

5.15 Recreation

5.15.1 Environmental Setting

A desktop-level study provided an overview of recreational facilities located within 1 mile of the project alignment. A site visit of the project alignment and its vicinity was conducted in February 2018 to make additional observations, collect data, and confirm the existing conditions of open spaces, parks, and recreational resources in the proposed project area and vicinity.

The following public agencies and private organizations collectively manage recreational lands and facilities located within 1 mile of the proposed project area:

- City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department;
- County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department;
- City of Del Mar Parks and Recreation Committee;
- City of Solana Beach Parks and Recreation Department;
- State of California Department of Parks and Recreation; and
- Private organizations.¹

Thirty-four recreational facilities are within 1 mile of the project area (Google Earth Pro 2016; SDG&E 2017a). Recreational facilities are defined as public or open-access facilities that are primarily sites for passive or organized activities. Passive recreational activities emphasize the open space aspects of park facilities, and includes activities such as hiking, walking, birdwatching, and picnicking. Active recreational activities are generally associated with group sports or play activities, and often require dedicated program areas such as playgrounds, ball fields, community centers, swimming pools, etc. for the intended activity. Recreational facilities that support passive and/or active recreational activities in the project vicinity include:

- State, county, city, or private parks;
- Bicycle paths;
- Open space preserves;
- Hiking trails and walking paths;
- Campgrounds; and
- Community centers.

¹ Functionally private recreational facilities such as country clubs, private golf courses, and amusement parks are not typically included in a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) recreation analysis; these types of uses, therefore, will not be discussed in this section, with the exception of the Surf and Turf RV Park, which would be adjacent to the proposed project's activities and to the Del Mar Fairgrounds, a public facility that is subject to a CEQA analysis with respect to recreation. Because potential impacts to both facilities would be similar, the Surf and Turf RV Park has been included in this analysis. See Table 5.15-1 for additional details.

1 Table 5.15-1 lists the recreational facilities in the project area, as well as the distance from the nearest
2 project component or work area. In some instances, segments of existing project circuitry may intersect
3 with or cross recreational facilities. Additionally, some isolated project components or work areas may be
4 located entirely within an existing recreational facility. For a map of the recreational facilities described in
5 Table 5.15-1, see Figure 5.15-1.
6

7 Recreational facilities that would be adjacent to, crossed by, or contained within portions of the project
8 area include: Crest Canyon Open Space Park, Surf and Turf RV Park, Del Mar Heights School – Athletic
9 Fields, the Del Mar Horse Park Equestrian Facility, the Del Mar Fairgrounds, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon,
10 San Dieguito Lagoon, the San Dieguito Lagoon Ecological Reserve, San Dieguito River Park, Torrey
11 Pines State Beach, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, and Sorrento Valley Pedestrian/Multi-Use Path.
12

13 **5.15.2 Regulatory Setting**

14 **Federal**

15
16 No federally managed recreational facilities are located within 1 mile of the project area. Therefore, no
17 federal regulations or policies pertain to the proposed project with respect to recreation.
18

19 **State**

20 States are required to have Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans in order to be eligible for
21 federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act grants. The 2008 California Outdoor Recreation Plan
22 fulfills this requirement and provides a strategy for statewide outdoor recreation leadership and action to
23 meet identified needs. The following policy is applicable to the proposed project (California State Parks
24 2009):
25

- 26 • **Preservation of natural and cultural resources:** Recreation areas should be planned and
27 carefully managed to provide optimum recreation opportunities without damaging significant
28 natural or cultural resources. Management actions should strive to correct problems that have the
29 potential to damage sensitive areas and degrade resources.
30

31 Additionally, the San Diego Coastal State Park System General Plan contains policies pertaining to nine
32 coastal state parks within the San Diego area. The Torrey Pines State Beach and State Reserve plan
33 contains policies that are applicable to the proposed project and that are intended to address the goal of
34 maintaining the area's recreational resource values. The policies pertain specifically to park development
35 and not electrical transmission and distribution, and as such are not applicable to the proposed project
36 (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1984).
37

Table 5.15-1 Recreational Facilities within One Mile of the Proposed Project Utility Corridor

