

## C.13 Recreation

### Introduction

This section describes effects associated with recreation that would be caused by implementation of the VSSP. The following discussion addresses existing environmental conditions in the affected area, identifies and analyzes environmental impacts for the proposed Project, and recommends measures to reduce or avoid significant impacts anticipated from Project construction, operation, and maintenance. In addition, existing laws and regulations relevant to recreation are described. In some cases, compliance with these existing laws and regulations would serve to reduce or avoid certain impacts that might otherwise occur with the implementation of the proposed Project.

### Scoping Issues Addressed

During the scoping period for the EIR (May 5 through June 8, 2015), written comments were received from agencies, organizations, and the public. These written and verbal comments identified various substantive issues and concerns relevant to the EIR analysis. No issues related to recreation were raised during scoping.

#### C.13.1 Environmental Setting

The affected environment for this analysis describes existing environmental conditions that contribute to recreational resources at the time of publishing the Draft EIR ([January 2016](#)). The Project area can be characterized as low-density urban with areas of rural development. For the purposes of this analysis, the recreation study area has been defined as the area within half mile from either side of the centerline of the existing right-of-way (ROW) or other Project components. This is an appropriate study area for recreation because impacts to recreational resources (refer to Table C.13-1 below) would be more localized to the low-density development as opposed to remote, open desert areas. These recreation opportunities contribute to baseline conditions and could potentially be affected by activities related to the Project.

The Project consists of Segments 1 and 2 and is 15.4 miles in total length. It is located within unincorporated Riverside County and the cities of Menifee, Murrieta, and Temecula. Segment 1 of the Project involves construction of a new 115-kV subtransmission line originating at SCE's existing Valley 500/115-kV Substation and connecting at a tubular steel pole (TSP) located at the southeast corner of Leon Road and Benton Road, for a total of 12 miles. Segment 1 of the Project would cross through the City of Menifee, unincorporated Riverside County, and a small portion of the City of Murrieta. Segment 2 of the Project involves reconductoring a section of the existing Valley-Auld-Triton 115-kV Subtransmission Line, and begins at the TSP located at the southeast corner of Leon Road and Benton Road and continues south to the existing Terminal TSP located on the south side of Nicolas Road, for a total of 3.4 miles. Segment 2 would cross through unincorporated Riverside County and the City of Temecula. Additionally, SCE may utilize an existing material staging yard outside of Segments 1 and 2 in the City of Perris.

<b>Recreational Facility</b>	<b>Jurisdiction/ Administration</b>	<b>Distance from Project (miles)</b>	<b>Description/Uses/Facilities</b>
Double Butte County Regional Park	Riverside County	0.07	Non-developed County regional park, closed to general public
Willows Park	Riverside County	1	Basketball courts, baseball field, playground, gazebos, barbeque area, trails, and dog park
Discovery Park	Riverside County	0.35	Tree house playground and separate playground for tots, basketball courts, soccer field, gazebos, picnic benches, barbeques, and trails
Overlook Park	Riverside County	0.31	Passive park that includes landscaping and benches
Joseph Park	Riverside County	0.32	Basketball courts, walking paths, and gazebos
Central Park	Riverside County	0.11	Lighted tennis court, sand volleyball court, open fields, a canopy shaded playground, walking paths, benches, and a gazebo
Amphitheatre Park	Riverside County	0.3	Open grass areas, walking paths, and benches
Heritage Park	City of Menifee	0.65	Basketball courts, play areas, and picnic areas
Eller Park	City of Menifee	0.87	Lighted ball field, basketball courts, running/jogging track, playground equipment, and restrooms
Marion V. Ashley Community Center	City of Menifee	0.68	Gymnasium lighted ball fields, basketball courts, volleyball court, play area, picnic area, fitness trails, and restrooms
Northstar Park	City of Murrieta	0.64	Open grass areas, barbeques, picnic tables, shelters, softball fields, tot lot, and water fountains
Nicolas Road Park	City of Temecula	0.92	Basketball court, children's play area, barbeque, picnic tables, and benches
Voorburg Park	City of Temecula	0.82	Open grass area, barbeque, and picnic tables
Nakayama Park	City of Temecula	0.31	Basketball court, children's play area, barbeque, picnic tables, and shelters
Riverton Park	City of Temecula	0.44	Children's play area, barbeque, and picnic tables
Sheffield Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.85	Ball fields, soccer fields, and fitness trails
Emerald Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.75	Ball field, basketball courts, and a play area
Primrose Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.58	Volleyball court, play area, picnic area
Kona Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.37	Play area
Spencer's Crossing	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.32	Play areas, baseball fields, a picnic area, and a soccer field
Brookfield Open Space and Brookfield Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.91	Picnic area, baseball field, fitness trails, basketball courts, a volleyball court, and a play area
Leon Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.05	Picnic area, basketball courts, play areas, and fitness trails
Avignon Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.47	Basketball court
Crown Valley Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.67	Lighted ball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, and play areas
Whispering Heights Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.78	Play area
French Valley Streetscapes	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.17	Landscaping and open grass area

<b>Recreational Facility</b>	<b>Jurisdiction/ Administration</b>	<b>Distance from Project (miles)</b>	<b>Description/Uses/Facilities</b>
French Valley Community Center & Park (also referred to as the Rancho Bella Vista Community Center and Park)	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.67	Gymnasium, lighted ball fields, basketball courts, play areas, picnic areas, and restrooms
Watermill Park	Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District	0.95	Open grass areas, walking paths, and benches

Source: SCE, 2014.

