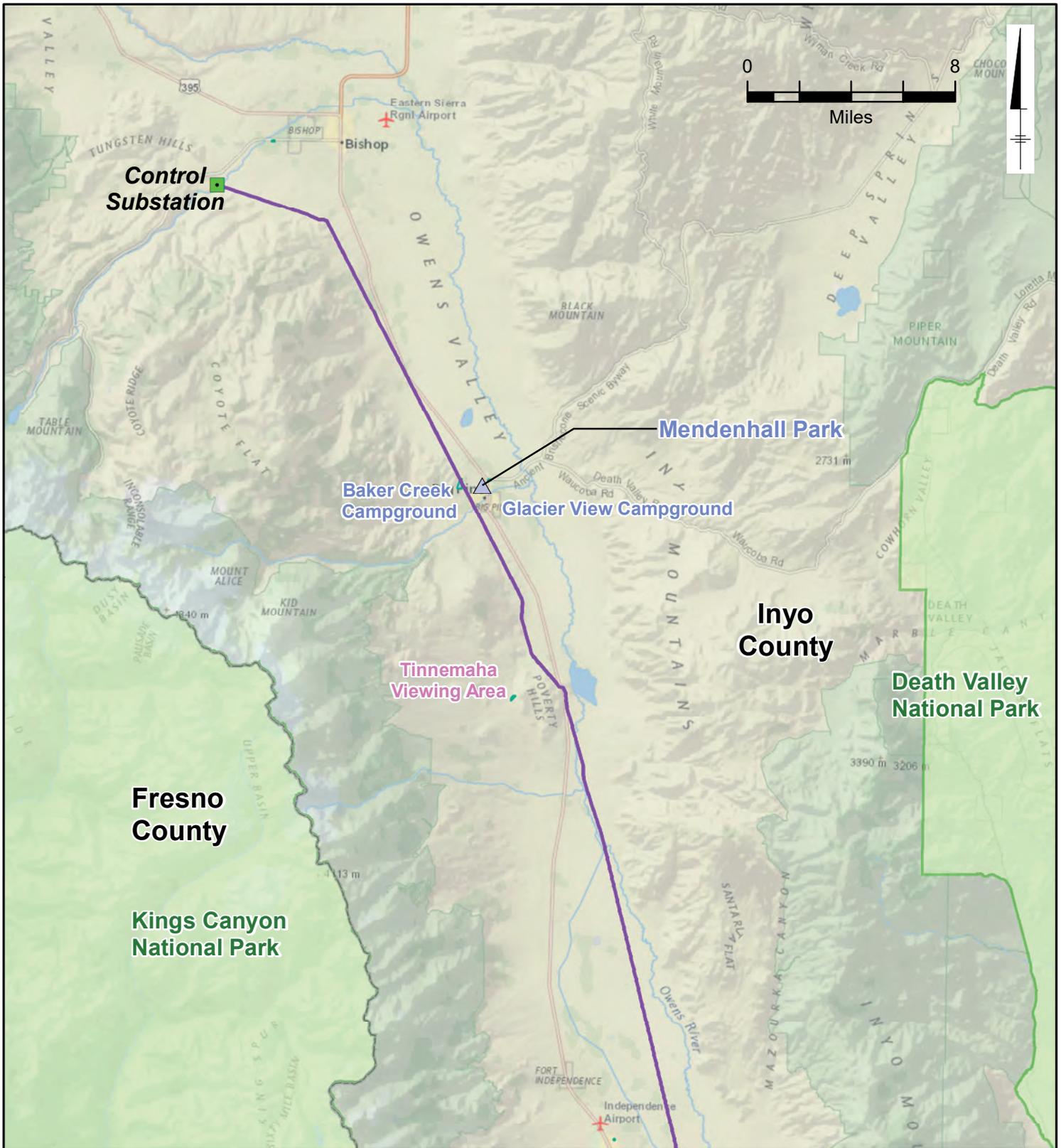
### PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



**FIGURESET:  
4.16-1**

**NOTES:**

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- (2) Kern County parks are not shown on the map because there were none located near the IC project alignment.