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	Activity/Feature	Distance (miles)	Feature ID ^(e)
21st Street Tennis Courts	Del Mar Parks & Recreation Committee	passive/active (sport)	0.28	1
Arroyo Sorrento Open Space	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.38	2
Carmel Grove Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.86	3
Carmel Valley Recreation Center	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.60	4
Carmel View Mini-Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.74	5
Coast View Mini-Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.28	6
Crest Canyon Neighborhood Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	0.35	7
Crest Canyon Open Space Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	crossed	8
Del Mar City Beach	Del Mar Parks and Recreation	active, swimming	0.39	9
Del Mar North Beach	Del Mar Parks and Recreation	passive recreation	0.50	10
Surf and Turf RV Park	Private	active, camping	adjacent	11
Del Mar Heights School ^(a)	Del Mar Union School District	active, sport/education	within	12
Del Mar Horse Park	22 nd District Agricultural Association	active, equestrian	crossed	13
Del Mar Fairgrounds	22 nd District Agricultural Association	active, fairground	adjacent	14
Del Mar Public Parkland	Del Mar Parks & Recreation Committee	passive, hiking	0.17	15
James Scripps Bluff Preserve	Del Mar Parks & Recreation Committee	passive	0.62	16
La Colonia Park	Solana Beach Parks and Recreation Commission	passive	0.39	17
Los Peñasquitos Lagoon	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive,	crossed	18
Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	0.52	19
Overlook Park ^(b)	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	0.11	20
Ocean Air Community Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.99	21
Powerhouse Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.57	22
San Dieguito County Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking, sport	0.94	23
San Dieguito Lagoon	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	crossed	24
San Dieguito Lagoon Eco. Reserve	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	passive	crossed	25
Coast to Crest Trail ^(c)	Joint Powers Authority	passive, hiking	crossed	26
Seagrove Park	Del Mar Parks & Recreation Committee	passive	0.62	27
Solana Highlands Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.28	28

Table 5.15-1 Recreational Facilities within One Mile of the Proposed Project Utility Corridor

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	Activity/Feature	Distance (miles)	Feature ID ^(e)
Torrey Hills Neighborhood Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.37	29
Torrey Hills Open Space	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.12	30
Torrey Pines Golf Course	City of San Diego	active, sport	0.64	31
Torrey Pines State Beach	California Department of Parks and Recreation	active, fishing	Adjacent ^(d)	32
Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	crossed	33
Sorrento Valley Multi-Use Path	San Diego Public Works Department	passive, walking	crossed	34

Sources: City of San Diego 2018; County of San Diego 2018; San Dieguito River Park 2017; SDG&E 2017a, 2017b

Notes:

^(a) Athletic fields located on Del Mar Heights school grounds.

^(b) The Proponent's Environmental Assessment describes Overlook Park as North City West Open Space.

^(c) The Coast to Crest Trail is a countywide trail that is managed in segments by various agencies. The portion of the Coast to Crest Trail that would run adjacent to and intersect the proposed project is located within San Dieguito River Park, which is managed by the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.

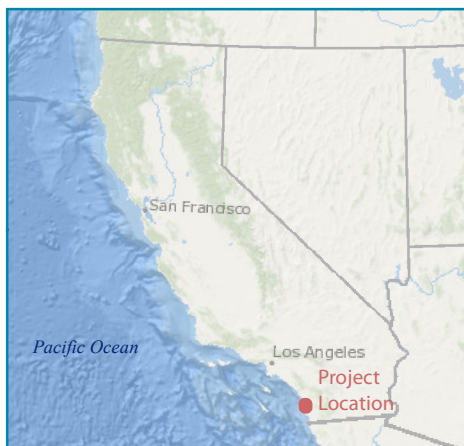
^(d) The Torrey Pines Fly Yard would be located within the North Beach Lot, a parking facility serving Torrey Pines State Beach.

^(e) See Figure 5.15-1.

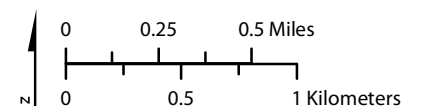


Figure 5.15-1
Recreational Areas
Within One Mile of
the Proposed Project Area
San Diego County, California

June 2018



Sources: CPAD 2017, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) 2017; Earth Systems Research Institute (ESRI) 2018



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1 **Local**

2 County and city plans, including community plans for San Diego County and the Cities of San Diego and
3 Del Mar were reviewed for policies relevant to the proposed project and impacts as defined by the
4 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CPUC has jurisdiction over the siting and design and
5 regulates construction of investor-owned transmission projects such as the proposed project. Although the
6 CPUC has preemptive authority over local government regulations that may pertain to recreational
7 resources, this analysis presents local policies, ordinances, and guidelines pertinent to recreational
8 resources and facilities within the project area and vicinity for informational purposes.
9

10 California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 131-D, Section XIV.B, states that “local
11 jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electrical power line
12 projects, distribution lines, substations or electrical facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the
13 Commission’s jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local
14 agencies regarding land use matters.”
15

16 **County of San Diego**

17 San Dieguito County Park is the only recreational facility managed by San Diego County within 1 mile of
18 the project area. San Diego County’s General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element contains goals
19 and policies intended to ensure that adequate park and recreational facilities will serve current and future
20 residents. Policy COS-23.1 requires that natural resources, including those associated with recreational
21 facilities, be accessible to the public (County of San Diego 2016).
22