### **C.13.1.1 Recreation Resources within the Vicinity of the Project**

The proposed Project crosses portions of unincorporated Riverside County, which contains several parks, trails, and recreation facilities. The proposed Project is also located within one mile of a private golf course. Currently Riverside County maintains 35 regional parks and four park and recreation districts. County recreational facilities include ball fields, equestrian facilities, trails, and cultural facilities. No federal parks or State recreation areas are located within a one-mile vicinity of the proposed Project area. Additionally, the cities within Riverside County maintain approximately 215 parks. Private recreational facilities, such as tennis/basketball courts, pools/spas, and/or playgrounds, can be found primarily in planned communities and apartment complexes. The locations of parks and recreation facilities near the proposed Project are shown on Figure C.13.1 (4.15-1 Parks and Recreational Areas). Table C.13-1 (Parks and Recreational Facilities within One Mile of the Proposed Project) presents information on parks or recreational facilities located within one mile of the proposed Project. These recreational facilities are described below, by county and city jurisdiction.

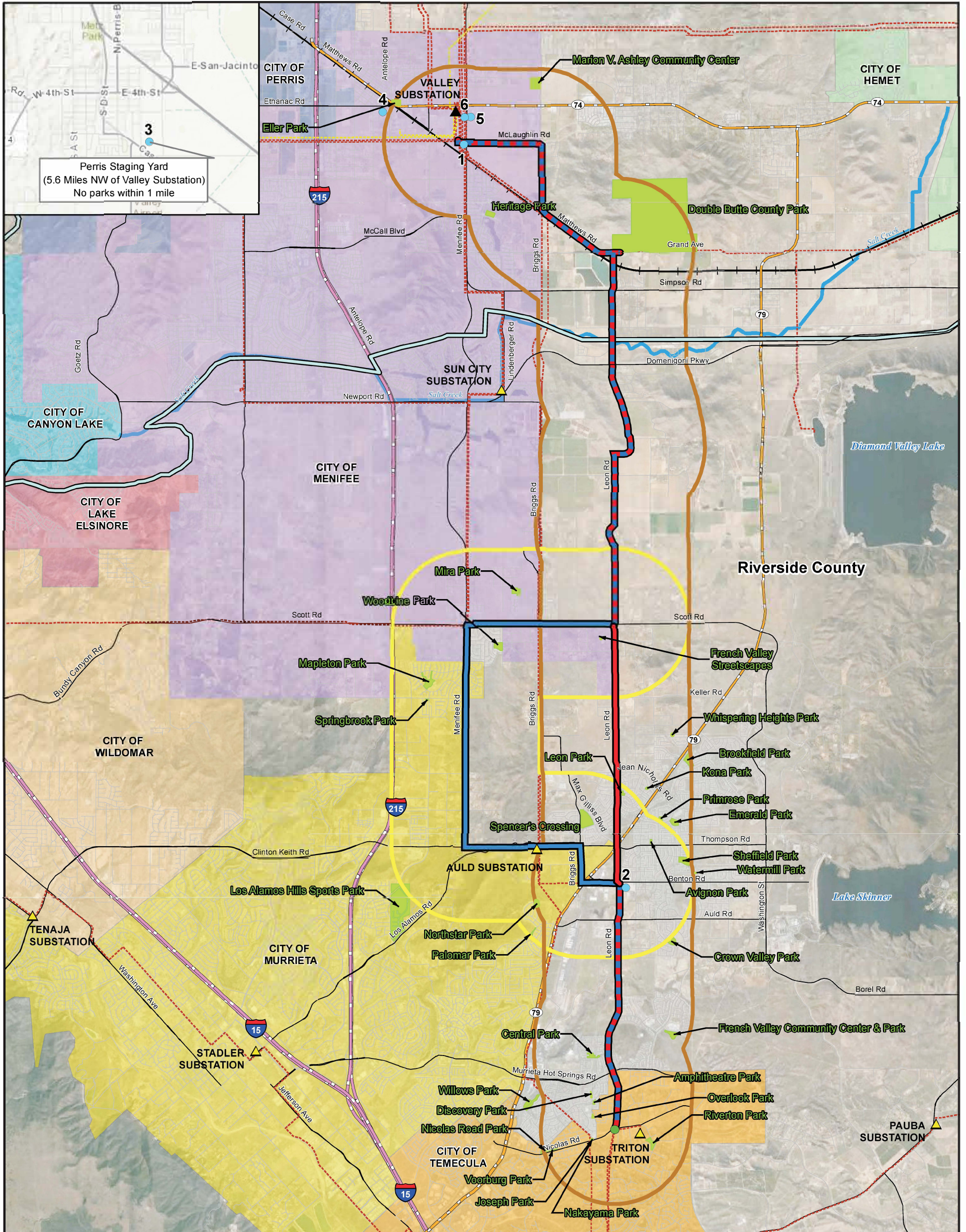
#### ***Riverside County***

The following is a brief description of the Riverside County regional and community parks located in the vicinity of Segments 1 and 2 of the proposed Project.