**Legend**

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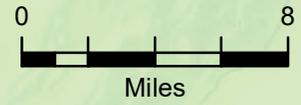
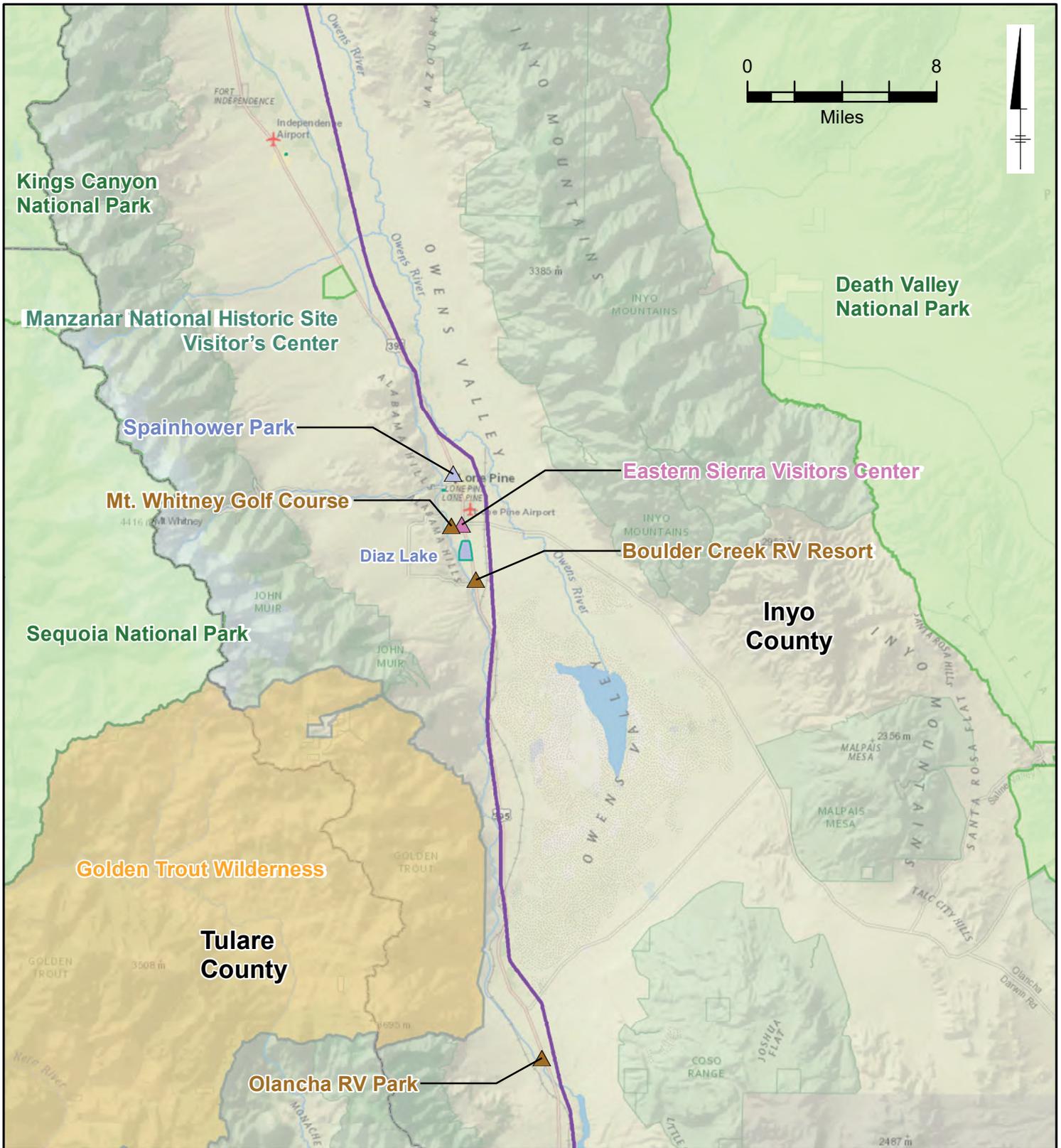
- (1) Sources: <http://services.gis.ca.gov/arcgis/services>;  
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**IVANPAH-CONTROL PROJECT**

**PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**



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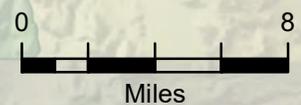
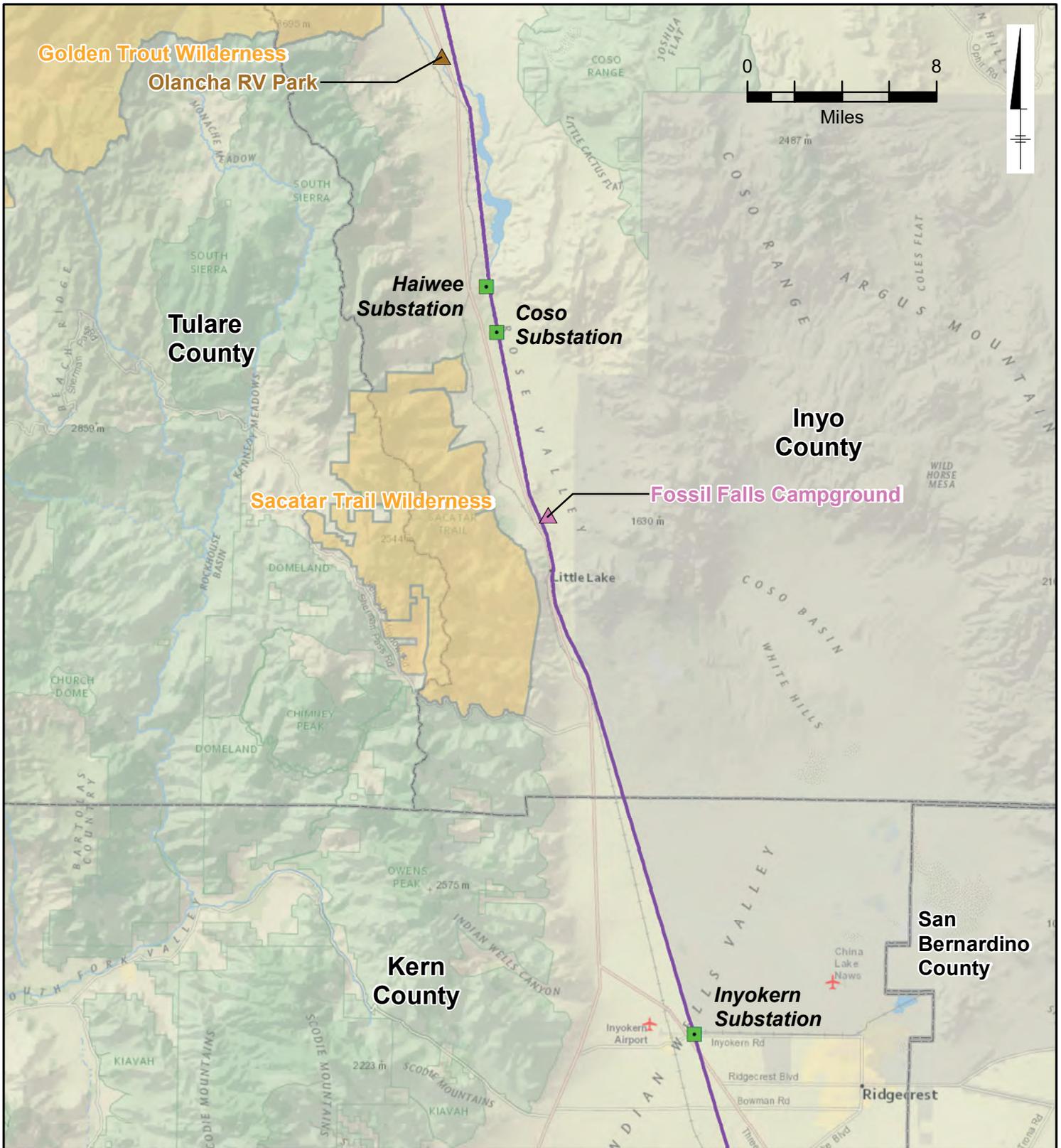
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<b>IVANPAH-CONTROL PROJECT</b>	
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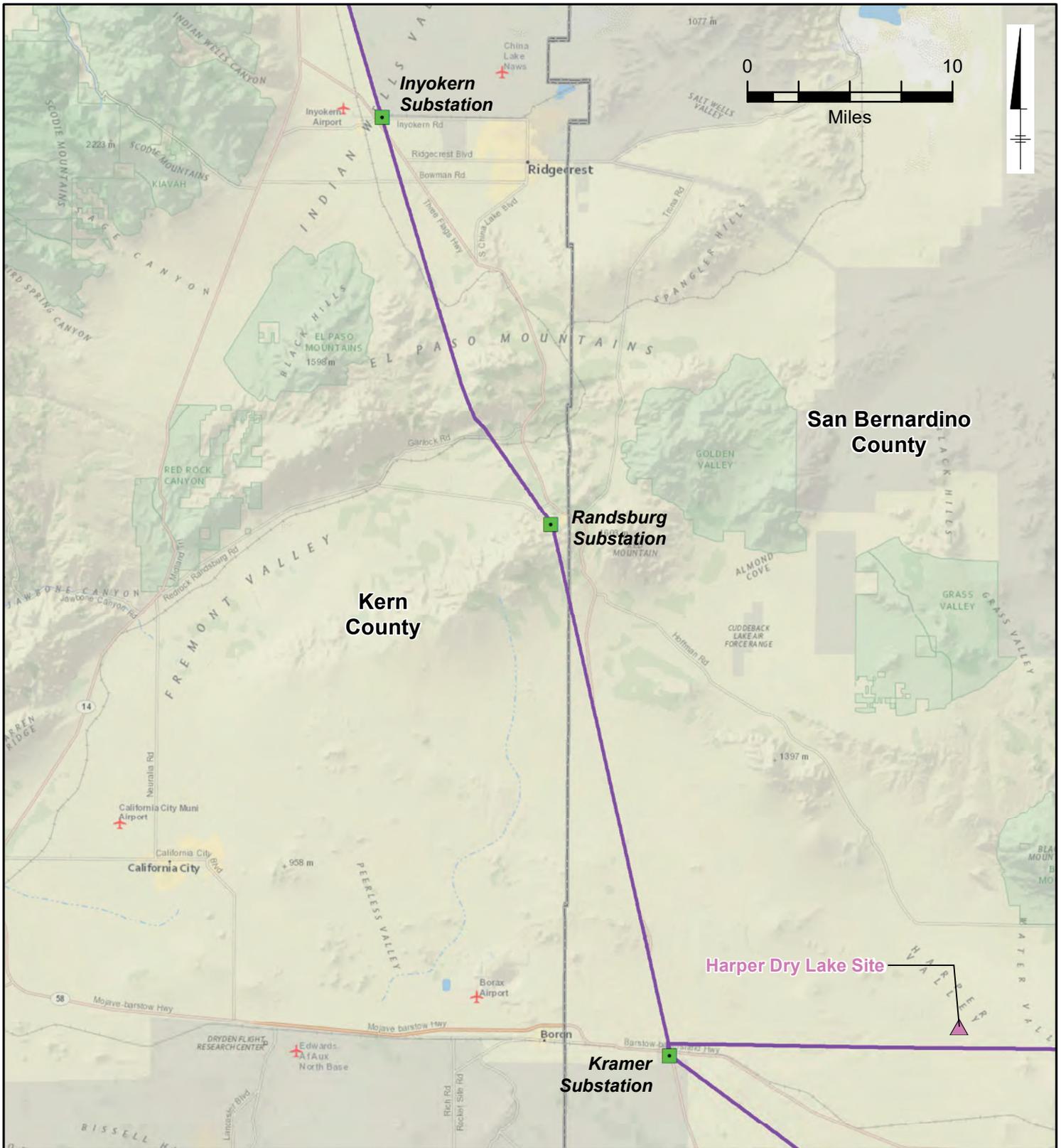
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[https://services1.arcgis.com/fBc8EJBxQRMchlei/arcgis/rest/services/NPS\\_Park\\_Boundaries/FeatureServer](https://services1.arcgis.com/fBc8EJBxQRMchlei/arcgis/rest/services/NPS_Park_Boundaries/FeatureServer)  
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<b>PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES</b>	
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City: Div/Group: Created By: Last Saved By: adavis  
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**Legend**

