

5.15 Recreation

RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

5.15.1 Setting

Kern County contains numerous county, state, and federal parks and recreation areas and public open space areas. The Kern County Parks and Recreation Department maintains neighborhood and community parks throughout the County as well as several regional recreation areas. These facilities include scenic and view areas, playgrounds, competitive sports fields, multi-use trails, picnic grounds, campgrounds, water sports parts, and winter snow sports parks. There are approximately 400 acres of park and recreation facilities in the County (Kern County, 2004).

See Figure 5.15-1 for recreation resources in the Proposed Project vicinity. The nearest park to the proposed substation site is the Brite Valley Aquatic Recreation Area, located 3 miles northeast of the site. There are three public parks located within 1 mile of proposed telecommunications components. These recreational facilities include the Brite Lake Aquatic Recreation Area, Meadowbrook Park, and Philip Marx Central Park, which are described below (SCE, 2014):

- **Brite Lake Aquatic Recreation Area:** Located 3 miles northeast of the substation site and 200 feet south of proposed Telecommunications Route 1, is a 90-acre man-made lake with picnic and camping sites.
- **Meadowbrook Park:** Located approximately 7.3 miles northeast of the proposed substation site and 1-mile north of proposed Telecommunications Route 2, Meadowbrook Park is an 8-acre park with 3 baseball fields, a playground, restrooms, a snack bar, and a picnic pavilion. There is also a Frisbee Golf Course and a dog park.
- **Philip Marx Central Park:** Located approximately 9 miles northeast of the proposed substation site and 0.25 miles south of proposed Telecommunications Route 2, Philip Marx Central Park is a 5-acre park with a central gazebo, picnic tables, a playground, and a hall used for youth groups and special indoor events.

In addition to these, there are a number of public parks, open spaces, and recreational areas located in the City of Tehachapi (including West Park, Tehachapi City Park, Dye Natatorium, Tehachapi Mountain Park) and the region (including Kern River State Park, Sequoia National Forest, Fort Tejon State Historical Park, and Red Rock Canyon Recreation Area).

Regulatory Background

Federal

There are no Federal regulations, plans, and standards for population and housing that would apply to the Proposed Project.

State

There are no State regulations, plans, and standards for population and housing that would apply to the Proposed Project.

Local

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order No. 131-D, Section XIV B states that “local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations, or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters.” As a public utility project that is subject to the jurisdiction of the CPUC, the Proposed Project is exempt from local regulation and discretionary permits. As such, the regional and local regulatory standards are provided in this analysis for informational purposes only.

Kern County General Plan. The goals and policies of the General Plan’s Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element include preserving valuable natural resources and ensuring the provision of adequate public services, including parks and recreation (Kern County, 2009). These goals and policies include the following:

- Public Facilities and Services Goal 8: Provide recreation opportunities for all citizens of Kern County while avoiding duplication between jurisdictions.
- Public Facilities and Services Goal 13: Provide a variety of park and recreation programs that offer safe, equitable, and balanced recreation opportunities for all residents and visitors.
- Public Facilities and Services Policy 5: Seek to provide recreational facilities where deficiencies have been identified.

Greater Tehachapi Area Specific and Community Plan. The Greater Tehachapi Area (GTA) is a term used to describe a collection of unincorporated communities located in eastern Kern County along State Route (SR) 58 between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert (Kern County, 2010). The GTA generally encompasses the rural communities of Alpine Forest, Bear Valley Springs, Brite Valley, Cummings Ranch, Cummings Valley, Golden Hills, Mendiburu Springs, Monolith, Old Towne, and Stallion Springs. Kern County has adopted a GTA Specific and Community Plan (GTASCP) that sets forth a land use plan, goals, policies, and implementation measures designed to ensure that future development in the GTA is consistent with the goals and policies of Kern County’s General Plan while recognizing the uniqueness of the region. The proposed Banducci Substation component of the Proposed Project would be located within the GTASCP.

Applicant Proposed Measures

There are no Applicant Proposed Measures for recreation.