- **Double Butte County Regional Park.** This park consists of a steep, dual-peaked mountain located east of the proposed Project. Much of this feature was the site of a county landfill, which has since been closed. The County Regional Park is 400 to 600 acres and encompasses a limited portion of the larger physical feature of Double Butte Mountain. This former landfill area is currently an undeveloped County Regional Park that is closed to the general public (SCE, 2014). The county intends to establish recreational uses at Double Butte County Park once clean-up and mitigation measures have been completed in connection with the closure of the landfill (County of Riverside, 2014a). The western portion of Double Butte Mountain, outside of the County Regional Park area, is currently used for passive recreation, which includes informal rock climbing and bouldering use (Mountain Project, 2012).
- **Willows Park.** This park is located at 29750 Willows Avenue in unincorporated Riverside County, east of the City of Murrieta. This park is located east of the proposed Project area, encompasses 8.5 acres, and includes basketball courts, a baseball field, a playground, gazebos, barbeque area, trails, and a dog park (Riverside County Parks, 2014; Riverside County Economic Development Agency, 2009).

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**Proposed Project**

- ▬ Proposed 115 kV Subtransmission Line
- ▬ Common to Both

**Alternative Project**

- ▬ Alternative 115 kV Subtransmission Line

**Potential Material Staging Yards**

- Staging Yards 1-6

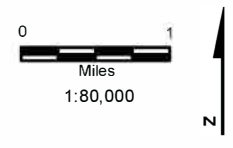
**Existing Facilities**

- ▲ 115 kV Substation
- ▲ 500 kV Substation
- Terminal TSP
- ▬ Transmission Line
- ▬ Subtransmission Line

- 1 Mile Distance from Proposed Project
- 1 Mile Distance from Alternative Project

**Parks and Recreational Areas**

- Parks
- ▬ Salt Creek Trail Bikeway System



Source: SCE, 2014.

**Figure C.13-1  
Parks and  
Recreational Areas**



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- **Discovery Park.** This park is located at 35100 Willows Avenue (along a natural gas line easement between Willows Avenue and Murrieta Hot Springs Road) in unincorporated Riverside County, east of the City of Murrieta (Riverside County Parks, 2014; Riverside County Economic Development Agency, 2009). This park is located east of the proposed Project, encompasses approximately 2 acres, and includes a tree house playground and separate playground for tots, basketball courts, a soccer field, gazebos, picnic benches, barbeques, and trails (Riverside County Parks, 2014).
- **Overlook Park.** This park is located at 29655 Joseph Road (along the north end of Joseph Road and behind Nicolas Elementary School) in unincorporated Riverside County, east of the proposed Project (Riverside County Parks, 2014; Riverside County Economic Development Agency, 2009). This is a passive park that encompasses approximately 3 acres and includes landscaping and benches (Riverside County Parks, 2014).
- **Joseph Park.** This park is located at the northwest corner of Nicolas Road and Joseph Road (generally bounded by an SCE easement between the City of Temecula’s Nakayama Park and Riverside County Flood Control bike path) in unincorporated Riverside County, east of the proposed Project (Riverside County Parks, 2014; Riverside County Economic Development Agency, 2009). This park encompasses approximately 1 acre and includes basketball courts, walking paths, and gazebos (Riverside County Parks, 2014).
- **Central Park.** This park is located at 30666 Central Park Drive located in unincorporated Riverside County between the City of Murrieta and Mount San Jacinto, east of the proposed Project (Riverside County Parks, 2014; Riverside County Economic Development Agency, 2009). This park encompasses approximately 5 acres and includes a lighted tennis court, a sand volleyball court, open fields, a canopy shaded playground, walking paths, benches, and a gazebo (Riverside County Parks, 2014).
- **Amphitheatre Park.** This park is located on the south side of Willows Avenue along a Sempra gas line easement in unincorporated Riverside County, east of the proposed Project (Riverside County Economic Development Agency, 2009). This park encompasses approximately 2 acres and includes open grass areas, walking paths, and benches (Google Earth, Pro, 2012 and 2014).

### ***City of Menifee***

The following is a brief description of the City of Menifee parks located in the vicinity of the proposed Project.

