

5.15 Recreation

5.15.1 Environmental Setting

Merced County contains numerous county, state, and federal parks and recreation areas and public open space areas. The Merced County Parks and Recreation Department manages three regional parks, and ten community parks (Merced County, 2012). There are approximately 114,000 acres of park and recreation facilities in the County that offer a variety of amenities such as picnicking, swimming, boating, hunting, bird watching, playgrounds, sports fields, and hiking (Merced County, 2011).

There are no parks or recreational facilities are located within 0.5 mile of the Proposed Project power line route. However, parks and recreational facilities within two miles include Arakelian Park, Lucero Park, Livingston Memorial Park, and Livingston Sports Complex, which are described below (PG&E, 2011; Google Maps, 2012):

- **Arakelian Park:** Playground, covered picnic area, baseball field, and barbeque area; approximately 0.7 mile north of the proposed route.
- **Lucero Park:** Playground, picnic table, and volleyball area; approximately 1.6 miles north.
- **Livingston Memorial Park:** Playground, covered picnic area, barbeque area, and stage; approximately 0.7 mile north.
- **Livingston Sports Complex:** Picnic tables, baseball field, and soccer field; approximately 1.5 miles north.

In addition, the McConnell State Recreation Area, which provides fishing, picnic, camping, and play areas, is located approximately 3.1 miles to the north of the project area, and the Winton County Park in the community of Winton is approximately 3.3 miles east of the project route (California State Parks, 2011).

5.15.2 Environmental Impacts and Assessment

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.

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 approximately 10 months and would require crews of between six and 20 workers depending on the phase of construction. After construction is complete, PG&E’s existing operation and maintenance crews would take responsibility for project facilities. 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.