- Substation
- △ Recreation Location
- IC Project Alignment
- County

- Wilderness Area
- BLM Facility
- NPS Facility
- CDFW Facility
- Inyo County Facility
- City of Barstow Facility
- Private Facility

**IVANPAH-CONTROL PROJECT**

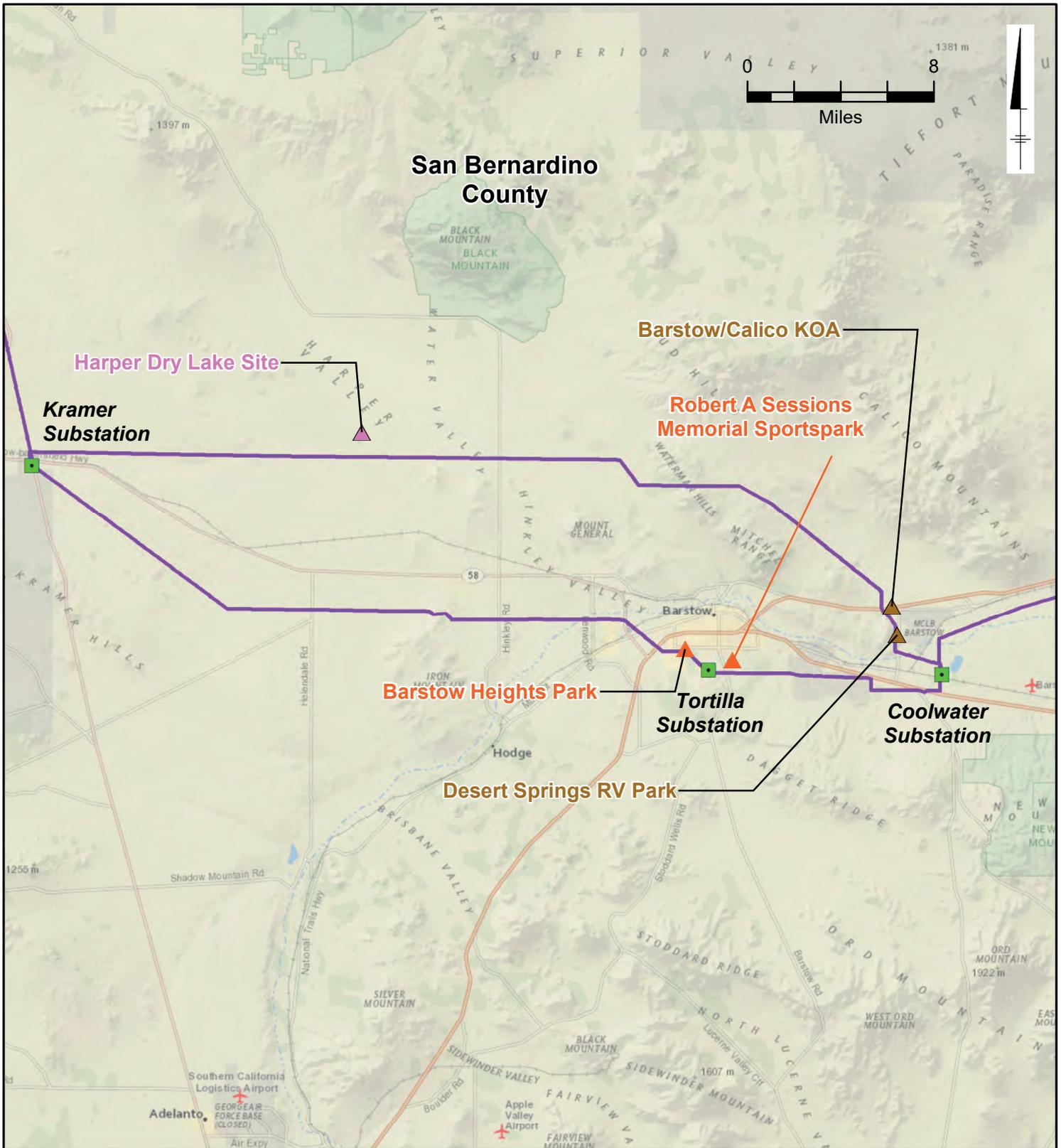
**PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**



**FIGURESET:  
4.16-1**

**NOTES:**

- (1) Sources: <http://services.gis.ca.gov/arcgis/services>;  
[https://services2.arcgis.com/AhxrK3F6WM8ECvDi/arcgis/rest/services/Park\\_Boundaries\\_2017/FeatureServer](https://services2.arcgis.com/AhxrK3F6WM8ECvDi/arcgis/rest/services/Park_Boundaries_2017/FeatureServer) ;  
[https://services1.arcgis.com/fBc8EJBxQRMchlei/arcgis/rest/services/NPS\\_Park\\_Boundaries/FeatureServer](https://services1.arcgis.com/fBc8EJBxQRMchlei/arcgis/rest/services/NPS_Park_Boundaries/FeatureServer)
- (2) Kern County parks are not shown on the map because there were none located near the IC project alignment.