- **Heritage Park.** This park is located at McCall Boulevard and Heritage Lake Drive in the northeast area of the City of Menifee, west of the proposed Project. This park encompasses 5.5 acres and includes basketball courts, play areas, and picnic areas (Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District, 2015a). This park is currently administered by the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District (City of Menifee, 2014).
- **Eller Park.** This park is located at 25926 Antelope Road in the City of Menifee, northwest of the proposed Project. This park encompasses 5 acres and includes a lighted ball field, basketball courts, running/jogging track, playground equipment, and restroom facilities (Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District, 2015a). This park is currently administered by the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District (City of Menifee, 2014).
- **Marion V. Ashley Community Center.** This center is located at 25625 Briggs Road in the City of Menifee, north of the proposed Project. This center encompasses 12 acres and includes a gymnasium, lighted ball fields, basketball courts, volleyball court, play area, picnic area, fitness trails, and restrooms (Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District, 2015a). This park is currently administered by the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District (City of Menifee, 2014).

### ***City of Murrieta***

Northstar Park is located at 36728 Pictor Avenue in the City of Murrieta, east of the proposed Project (MapQuest, 2015). This park encompasses approximately 14 acres and includes, open grass areas,

barbeques, picnic tables, shelters, softball fields, tot lot, and water fountains (City of Murrieta, 2014; City of Murrieta, 2011a; Google Earth, Pro, 2012 and 2014).

### ***City of Temecula***

The following is a brief description of the City of Temecula parks located in the vicinity of the proposed Project.

- **Nicolas Road Park.** This park is located at 39955 Nicolas Road in the City of Temecula, southeast of the proposed Project area. This park encompasses 2.93 acres and includes a basketball court, children's play area, barbeques, picnic tables, and benches (City of Temecula, 2014).
- **Voorburg Park.** This park is located at 39960 Nicolas Road in the City of Temecula, southeast of the proposed Project. This park encompasses 0.75 acre and includes an open grass area, barbeques, and picnic tables.
- **Nakayama Park.** This park is located at 30592 Nicolas Road in the City of Temecula, southeast of the proposed Project. This park encompasses 0.28 acre and includes a basketball court, a children's play area, barbeques, picnic tables, and shelters (City of Temecula, 2014).
- **Riverton Park.** This park is located at 30950 Riverton Lane in the City of Temecula, southwest of the proposed Project. This park encompasses 4.94 acres and includes a children's play area, barbeques, and picnic tables (City of Temecula, 2014).

### ***Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District***

A number of neighborhood parks located within cities or unincorporated Riverside County communities are operated by the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District. This district was founded in 1972 as a special district to focus on recreation and parks. The following is a brief description of the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District's parks in unincorporated Riverside County in the vicinity of the proposed Project area (Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District, 2015b).

- **Sheffield Park** is located at the corner of Genoa Street and Pourroy Road in Winchester, encompasses 14 acres, and includes ball fields, soccer fields, and fitness trails.
- **Emerald Park** is located at the corner of Emerald Drive and Algarve Avenue in Winchester, encompasses seven acres, and includes a ball field, basketball courts, and a play area.
- **Primrose Park** is located at the corner of Cloche Drive and McCartney Drive in Winchester, encompasses three acres, and includes a volleyball court, play area, and picnic area.
- **Kona Park** is located at Waimea Way in Winchester, encompasses one acre, and includes a play area.
- **Spencer's Crossing** is located at Thompson Road and Leon Road in Winchester, encompasses 11.5 acres, and includes play areas, baseball fields, restrooms, a picnic area, and a soccer field.
- **Brookfield Open Space and Brookfield Park** are located at Winchester Road and Pourroy Road in Winchester and encompass a total of 74 acres (12 acres for the park and 62 acres for the open space). The park includes a picnic area, baseball field, fitness trails, basketball courts, a volleyball court, and a play area.
- **Leon Park** is located at the corner of Euclid Loop and Saguaro Drive in Winchester, encompasses five acres, and includes a picnic area, basketball courts, play areas, and fitness trails.
- **Avignon Park** is located at the corner of Avignon Road and Thompson Road in Winchester, encompasses 0.5 acre, and includes a basketball court.
- **Crown Valley Park** is located at the corner of High Vista Drive and Shadetree Drive in unincorporated Riverside County, encompasses seven acres, and includes lighted ball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, and play areas.



- **Whispering Heights Park** is located near the intersection of Pat Road and Slough Road in unincorporated Riverside County and includes a play area.
- **French Valley Streetscapes** is located near the intersection of Perrine Street and Aaron Road in unincorporated Riverside County, and includes landscaping and open grass areas.
- **French Valley Community Center & Park** (also known as Rancho Bella Vista Community Center & Park) is located at 31757 Browning Street in unincorporated Riverside County, encompasses seven acres, and includes a gymnasium, lighted ball fields, basketball courts, play areas, picnic areas, and restrooms.
- **Watermill Park** is located at Spun Cotton Drive and Round Coral Drive in Winchester, encompasses one acre, and includes open grass areas, walking paths, and benches.

### ***Other Recreational Areas***

- **Highland Palms Mobile Homes Golf Course** is a private nine-hole golf course located 0.6 mile east of the proposed Project.

