

**5.15 RECREATION****5.15.1 Significance Criteria**

The significance criteria listed below for Recreation were derived from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Impacts to Recreation would be considered potentially significant if the project would:

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

**5.15.2 Segment 2 – Antelope to Vincent****5.15.2.1 Lancaster**

Construction activities along the proposed 500 kV T/L route (including modifications to the existing Antelope substation) would not impinge on or otherwise affect any City parks, County parks and facilities, or state preserves in this area. Therefore, no adverse effects to recreational uses in this area would be expected to occur.

**5.15.2.2 Palmdale**

No Palmdale City parks would be crossed by or are near any portion of the Segment 2 500 kV T/L route. Goode Hill Road, which provides access to the A.C. Warnack Nature Park would be crossed by the route approximately 0.5 mile west of the park. No direct effects on the park are anticipated.

The only recreational facility or planned facility in this area of the Segment 2 project that might be affected by project construction would be a trail or trails along the California Aqueduct. In general terms, any trails crossed by the construction operations would be subject to temporary disturbance or closure for safety reasons during construction. Any such crossings or disturbance would require approvals by the County (or other responsible agency) and would be subject to conditions that would require appropriate planning, noticing, safety warning and control, and restoration, if necessary.

**5.15.2.3 Los Angeles County Unincorporated Areas**

No Los Angeles County or regional recreational facilities are located in areas that would be crossed by or directly affected by construction of the proposed Segment 2 500 kV and 220 kV T/L route.

**5.15.3 Segment 3 – Antelope to Substations One and Two****5.15.3.1 T/L Routes**

Since there are no parks, preserves, or other recreational facilities along the Segment 3 500 kV T/L route between the Antelope Substation and Substation One (including Alternatives A and B), no significant impacts are expected regarding recreational resources. Distances of 2-5 miles separate the facilities from the nearest parks or preserves, thus there would be no direct effects on them.

In the northern, 220 kV portion of the Segment 3 T/L route, views from Tehachapi Mountain Park include SR 58, roadways, the wind energy resource area, rural areas, and disturbed land. Construction of the Segment 3 facilities would have no impact on activities in Tehachapi Mountain Park. However, the proposed 220 kV T/L route between Substations One and Two and Alternative C both cross the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail at approximately MP 30.5 and MP 5.2, respectively. Additionally, the Pacific Crest Trail traverses the location of Alternate Substation C.

Construction and operation of the proposed 220 kV T/L (or Alternate C) across this portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail would be considered adverse, but less than significant, since there are existing roads and existing and planned wind farm development in this same area (i.e., developed, not pristine).

In the southern portion of the Segment 3 500 kV T/L route, there are two other powerline corridors between Segment 3 and the Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve. These existing features and the intervening distance of at least 2 miles, would make the effect of the new Segment 3 500 kV T/L insignificant from the preserve.

**5.15.3.2 Segment 3 Substations**

None of the Substation One or Two proposed or alternative locations is near any established parks. As discussed in Section 5.15.3.1, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail traverses the wind farm area, including the Alternate 1C Substation location. Construction of Alternative Substation C would be regarded as an adverse and significant impact upon the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The trail is regulated pursuant to the National Trails System Act of 1968 (Act), jointly by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. As such,

impacts to the trail R-O-W at the Alternative Substation 1C site would have to be coordinated with the involved federal entities subject to the provisions of Section 7(a) through (k), and Section 9(a) through (f), of the Act.

**5.15.4 Mitigation Measures**

With regard to the proposed Segments 2 and 3 500 kV and 220 kV T/L facilities, no significant adverse construction or operation effects on regional recreational resources are expected, therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.