

**4.15 RECREATION**

This section describes recreation resources and opportunities within the proposed project area for Segments 2 and 3 of the Antelope Transmission Project (refer to Figure 3-1).

**4.15.1 Segment 2 (Antelope to Vincent)**

The proposed Segment 2 T/L route originates at the Antelope Substation in the western end of the City of Lancaster. From there the route extends to the southeast through the western area of Lancaster and into the City of Palmdale. After crossing the southern area of Palmdale, including the recently annexed Ritter Ranch area and the proposed Anaverde development area, the route extends for another 5.5 miles to the southeast to SR 14. After crossing SR 14, the T/L route turns to the south for 1 mile, and terminates at the Vincent Substation adjacent to the Angeles Forest Highway. The proposed Segment 2 500 kV T/L route parallels an existing T/L corridor over much of its length. However, within the Ritter Ranch and Anaverde areas, the route generally follows the northern, western, and southern boundaries, thereby avoiding the central major development area (Figure 3-2, sheet 2 of 3). If the Alternative AV2 T/L route was selected, then the T/L would traverse the core development area of the Ritter Ranch Specific Plan.

There are no major recreational areas or features crossed by this route. It does traverse some relatively remote hilly areas in the south end of Palmdale, and it skirts federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management southeast of Palmdale.

The following paragraphs describe recreational features in the region, and their relationship to the proposed Segment 2 route in more detail.

**4.15.1.1 Lancaster**

There are many city parks within Lancaster, but none are located near the Antelope Substation or any portion of the proposed Segment 2 T/L route. The nearest park is George Lane Park, approximately 5 miles to the southeast of the Antelope Substation and about 2 miles northeast of the Segment 2 route at its closest point.

**4.15.1.2 Palmdale**

The City of Palmdale also has many parks, but none are along the proposed route for the Segment 2 T/L between the Antelope and Vincent substations. The nearest Palmdale park is the A.C. Warnack Nature Park, which is east of Goode Hill Road and south of the California Aqueduct between 50th Street West and 55th Street West. This hilly and undeveloped park occupies about 120 acres covered mainly with native vegetation, and is accessible via a series

of trails from Goode Hill Road. Existing 500 kV and 220 kV T/Ls pass approximately 0.5 mile to the southwest of the park.

As described above, the proposed T/L route would loop around the core residential development areas of the Ritter Ranch and Anaverde specific plan areas. This route would be within proposed natural open space areas; however, the route would likely intercept various equestrian/bicycling/hiking trails, views/vistas, and special use areas. For reference, the depictions of those recreational features are presented in Exhibit 5 of the Ritter Ranch Specific Plan (Robert Bein, William Frost & Associates, 1992) and Exhibit 16 of the City Ranch (Anaverde) Specific Plan (Azeka De Almeida Planning, 1992c). If the Alternative AV2 T/L route were selected, there would be the potential that the T/L would be in proximity to a community center, elementary school, park, and swim center.

#### **4.15.1.3 Los Angeles Unincorporated Areas**

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. Both are 15 to 20 miles to the southwest.

Specialty parks or reserves in the region include:

- Vasquez Rocks Park, County Park along SR 14 approximately 10 miles west of the Vincent Substation at the southern end of the Segment 2 route
- Placerita Canyon Nature Center, a State-County preserve, located east of SR 14 and about 15 miles southwest of the Vincent 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 2 – Antelope to Vincent T/L route.

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, or either of the two substations associated with Segment 2 of the project.

#### **4.15.1.4 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.

#### **4.15.1.5 Vincent Substation**

The Vincent Substation is located south of SR 14 near its junction with the Angeles Forest Highway, which is a major access route to the Angeles National Forest. Although the substation is accessed from the Angeles Forest Highway, none of the transmission route or substation improvements would directly affect the highway.

#### **4.15.2 Segment 3 (Antelope to Substations One and Two)**

The Segment 3 proposed and Alternative A and Alternative B T/L routes originate at the Antelope Substation in the western end of the City of Lancaster. All three routes proceed in a northward direction through Los Angeles County and in a northward and northeastern trending direction within Kern County to their junctures with Proposed Substation One, 1A, and 1B, respectively (Figure 3-3).

The proposed 220 kV Substation One to Substation Two and Alternative C T/L line routes trend westward and northward over the Tehachapi Mountains to proposed and alternative Substation Two locations in the Tehachapi Valley (Figure 3-3).

From a regional perspective, all of the Antelope to Substation One and Two proposed alternative T/L routes and substation locations are within a relatively narrow corridor, little more than 2 miles apart at their widest. Unless noted otherwise herein, the Segment 3 project is discussed as a single corridor or facility when discussing its relationship to regional recreational facilities.

There are several parks and recreational facilities in the area, but none are located on or even adjacent to, any of the T/L route alternatives or substation location alternatives. The most notable is Tehachapi Mountain Park. Operated by Kern County, Tehachapi Mountain Park contains about 5,000 acres of picturesque hillsides, located about 6 miles to the southwest of the Substation Two site. Camping, hiking, equestrian activities, and nature exploring are all available at the park.

The proposed 220 kV T/L route between Substations One and Two crosses the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail at approximately MP 30.5 (refer to Figure 3-3) of Segment 3, and the Alternative C 220 kV T/L route crosses the trail at approximately MP 5.2. In addition, the Pacific Crest Trail traverses the middle of Alternate Substation 1C. The area where the proposed (and alternate) project components intersect the Pacific Crest Trail are in the vicinity of existing roads and/or existing and planned wind farm development.

At the southern end of the Segment 3 project, the Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve is located about 6 miles northwest from the Antelope Substation. The preserve is owned by the State of California and is used for passive recreation. At its closest approach, the Alternative B alignment for Segment 3 would be about 2 miles east of the preserve. There are two other T/L corridors between the preserve and the Segment 3 corridor (refer to Figure 3-1).