### ***Trails***

Riverside County contains multi-purpose trails that accommodate hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian users as an integral part of the county's circulation system. The cities of Murrieta and Temecula also contain multi-purpose trails and bike lanes (Class II bike lanes, which consist of paved bike lanes that follow arterial roadways) that accommodate hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian users as an integral part of the cities' circulation systems (City of Murrieta, 2011b; City of Temecula, 2005). Trails located in the vicinity of the proposed Project area are shown in Figure C.13-2 (4.15-2 Trail Locations).

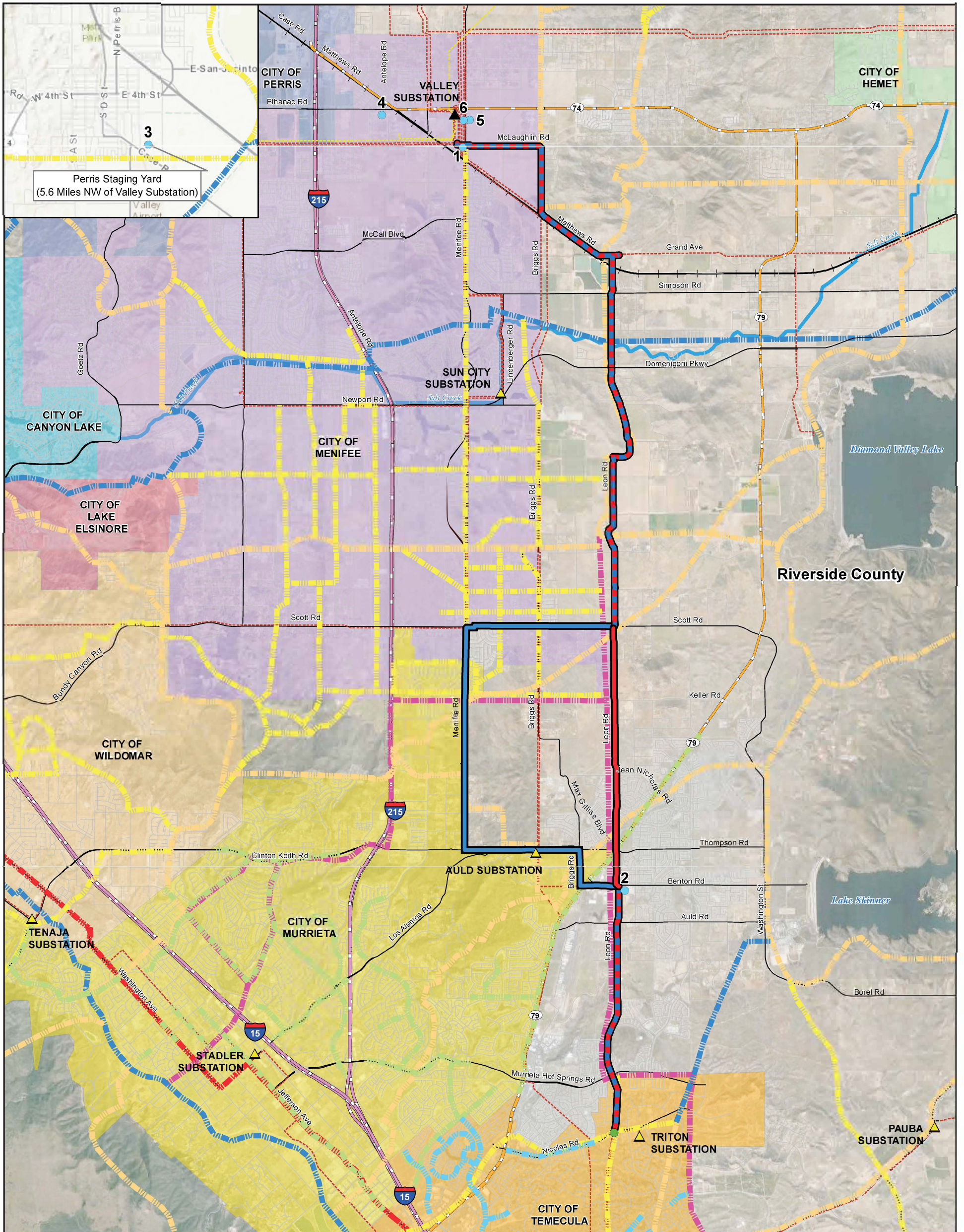
- An existing regional trail runs along Briggs Road and Leon Road to Garbani Road, which would be located within one mile and parallel to the proposed Project.
- A Class I Bike Path exists from the intersection of Leon Road and Garbani Road, south to Benton Road; this bike lane runs parallel to the proposed Project.
- A Class I Bike Path exists from the southeast corner of Leon Road and Benton Road, south to Murrieta Hot Springs Road; this bike path runs parallel to the proposed Project.
- An informal community trail exists from the intersection of Chandler Drive and Murrieta Hot Springs Road, south to Nicolas Road; this informal community trail also runs parallel to the proposed Project.

