

4.15 RECREATION**4.15.1 Proposed Segment 1 – 500 kV T/L Route**

The proposed 500 T/L route originates at the Antelope Substation in the western end of the City of Lancaster. From there the route extends to the southwest out of the City across the northern foothill area of Los Angeles County, across the northwesterly portion of the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest, and into the City of Santa Clarita to the Pardee Substation. Recreational facilities and opportunities along this route, or in the vicinity, are summarized in the following sections.

The discussions presented below also apply to the Alternative 1 route.

4.15.1.2 Lancaster and Northern Unincorporated Areas

There are many city parks within Lancaster, but none are located near the Antelope Substation or any portion of the Segment 1 – 500 kV T/L route. The nearest park is George Lane Park, approximately 5 miles to the southeast of the Antelope Substation.

There are two regional parks in the northern unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. These are the Castaic Lake Recreation area, and the William S. Hart Regional Park in Newhall. Neither is in the vicinity of any portion of the project. Castaic Lake is approximately 5 miles northwest of the Pardee Substation, and the William S. Hart Park is about 6 miles to the southeast.

Specialty parks or reserves in the region include:

- Vasquez Rocks Park, County Park along SR 14 approximately 8 miles southeast of the center portion of the proposed T/L route
- Placerita Canyon Nature Center, a State-County preserve, located east of SR 14 about 10 miles southeast of the Pardee Substation
- Antelope Valley Poppy Preserve, a State preserve located 4 miles northwest of the Antelope Substation

The Antelope Valley Trails Plan, within the Antelope Valley Area wide General Plan (County of Los Angeles, 1986) designates a County proposed trail generally along the California Aqueduct in the vicinity of the Segment 1 – Antelope to Pardee T/L route. Both the proposed T/L route and the Alternative 1 alignment would cross this proposed trail corridor.

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation owns eight wildlife sanctuaries in the Antelope Valley high desert area. These are:

- Alpine Butte
- Big Rock Wash
- Butte Valley
- Carl O. Gerhardy
- Jackrabbit Flat
- Mescal
- Phacelia
- Theodore Payne

None of these areas, which are used for passive recreation, are crossed by or in the vicinity of the proposed T/L, the Alternative 1 alignment, or either of the two substations associated with Segment 1 of the project.

4.15.1.3 Angeles National Forest

The Angeles National Forest provides abundant recreational opportunities. These include trails for hiking, camping, horseback riding, and off-road vehicle use; campgrounds; natural vegetation areas for passive enjoyment; riparian areas and streams; and winter ski areas. For the most part, developed recreational facilities within the forest (camping, picnicking, and similar facilities) are not located along the electric utility corridors that cross the forest lands.

In the existing Land and Resources Management Plan (USFS, 1987a) the general description of the recreational opportunity spectrum includes five grades or levels ranging from least to most disturbed as follows:

- Primitive
- Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized
- Semi-primitive motorized
- Roaded Natural
- Rural

Along the existing SCE Del Sur-Saugus R-O-W (i.e., the majority of the proposed T/L route), the corridor itself is considered Rural. For the most part, land on either side of the corridor is considered Roded Natural land. Portions of the less disturbed slopes to the northeast (across Haskell Canyon from the R-O-W) are designated Semi-Primitive Motorized. An area of about 5 square miles, located at the southwest extent of the R-O-W within the National Forest and between the SCE and LADWP R-O-Ws, is considered within the Rural spectrum, just as the utility corridors are.

After considering the recreational spectrum along with other management objectives related to biological values, human use, and other factors, the Forest Service developed Management Area designations for the Angeles National Forest lands. These Management Area designations are summarized below.

The utility corridors themselves are designated “8 Utility Corridors.” This includes the existing SCE R-O-W, which is the proposed alignment, and the existing LADWP alignment roughly parallel and to the northwest that is essentially the Alternative 1 alignment. Most of the land between and adjacent to both Utility Corridors is designated 2 Age Class Diversity. This designation recognizes the importance of this land in contributing to the biological habitat values of the forest lands, but allows recreational uses limited to existing roads and trails. The Haskell Canyon area, northwest of the south-central portion of the proposed alignment, is designated 1 Wildlife Emphasis. The larger area between the two Utility Corridors at the southwest end, corresponding with the “Rural” recreational spectrum, is designated “7 Shooting Area.”

Facilities and recreational improvements shown on the Facilities Map of the forest plan along the SCE R-O-W include the following:

- Leona Divide Truck Trail (6N04)
- The Pacific Crest Hiking Trail, which in the vicinity of the SCE R-O-W runs roughly parallel to and southwest of the Leona Divide Truck Trail
- A non-motorized trail (14W01) in the Jupiter Mountain area
- A series of interconnected ORV routes generally between the Del Sur Ridge Road (6N18), which parallels the SCE R-O-W, and the Drinkwater Canyon area (where the LADWP R-O-W is)

The Del Sur Ridge Road provides the interconnection between these roads and trails in this portion of the forest, as well as providing the primary access to tower and pole locations within the SCE R-O-W.

Spunky Canyon Road crosses the northeastern portion of the SCE R-O-W. This roadway is an important connector between residential areas and provides access to camping area east of Green Valley.

To summarize the existing recreational opportunities and designations within the Angeles National Forest along the proposed T/L route, the primary current uses and designations are for trail use and ORV activity on existing roadways with somewhat more intense use towards the southwestern portion of the area.

Along the Alternative 1 alignment, the designations and recreational uses are somewhat similar. The LADWP R-O-W (Alternative 1 alignment) passes through the private developed community of Green Valley, and then generally along San Francisquito for several miles to Bee Canyon, and then along the Highline Road (6N21) ridge. For the most part, the Management Area designations along this Alternative 1 alignment are: “8 Utility Corridor” for the corridor itself, “2 Age Class Diversity” for most of the adjacent lands, and “7 Shooting Area” adjacent to the southwestern 4 miles of the corridor. The designated facilities along this route include the Leona Divide Truck Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and various ORV roads as well as the more formal forest roads that provide access to developed and recreational areas.

4.15.1.4 Santa Clarita

There are several neighborhood and community parks in the northern portion of Santa Clarita. The only one in the vicinity of the proposed T/L route (and Alternative 1) is Chesebrough County Park at the corner of McBean Parkway and Sunset Hills Drive. Although in the vicinity, the park is actually about 300 feet to the southeast of the existing R-O-W and 66 kV T/Ls. To the west from the park, McBean Parkway and recent development separate the park from the R-O-W by about 500 feet. To the north, two rows of houses and the Memory Lane cul-de-sac separate the park from the R-O-W by about 500 feet.

A recently developed recreation center and pool is located immediately southeast of the R-O-W, along Northpark Drive south of Copper Hill Drive.

Other City Community and neighborhood parks in the northern portion of Santa Clarita include:

- Bridgeport Community Park
- Northridge Park
- Central Park

- Santa Clarita Park (and pool)
- Pamplico Park
- Bouquet Canyon Park

4.15.2 Substations**4.15.2.1 Antelope Substation**

The Antelope Substation is in the general vicinity of some of the regional recreational lands described above, but is not adjacent to or close by any of them.

4.15.2.2 Pardee Substation

The Pardee Substation is located along a developing industrial area in the City of Santa Clarita, and is not within the proximity of any recreational facilities.