

# Section 3.14

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**3.14 RECREATION**

This section describes existing conditions and the potential recreational impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Project and alternatives.

**3.14.1 Existing Conditions**

There are several local and regional parks and recreational areas within the project area. Figure 3.14-1 depicts the locations of these parks and recreational areas. A local-serving community park is located in the City of Redlands on the south side of East San Bernardino Avenue.

South of San Timoteo Canyon Road and west of the City of Beaumont is the Norton Younglove Reserve, a 3,000-acre regional park located within the San Timoteo Creek Area. The Reserve is bound by Interstate 10 and State Route 60 and is presently managed by the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District. Currently, there are ongoing negotiations between the State Department of Parks and recreation and the County of Riverside regarding the possible transfer of the Norton Younglove Reserve into San Timoteo State Park.

To the immediate east of the Norton Younglove Reserve is the PGA of Southern California Golf Club, a golf course featuring 36 holes and extensive clubhouse, instruction, and other event facilities.

The Oak Valley Golf Club is located east of the PGA of Southern California Golf Club and directly east of Interstate 10. The Oak Valley Golf Club is an 18-hole golf course in the City of Beaumont.

The Noble Creek Regional Park is a triangularly-shaped park located to the east of the Oak Valley Golf Club. This regional park is located on the north side of East 14<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Beaumont.

The Sun Lakes Country Club is located south of Interstate 10 in the City of Banning. The Sun Lakes Country Club is a gated residential community catering to active seniors and retirees. The community has a number of recreational facilities, including swimming pools, tennis courts, bocce ball courts, and an 18-hole golf course.

The Gilman Historic Ranch is located north of Banning and is a County of Riverside Regional Park. The park includes a ranch and wagon museum that chronicles the history of the area from the Cahuilla Indians to the exploration and settlement of southern California and the San Gorgonio Pass.

The AC Dysart Equestrian Park is located at the southern terminus of South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in the City of Banning. This park caters to rodeo and western events and equestrian recreation, and hosts the annual Stagecoach Days in September.

In addition to these local and regional parks, there is one national park within the project area. The San Bernardino National Forest is located to the north of the Cities of Yucaipa and Redlands. This national park contains over 700,000 acres of mountainous terrain with over 500 miles of hiking trails and other recreational opportunities.

### **3.14.2 Significance Criteria**

Impacts to recreation are 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

### **3.14.3 Proposed Project Impacts**

#### **3.14.3.1 Construction Impacts**

Project construction would occur adjacent to or within several recreational areas. The fiber optic cable route would travel adjacent to the community park in the City of Redlands. The El Casco Substation as well as a portion of the southerly 115 kV subtransmission line route and fiber optic cable route would be located within the Norton Younglove Reserve. Both the southerly 115 kV subtransmission line route and the fiber optic cable route would pass through the PGA of Southern California Golf Club. The southerly 115 kV subtransmission line route would also pass through the Sun Lakes Country Club, while the fiber optic cable route would travel along the perimeter of this country club. The southerly 115 kV subtransmission line route would travel to the south of the AC Dysart Equestrian Park, but would not actually be adjacent to this facility. Finally, the Mill Creek Communications Site would be constructed on land owned by SCE that is surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. Site access, equipment staging, and project construction on the Mill Creek Communications Site would avoid this national park.

Construction activities may cause temporary impacts to recreational users utilizing these parks. For safety reasons, park users would be prohibited from the work areas during project construction. Construction activities occurring within the parks and recreation areas would follow applicable safety measures and traffic controls to ensure public safety during construction. These construction activities would be temporary in nature, particularly those

relating to the southerly 115 kV subtransmission line and the fiber optic route. These temporary construction impacts to recreational facilities would be considered less than significant.

Because the construction work force would consist primarily of local workers, construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would not increase the use of parks or recreational facilities, nor would the project result in the need to construct or expand recreational facilities in the area.

In summary, project construction impacts related to recreation would be less than significant.

### **3.14.3.2 Operational Impacts**

The operation of the El Casco Substation on a site within the Norton Younglove Reserve would result in the loss of approximately 28 acres for recreational use. This amounts to only a four percent reduction in the overall size of the 640-acre park. Therefore, the loss of useable recreational area in the Norton Younglove Reserve is considered to be minimal. In addition, SCE would continue to allow recreational access in the vicinity of the substation. SCE would also purchase and donate land to Riverside County to mitigate for the loss of parkland. Finally, the substation would be unattended and would not increase the local population. As a result, the use of Site 33 for the new substation would not increase the use of the Reserve or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

The remaining elements of the Proposed Project would also operate as unattended facilities and would not increase the local population. In addition, these elements would operate within existing SCE rights-of-way and would not result in a loss of parkland or recreational facilities. Therefore, the elements of the Proposed Project would not increase the use of existing parks or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

In summary, impacts to recreation due to operation of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

### **3.14.3.3 Applicant Proposed Mitigation Measures**

Because impacts to recreation would be less than significant, no mitigation measures are required.

## **3.14.4 Alternatives**

### **3.14.4.1 Northerly 115 kV Subtransmission Line Route Alternative**

The construction work force would consist primarily of local workers, and the northerly 115 kV subtransmission line route would operate as an unattended facility. Therefore, this alternative would not increase the use of existing parks. The northerly 115 kV

subtransmission line route would run through the Oak Valley Golf Club and the Noble Creek Park in the City of Beaumont and the Gilman Historic Ranch in the City of Banning. However, the 115 kV line would utilize existing rights-of-way within these two parks and would not result in a loss of additional parkland. Construction activities occurring within the two parks would cause temporary impacts to recreational uses. For safety reasons, park users would be prohibited from the work areas. Construction activities occurring within the two parks would follow applicable safety measures and traffic controls to ensure public safety during construction. The activities associated with the construction of the northerly 115 kV subtransmission line route would be temporary. In addition, the operation of the 115 kV line would not cause an increase in the local population. Therefore, the 115 kV line would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. In summary, impacts to recreation due to the construction and operation of the subtransmission line route alternative would be less than significant.

#### **3.14.4.2 Site 38 (Alternate Site)**

Site 38 is presently designated for open space and conservation under the Oak Valley Specific Plan. Therefore, the construction of the substation at this location would result in the temporary loss of land for recreational use. The substation would operate as an unattended facility and would not increase the local population. As a result, the operation of the substation at Site 38 would not increase the use of existing parks or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. However, operation of a substation at this location would reduce the total open space that is available for recreational uses. In summary, impacts to recreation due to the construction and operation of the substation at the Site 38 site alternative would be less than significant.

Figure 3.14-1, Recreation Areas