Trails that would be crossed by the proposed Project include:

- The Salt Creek Recreational Trail and levee road, which is an informal neighborhood walking path parallel to Old Leon Road (referred to as Old Leon Road in this analysis). The Salt Creek Recreation Trail/levee road parallels Salt Creek (channelized in this area) and is located south of Olive Avenue. The Salt Creek Recreational Trail currently receives minimal use due to the lack of existing development in the area it traverses. However, this trail is categorized as a Class I Bike Path/Regional Trail in the County of Riverside General Plan and Harvest Valley/Winchester Area Plan. The walking path parallel to Old Leon Road is paved and portions are landscaped; however, it is not an officially designated trail by the county (County of Riverside, 2014b). During a site visit by SCE in February 2012, active recreational use of this trail was observed.
- A Class II Bike Lane along State Route (SR) 79, which is a paved bike lane located along SR-79 in the City of Murrieta.

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<p><b>Proposed Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Proposed 115 kV Subtransmission Line</li> <li><span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Common to Both</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternative Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Alternative 115 kV Subtransmission Line</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential Material Staging Yards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue; font-size: 1.2em;">●</span> Staging Yards 1-6</li> </ul>	<p><b>Existing Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: yellow; font-size: 1.2em;">▲</span> 115 kV Substation</li> <li><span style="color: black; font-size: 1.2em;">▲</span> 500 kV Substation</li> <li><span style="color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">●</span> Terminal TSP</li> <li><span style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Transmission Line</li> <li><span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Subtransmission Line</li> </ul>	<p><b>Riverside County Trails</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Class 1 Bike Path/Regional Trail</li> <li><span style="color: pink; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Class 1 Bike Path</li> <li><span style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Class 2 Bike Path (Murrieta)</li> <li><span style="color: lightblue; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Class 2 Bike Path (Temecula)</li> <li><span style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Regional Trail</li> <li><span style="color: yellow; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Community Trail</li> <li><span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">▬</span> Historic Trail</li> </ul>
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Miles  
1:80,000

**Figure C.13-2**  
**Trail Locations**



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## **C.13.2 Regulatory Framework**

The Project would traverse through the sphere of influence of unincorporated Riverside County and the cities of Menifee, Murrieta, and Temecula. The following is a discussion of the federal, State, county, and local plans and policies that would be applicable to the proposed Project.

### **C.13.2.1 Federal**

There are no federal regulations related to parks and recreational facilities that would apply to the proposed Project.

### **C.13.2.2 State**

#### ***California Department of Fish and Wildlife***

The mission of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. This includes habitat protection and maintenance in a sufficient amount and quality to ensure the survival of all species and natural communities. The department is also responsible for the diversified use of fish and wildlife, including recreational uses such as fishing and hunting as regulated under CDFW codes.

### **C.13.2.3 Local**

#### ***County of Riverside General Plan***

##### ***Multipurpose Open Space Element***

- ***Policy OS 20.2:*** Prevent unnecessary extension of public facilities, services, and utilities for urban uses into Open Space-Conservation designated areas
- ***Policy OS 20.3:*** Discourage the absorption of dedicated park lands by non-recreational uses, public or private. Where absorption is unavoidable, replace park lands that are absorbed by other uses with similar or improved facilities and programs

##### ***Land Use Element***

- ***Policy LU 5.1:*** Ensure that development does not exceed the ability to adequately provide supporting infrastructure and services, such as libraries, recreational facilities, transportation systems, and fire/police/medical services

#### ***City of Menifee***

The Open Space and Conservation Element does not contain any specific goals or policies relevant to electric utility projects.

#### ***City of Murrieta***

The Recreation and Open Space Element does not contain any specific goals or policies relevant to electric utility projects.

#### ***City of Temecula***

The Open Space/Conservation Element does not contain any specific goals or policies relevant to electric utility projects.

### City of Perris

The City of Perris General Plan Open Space Element does not contain any specific goals or policies relevant to electric utility projects.

### C.13.3 Applicant-Proposed Measures

In its Preliminary Proponent’s Environmental Assessment (PEA), SCE has listed a number of Applicant-Proposed Measures (APMs) that are designed to reduce impacts from the proposed Project. Table C.13-2 includes APM TRA-1, which applies to recreation.

Table C.13-2. Applicant-Proposed Measures – Recreation	
APM	APM Description
APM TRA-1	Traffic control or other management plans would be prepared where necessary to minimize proposed Project impacts on local streets, highways (State Route [SR]74 and SR-79), freeways, or other forms of transportation (Class I and Class II bicycle routes).

Source: SCE, 2014 (PEA Table 3.13).

### C.13.4 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Recreational facilities and opportunities in the area were evaluated to determine whether they would be adversely affected by the proposed Project. This evaluation included consideration of the overall number and area of parklands or other recreational facilities and proximity (within one mile) to the proposed Project.