5.15.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

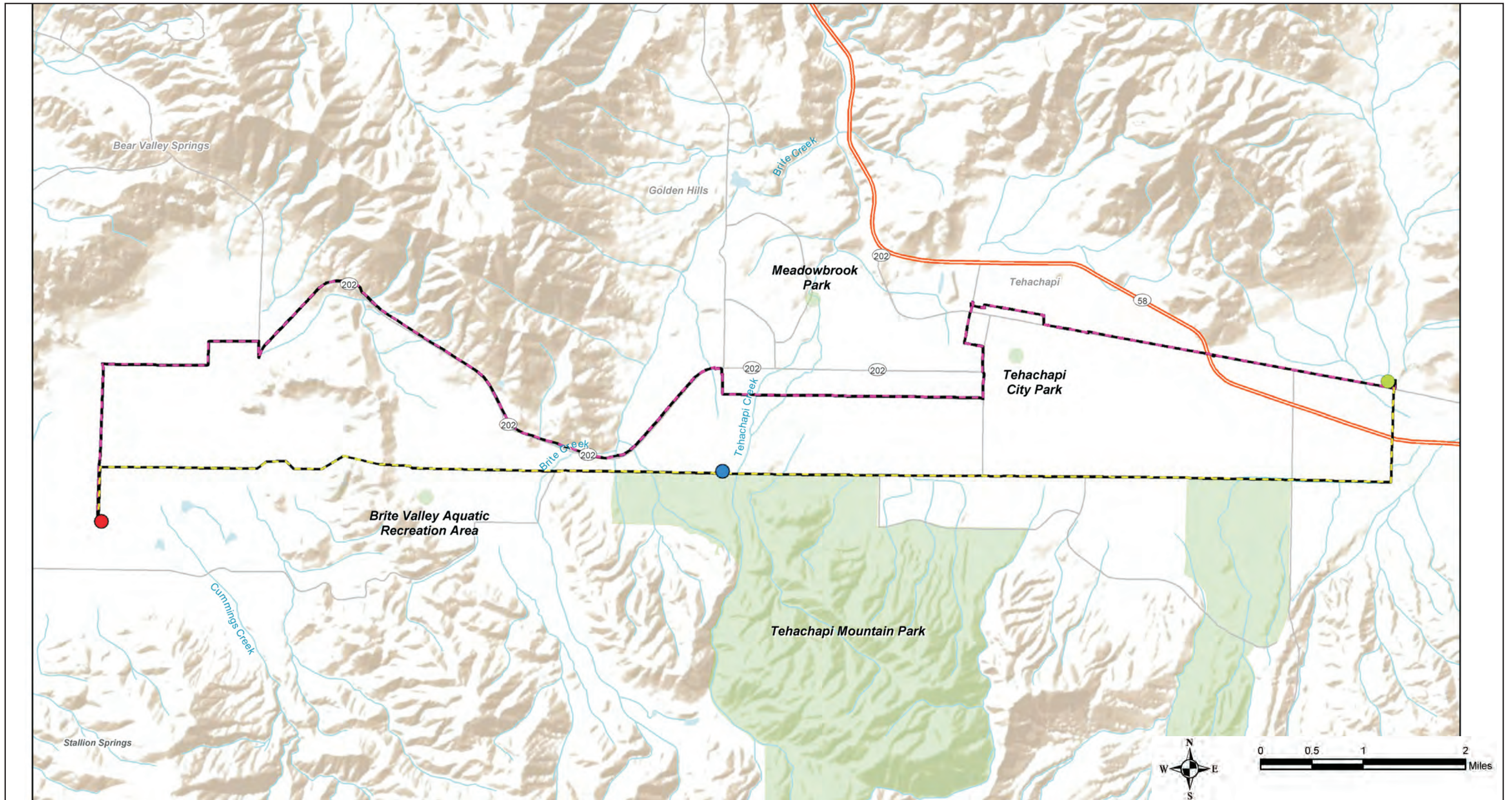
- a. *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?***

NO IMPACT. The Proposed Project would not result in any residential or commercial development that would lead to increased use of existing parks or other recreational facilities. Construction of project infrastructure would take place over the course of 12 months, requiring up to 50 construction personnel working on any given day. Although some workers may use nearby park facilities during project construction, increased use would be minimal and temporary and would not contribute substantially to the physical deterioration of existing facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

- 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 recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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Source: SCE, 2014.

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|---|--|--|
| ● Proposed Banducci Substation | — Proposed Telecommunications Route 2 | — Freeway / Major Highway |
| ● Cummings Substation | - - - Proposed Telecommunications Route 1 | — Minor Highway / Major Road |
| ● Monolith Substation | ■ Parks and Open Spaces | |

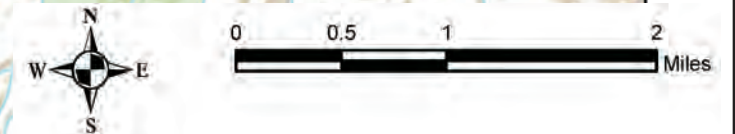


Figure 5.15-1
Recreation Resources in the Proposed Project Vicinity

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