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**PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**



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## IVANPAH-CONTROL PROJECT

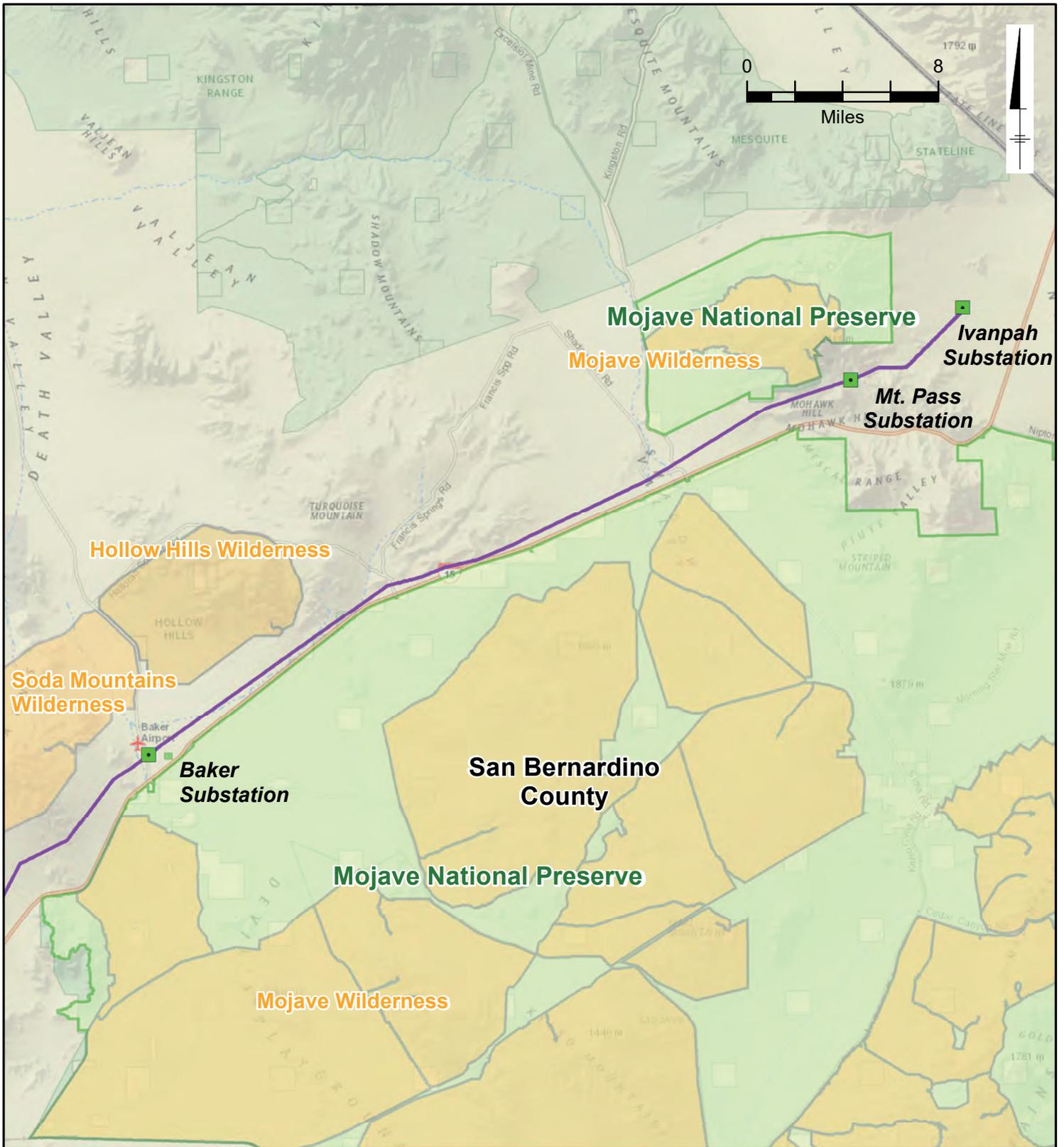
### PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



FIGURESET:  
**4.16-1**

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## IVANPAH-CONTROL PROJECT

### PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



**FIGURESET:**  
**4.16-1**