#### C.13.4.1 Criteria for Determining Significance

The proposed Project would result in significant impacts to Recreation if it would:

- Criterion REC1: 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.
- Criterion REC2: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

#### C.13.4.2 Impact Analysis – Direct and Indirect Effects

***Impact REC-1 (Criterion REC1): The Project could cause physical deterioration to existing neighborhood and regional parks. (Class III)***

##### *Construction*

Proposed Project construction would be performed by either SCE construction personnel or contractors. SCE construction personnel would typically be based at SCE’s local facilities, (e.g., service centers, substation, transmission ROW) or at one of the six potential temporary material staging yards for the proposed Project. Contractor construction personnel would be managed by SCE and/or contractor construction management personnel and would be based out of the contractor’s existing yard or potential temporary material staging yard set up for the proposed Project. SCE anticipates approximately 67 construction personnel working on any given day. Construction personnel may occasionally utilize parks for lunch, but this would be a short-term temporary occurrence. Existing parks and recreation facilities within the proposed Project area would have sufficient capacity to accommodate this potential minor increase in use. Therefore, construction personnel would not cause physical deterioration to existing recreational facilities and the impact would be less than significant (Class III).

### *Operation and Maintenance*

O&M of the proposed Project would not introduce new population in the area that would increase the use of any existing neighborhood or regional parks. The proposed 115-kV subtransmission and associated components and the reconducted Valley-Auld-Triton 115-kV subtransmission Line would be controlled remotely through SCE control systems and manually in the field as required. Maintenance personnel who might visit the route from time-to-time may want to occasionally utilize a park for lunch, but this is likely to be infrequent and would not represent a notable increase in user population. Therefore, operation personnel would not cause physical deterioration to existing neighborhood or regional parks and the impact would be less than significant (Class III).

### ***Impact REC-2 (Criterion REC1): Construction or operation could cause physical deterioration to existing trails, bike paths, or pedestrian sidewalks (Class II)***

#### *Construction*

The proposed Project would run parallel to or cross existing trails, Class I Bike Paths and Class II Bike Lanes, and pedestrian sidewalks. In areas where the proposed Project would run parallel to existing trails, Class I Bike Paths and Class II Bike Lanes, and pedestrian sidewalks, it would not block or hinder the flow of bike or trail traffic during construction. However, the proposed Project could result in temporary interruption to existing trails, Class I Bike Paths and Class II Bike Lanes, and pedestrian sidewalks during construction. Several stringing (pulling, tensioning, and splicing) sites are proposed where a trail, bike path or bike lane would cross between the poles or under the circuits. Construction activity would have short-term and temporary effects on these existing bike paths and trail. SCE would implement APM TRA-1 to reduce potential impacts related to Class I Bike Paths, Class II Bike Lanes, pedestrian sidewalks, and trails.

In addition, the project would be placed in an existing recreational trail in an established residential community along Leon Road between Branding Iron Court south to Bonsai Circle. During construction, the use of this recreational trail would be limited. To reduce impacts to the recreational trail and other trails or areas that might be affected, Mitigation Measure REC-1 (*Identify and Provide Noticing of Alternative Recreation Areas*) would be implemented to provide alternative routes or trails and to notify residents of the construction schedule. Mitigation Measure AES-2 (*Minimize Vegetation Removal and Ground Disturbance*) would reduce the amount of vegetation removed during construction to reduce visual impacts. With the implementation of these measures, construction personnel would reduce physical deterioration to existing trails, bike paths, or pedestrian sidewalks, and impacts would be less than significant (Class II).

### *Operation and Maintenance*

O&M of the proposed Project would not block or hinder the use of existing recreational trails. Subtransmission lines are generally compatible with trails because the components would be located at an elevated height that would not interfere with ground activities such as trail use. Where the proposed Project would cross over the top of trails, bike paths and lanes, pedestrians and bicyclists would be able to pass between the poles and underneath the circuits. No physical barriers would prevent access and movement along these trails, bike paths, and lanes. Thus, O&M would not cause physical deterioration to existing trails, bike paths, or pedestrian sidewalks, and impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

### ***Mitigation Measures for Impact REC-1***

**AES-2 Minimize Vegetation Removal and Ground Disturbance.** (Section C.2 Aesthetics)

**REC-1 Identify and Provide Noticing of Alternative Affected Recreation Areas.** SCE shall coordinate with applicable local or regional agencies and/or an agency representative(s) for all recreational areas affected by Project construction for the following purposes:

- Identify recreational areas (e.g. trails) that would be closed or limited in use during Project construction activities;
- To the extent feasible, in coordination with agency representative(s), for recreation areas that would be unavailable to the public due to Project construction, schedule construction activities to avoid heavy recreational use periods (including major holidays);
- Post a public notice that identifies construction information (e.g. schedule, contact person) at or near the recreational areas affected by Project construction; and
- Restore affected recreational areas to pre-construction conditions as agreed upon between SCE and the local or regional agencies and/or agency representative(s).

