

3.14 Recreation

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
14. RECREATION—Would the project:				
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"/>

3.14.1 Environmental Setting

Existing recreational and open space resources within the study area are discussed by jurisdiction below.

Federal Recreational Resources

The Proposed Project would parallel and cross through the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. This trail is a 1,210-mile historic route, beginning in Nogales, Arizona and ending in San Francisco, CA (see, e.g., Figure 2-1, *Project Location*). The trail commemorates, protects, marks and interprets the route traveled by Juan Bautista de Anza between 1774 and 1776 (NPS, 2009).

State Recreational Resources

The Proposed Project would be located approximately 1.5 miles south of the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. The park is located in the city of San Juan Bautista, 3 miles east of Highway 101 and 7 miles west of Hollister (see Figure 2-1, *Proposed Project Location and Overview*). It includes several structures built in the 1800s, as well as a blacksmith shop, a historic jail, and an early American settler's cabin (California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2009).

Local Recreational Resources

Local parks within two miles of the Proposed Project include Calaveras Park, Dunne Park, Vista Park Hill, and the Hollister Community Center. The Calaveras Park is a neighborhood park located approximately 0.5 mile south of the Hollister Pole Segment and includes a softball field, basketball courts, a playground, an amphitheater and barbeque facilities. Neighborhood parks within the City of Hollister are between three and 10 acres in area and typically service neighborhood residents within walking distance of the park. Dunne Park is also a neighborhood park and is located approximately one mile south of the Hollister Substation; this park includes tennis courts, softball fields, a playground and memorial rose garden and barbeque pits. Vista Park Hill is a community park that includes a softball field, a playground and barbeque facilities;

this park is located approximately 0.5 mile south of the Hollister Substation. Community parks within the City of Hollister are a minimum of 10 acres in area and are intended to serve all residents within the City including community and school groups. The Hollister Community Center, located just south of the Vista Park Hill, is equipped with kitchen facilities, chairs and tables (City of Hollister, 2009).

3.14.2 Regulatory Setting

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

San Benito County

Chapter 5 of the San Benito County General Plan contains the following policy that may be applicable to the Proposed Project (San Benito County, 1995).

Policy 56: Ratio of parks to population. Recreational facilities for existing and new development in the unincorporated areas of the County shall be provided to meet the needs of the population based on a ratio of five acres of park land per 1,000 persons.

Monterey County

Chapter 6 of the Monterey County General Plan includes Goal PS-11, which is to “maintain and enhance the County’s parks and trails system in order to provide recreational opportunities, preserve natural scenic resources and significant wildlife habitats, and good stewardship of open space resources.” None of the policies included under this goal would be directly applicable to the Proposed Project (Monterey County, 2007).

City of Hollister

The City of Hollister General Plan includes the following policy that may be applicable to the Proposed Project (City of Hollister, 2006).

Policy CSF4.4: Park and Recreation Standards. Provide for high-quality neighborhood and community parks to meet the recreational, open space, leisure and play needs and desire of existing and future residents. Coordinate efforts with the County of San Benito to provide an average of four acres of developed parks and recreational facilities for every 1,000 residents within the Hollister Planning Area.

3.14.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

PG&E proposes the following applicant proposed measure (APM) to minimize impacts on recreational resources from the Proposed Project. The impact analysis in this IS/MND assumes that this APM would be implemented to reduce impacts to recreational resources discussed below.

APM REC-1: Avoid Disruption of Recreational Facilities along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail during Peak Use. PG&E will limit construction activities that occur in the immediate vicinity of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to

weekdays or as otherwise permitted by the National Park Service. PG&E will ensure that the trail is fully accessible on the weekends, as well as any holidays observed by the National Park Service.

3.14.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- 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.***

Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would result in no increase in area residents or employees, given that the existing power line has been in operation for over 70 years and the Proposed Project primarily involves modifying existing infrastructure. Therefore, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would result in no change to the existing levels of use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Any impacts to on existing recreational facilities would be temporary and limited to the construction period.

The Proposed Project would result in no substantial increase in the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities because, as discussed above, the Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase in local population or housing, which typically would be associated with increased demand for such facilities. The number of construction workers that would be required to construct the Proposed Project, at its peak, would be approximately 56 crew members per day. This includes the 10-person crew anticipated for the proposed modifications at the Hollister Substation. The Proposed Project construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately 15 months, and would not result in additional staffing at the substation or along the proposed power line alignments. It is possible that construction workers could increase the use of existing park and recreation facilities. However, any such increase is not likely to be substantial and would not result in a substantial increase in demand for existing park or recreational facilities, resulting in substantial physical deterioration of existing facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

In addition to potential impacts from some increased usage of recreational facilities, the Proposed Project would include construction activities within existing recreational facilities along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Impacts to this facility would be temporary in nature. Furthermore, PG&E has committed to implementing APM REC-1, which would limit construction activities within the immediate vicinity of Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to weekdays or as otherwise permitted by the National Parks Service. PG&E would ensure that the trail is fully accessible on the weekends as well as holidays observed by the National Parks Service. Therefore, it can be assumed that construction of the Proposed Project would not cause or accelerate any substantial physical deterioration of the trail.

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 Proposed Project does not include the addition of any recreational facilities and does not require the construction of new or expansion of existing recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact in this regard.

References

California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2009. *San Juan Bautista State Historic Park*, website (http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=563), accessed December 11, 2009.

City of Hollister, 2005. *City of Hollister General Plan*, adopted on December 5, 2005.

City of Hollister, 2009. *Parks and Facilities*, website (<http://www.hollister.ca.gov/Site/html/gov/office/recreation/parkfac.asp#calaveras>), accessed December 11, 2009.

Monterey County, 2007. *2006 Monterey County General Plan, Chapter 6 – Public Services Element*, adopted January 3, 2007.

National Parks Service (NPS), 2009. *Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Today*, website (<http://www.solideas.com/DeAnza/TrailGuide/AnzaTrailToday.html>), accessed December 11, 2009.

San Benito County, 1995. *Open Space and Conservation Element Update of the San Benito County General Plan*, adopted by San Benito County Board of Supervisors on February 7, 1995.