

4.13 Recreation

This section describes the environmental and regulatory setting and discusses impacts associated with construction and operation of the Mesa 500-kV Substation Project (proposed project) proposed by Southern California Edison Company (SCE, or the applicant) with respect to recreation. No concerns related to recreation were raised during scoping for this project.

Construction work occurring within the fenced perimeter of 27 existing satellite substations (substations other than Mesa Substation and Goodrich Substation) would require only a few employees and would be short term. The peak number of employees required for construction of the proposed project would not increase as a result of work at these satellite substations, and there would be no direct or indirect impacts on parks and recreation facilities as a result of these components. In addition, operations-related activities at these substations would not change from existing conditions. Therefore, project activities at these substations would have no impact on recreation and are not discussed further in this section.

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed project's main components would cross or be located within incorporated and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County as discussed in Chapter 2.0, "Project Description." While construction activities would take place within specific boundaries, it is assumed that impacts on recreation could occur within 1 mile of the proposed project components.

There are more than forty recreation facilities, including parks, walking paths, hiking trails, playgrounds, athletic fields, and golf courses, within one mile of the project's main components (Google Earth Pro 2015, SCE 2015b) as shown in Figure 4.13-1. In a few locations, project activities would occur adjacent to parks or athletic fields. Construction within parks and trails would occur in several locations along Telecommunications Route 3. A portion of Telecommunications Route 3 would cross the Rio Hondo Bike Trail where the trail crosses North San Gabriel Boulevard at its intersection with Highway 19. Additionally, installation of Telecommunications Route 3 would occur along the western border of Bosque Del Rio Hondo, a recreational area, along the western border of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, and within the Whittier Narrows Natural Area just south of Durfee Avenue. Within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, proposed Telecommunications Route 3 would cross the entrance to the Whittier Narrows Bikeway. Within the Whittier Narrows Natural Area, it would cross a paved nature center trail.

4.13.2 Regulatory Setting

4.13.2.1 Federal and State

There are no federal or state regulations applicable to the proposed project with respect to recreation.

1 **4.13.2.2 Regional and Local**

2
3 **City of Monterey Park General Plan**

4 The following goal and policy from the City of Monterey Park General Plan Resources Element
5 would apply to the proposed project (City of Monterey Park 2001):

- 6
- 7 • **Goal 1.0:** *Optimize use of established public parks, and provide park facilities that meet the*
8 *needs of the City's population.*
- 9 • **Policy 1.2:** *Preserve existing park space.*

10
11 **City of Montebello General Plan**

12 The following objective from the City of Montebello General Plan Parks and Recreation Element
13 would apply to the proposed project (City of Montebello 1993):

- 14
- 15 • **Objective 3:** *Establish park and recreation space under utility easements.*

16
17 **Other General Plans**

18 General Plans for the following jurisdictions were also reviewed, but none of the goals and policies
19 related to recreation contained in these documents were found to be applicable to the proposed
20 project:

- 21
- 22 • County of Los Angeles (2015a) General Plan
- 23 • City of Bell Gardens (1995) General Plan
- 24 • City of Pasadena (2007) General Plan
- 25 • City of South El Monte (2000) General Plan
- 26 • City of Rosemead (2010) General Plan
- 27 • City of Monterey Park (2001) General Plan
- 28 • City of Commerce (2008) General Plan
- 29

This page intentionally left blank.

1 **4.13.3 Impact Analysis**

2
3 **4.13.3.1 Methodology and Significance Criteria**

4
5 Potential impacts on recreation were evaluated according to the following significance criterion.
6 The criterion was defined based on the checklist items in Appendix G of the California
7 Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The proposed project would cause a significant
8 impact on recreation if it would:

- 9
10 a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities
11 such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated
12 b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational
13 facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

14
15 Criterion (b) does not apply to the proposed project. The proposed project would not include, or
16 require the construction or expansion of, recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur
17 under this criterion, and it is not discussed further in this section.

18
19 **4.13.3.2 Applicant Proposed Measures**

20
21 There are no Applicant Proposed Measures associated with recreation.

22
23 **4.13.3.3 Environmental Impacts**

24
25 **Impact RE-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other**
26 **recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur**
27 **or be accelerated.**

28 *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT*

29
30 **Construction**

31 During peak construction periods, the applicant estimates that up to approximately 435 employees
32 could be working simultaneously on various components throughout the proposed project area.
33 This number conservatively assumes that peak construction of the proposed Mesa Substation;
34 transmission, subtransmission, and distribution relocations; and telecommunications work may all
35 occur simultaneously. The applicant anticipates that construction would be performed by either
36 the applicant's local construction crews or contractors commuting from the Los Angeles area and
37 would not require workers to relocate (SCE 2015a). However, in the event that local construction
38 crews or contractors are not available, and the applicant were to hire up to 435 non-local
39 employees for the entire duration of construction, the temporary relocation of workers to the
40 project area for approximately 55 months could result in a minor increase in the use of existing
41 neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities.

42
43 Telecommunications Route 3 would be installed on existing distribution poles along the border of
44 the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Bosque Del Rio Hondo (a recreational area), as well as
45 on existing distribution poles and within new underground conduit within the Whittier Narrows
46 Natural Area. Telecommunications Route 3 would also cross the Rio Hondo Bike Path, a county
47 maintained bike path, on existing distribution poles where the bike path crosses existing SCE ROW
48 at the intersection of San Gabriel Boulevard and Highway 19. In addition, Telecommunications

1 Route 3 would cross the entrance to the Whittier Narrows Bikeway, a bikeway that circles Legg
2 Lake, along Durfee Avenue (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works 2015). For stringing
3 work immediately adjacent to and crossing the Rio Hondo Bike Path, temporary trail closures
4 would be required as a safety precaution. For stringing work near the Whittier Narrows Bikeway
5 along Durfee Avenue, a temporary trail closure would be required as a safety precaution. However,
6 other access routes to this bike path are available and closures would be for less than a day.
7

8 Near the Whittier Narrows Nature Center, Telecommunications Route 3 would cross a paved
9 nature center trail. During construction activities for this component, portions of this trail would be
10 closed for short periods to ensure public safety. The applicant has committed to providing advance
11 notice of trail closures to the affected facilities. Recreational users may use one of several other
12 trails located within one mile of the proposed project area during closures, which could result in
13 the accelerated deterioration of those trails over an extended period of time. However, any
14 necessary trail closures would be short term (less than a day), and there are a variety of other trails
15 and recreational areas within the vicinity of the proposed project that the public may use during
16 these short disruptions.
17

18 No other project components would be located in a recreational area.
19

20 Given the number and variety of parks, trails, and other recreational facilities within 1 mile of the
21 proposed project area, as shown in Figure 4.13-1, existing recreational facilities would be adequate
22 to accommodate a temporary increase in use due to a temporary increase in construction workers
23 and this short-term trail closure without causing or accelerating substantial physical deterioration.
24 Therefore, impacts under this criterion would be less than significant.
25

26 **Operations**

27 Staffing for operation and maintenance of the proposed project would be similar to existing
28 conditions, and the applicant anticipates that existing local staff would continue to perform all
29 routine operation and maintenance tasks. Therefore, operation and maintenance of the proposed
30 project would not result in additional people recreating at project area recreational facilities. There
31 would be no impact.
32

33 **4.13.4 Mitigation Measures**

34 No mitigation measures are required.
35