SCE shall document these coordination efforts with local and regional agencies and/or an agency representative(s), and identify how noticing and restoration at affected recreational use areas will be accomplished.

**Criterion REC2: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.**

#### *Construction*

The proposed Project would involve constructing a proposed 115-kV subtransmission line and associated components, removal and reconfiguration of existing pole structures, modifications to the existing Valley 500/115-kV Substation, and reconductoring a section of the existing Valley-Auld-Triton 115-kV subtransmission Line. Construction of the proposed Project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Proposed Project activities would not induce population growth that would lead to substantial increases in the use of or demand for recreational facilities. Therefore, the proposed Project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and no impact would occur.

#### *Operation*

O&M of the proposed 115-kV subtransmission line and associated components and reconducted Valley-Auld-Triton 115-kV subtransmission Line would be controlled remotely through SCE control systems, and manually in the field, as required. As such, the proposed Project would not introduce a new population of employees into the area that would require the construction of new, or the expansion of existing recreational facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

### **C.13.4.3 Cumulative Impacts**

#### ***Geographic Extent/Context***

The recreation study area includes recreational resources within a mile of the proposed Project site. This is an appropriate study area for recreation because it captures all major recreation resources that contribute to baseline conditions and could potentially be affected by activities related to the proposed Project.



### ***Existing Cumulative Conditions***

Past and present projects occurring in the vicinity of the proposed Project include recreational activities, residential development, and commercial development. Potential cumulative recreation impacts surrounding the proposed Project may result from the new structures and activities that could restrict access to recreational resources and physically degrade existing recreational facilities and resources.

### ***Cumulative Impact Analysis***

The potential for recreation impacts of the proposed Project (described in Section C.13.4.2) to combine with the effects of other proposed, planned, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, as listed in Table C.1-1, that are within the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis are described below for each significance criterion.

#### **Criterion REC1: 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.**

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would have short-term effects on neighborhood and regional parks and recreational access to existing trails, Class I Bike Paths, Class II Bike Lanes, and pedestrian sidewalks. SCE would implement APM TRA-1 to reduce potential impacts related to Class I Bike Paths, Class II Bike Lanes, pedestrian sidewalks, and trails. To further reduce impacts, Mitigation Measure REC-1 (*Identify and Provide Noticing of Alternative Recreation Areas*) would be implemented to provide alternative recreation areas and Mitigation Measure AES-2 (*Minimize Vegetation Removal and Ground Disturbance*) would reduce visual impacts at these recreational areas. These measures would reduce physical deterioration to existing trails, bike paths, or pedestrian sidewalks.

Recreational facility use could increase incrementally with the cumulative projects listed in Table C.1-1; however, compliance with open space/recreation requirements for future cumulative development would ensure that impacts on recreation resources would not be cumulatively considerable. Impacts to recreation caused by construction and O&M of the cumulative projects would be addressed by the respective local agencies during each project's CEQA process. Therefore, construction and O&M of the proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact related to the increase in use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities.

#### **Criterion REC2: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.**

Construction of the proposed Project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Proposed Project activities would not induce population growth that would lead to substantial increases in the use of or demand for recreational facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur and the proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact related to the inclusion, construction, or expansion of recreational facilities.

### **C.13.4.4 Impact and Mitigation Summary**

This section summarizes the conclusions of the impact analysis and associated mitigation measures presented in Section C.13.4.2. The table below lists each impact identified for the proposed Project, along with the significance of each impact.

<b>Table C.13-3. Impact and Mitigation Summary – Recreation</b>		
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Significance Conclusion</b>	<b>Reason for Conclusion</b>
<b>REC-1:</b> The Project could cause physical deterioration to existing neighborhood and regional parks.	Class III	Construction and operation personnel may occasionally utilize parks for lunch, but this would be a short-term temporary occurrence. Existing parks and recreation facilities within the Project area would have sufficient capacity to accommodate this potential minor increase in use.
<b>REC-2:</b> The Project could cause physical deterioration to existing trails, bike paths, or pedestrian sidewalks.	Class II	Construction activity would have short-term and temporary effects on the flow of bike or trail traffic. <b>Mitigation Measure REC-1</b> ( <i>Identify and Provide Noticing of Affected Alternative Recreation Areas</i> ) and <b>Mitigation Measure AES-2</b> ( <i>Minimize Vegetation Removal and Ground Disturbance</i> ) would reduce impacts at recreational areas.

- Class I:** **Significant impact; cannot be mitigated to a level that is not significant.** A Class I impact is a significant adverse effect that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance through the application of feasible mitigation measures. Class I impacts are significant and unavoidable.
- Class II:** **Significant impact; can be mitigated to a level that is not significant.** A Class II impact is a significant adverse effect that can be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of feasible mitigation measures presented in this EIR.
- Class III:** **Adverse; less than significant.** A Class III impact is a minor change or effect on the environment that does not meet or exceed the criteria established to gauge significance.
- Class IV:** **Beneficial impact.** A Class IV impact represents a beneficial effect that would result from project implementation.