23 Additionally, San Dieguito County Park and the Sorrento Valley Pedestrian/Multi-Use Path have
24 segments of trail networks that must comply with the Community Trails Master Plan and a Regional Trail
25 Plan. The Coast to Crest Trail is partially located within the San Dieguito Lagoon within an east-west trail
26 corridor that spans San Diego County (County of San Diego Planning and Development Services 2005).
27 A segment of the Coast to Crest Trail lies within the project area immediately south of the Del Mar
28 Fairgrounds. As illustrated on Figure 5.15-1, the trail segment crosses below Interstate 5, continues
29 between the San Dieguito River and Via de la Valle and runs adjacent to Del Mar Horse Park.
30 Countywide Policies in the Community Trails Master Plan indicate that discretionary projects proposed
31 on trails or pathways governed by the Regional Trail Plan or Community Trails Master Plan may be
32 required to dedicate and improve land for trails or pathways.
33

34 The San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan contains policies pertaining specifically to the San Dieguito
35 River Park. The plan aims to maintain the area as a contiguous system of preserved lands with walking,
36 biking, and equestrian trails, from the ocean to the river’s source. The plan divides the park into 14
37 separate landscape units. Project components are within the plan’s Landscape Unit A: Del Mar Coastal
38 Lagoon area. The plan requires that grading and construction be minimized within the natural, open-space
39 areas within the park (San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority 2002).
40

41 **City of San Diego**

42 Policies within the City of San Diego General Plan’s Recreation Element are intended to develop,
43 preserve, maintain, operate, and enhance public recreation facilities within the city. Goals pertaining to
44 open space lands and resource-based parks aim to maintain the natural terrain and landscape, prevent

1 encroachment of incompatible land uses for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing existing multi-use
2 trail areas and ultimately establishing a contiguous system of bicycle and pedestrian paths. (City of San
3 Diego 2015)

4
5 The city also has a Bicycle Master Plan, which contains goals and policies intended to enhance bicycle
6 opportunities in San Diego for both recreational and transportation purposes. The Sorrento Valley
7 Pedestrian/Multi-Use Path is a Class II Bikeway within the project area. Policy 3(d) from the Bicycle
8 Master Plan requires that the existing city bikeway network be maintained and improved when feasible,
9 and also requires the bicycle transportation network be routinely reviewed in environmental assessments
10 to assess impacts (City of San Diego 2013).

11 **City of Del Mar**

12
13 The Environmental Management section of the Del Mar Community Plan lists environmental
14 management objectives and specific recommendations pertaining to certain public areas within the
15 community, including recreational areas. This section requires mitigation for public access impacts to San
16 Dieguito Lagoon and the San Dieguito River. Further, the plan lists development criteria intended to
17 preserve open space sensitivities within San Dieguito Lagoon by preserving public access to pedestrian
18 trails and maintaining compatibility of future proposals with the lagoon environment (City of Del Mar
19 1985).

20 21 **5.15.3 Environmental Impacts and Assessment**

22 **Applicant Proposed Measures**

23
24 SDG&E proposes APM REC-01 and -02 to address notification to the managing agencies of recreational
25 facilities and to the public of temporary access restrictions that project construction may necessitate at the
26 parks and recreational facilities in the project area.

27
28 **APM REC-01:** SDG&E will post signage at access points to recreational facilities that may be
29 subject to access restrictions due to the proposed project no less than four weeks prior to the
30 beginning of construction activities within or adjacent to the facilities. These facilities will include
31 Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, Torrey Pines State Beach, Del Mar Horse Park, and Sorrento
32 Valley Pedestrian/Multi-Use Path. This signage will notify users of the impending construction
33 activities; construction impacts (e.g., increased noise and dust); the affected locations; and the
34 estimated duration of any necessary temporary closures or access restrictions. Contact information for
35 the proposed project's public liaison will be provided on the signage, and the public liaison will
36 address any complaints related to dust, noise, and access restrictions.

37 **APM REC-02 (Revised by SDG&E in response to Data Request 01 by the CPUC [SDG&E**
38 **2017c]):** Authorities representing facilities where access restrictions may occur (i.e., the California
39 Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of San Diego) will be contacted and given advance
40 notice of project activities no less than eight weeks prior to construction. SDG&E will also coordinate
41 with the 22nd District Agricultural Association that manages and operates the Del Mar Horse Park no
42 less than eight weeks prior to construction to minimize potential impacts to the facility and its users
43 during construction.

~~APM REC-02 (Revised), as revised in response to Data Request 01 by the CPUC (SDG&E 2017e), the applicant would notify authorities and managing agencies of recreational facilities of project activities no less than eight weeks prior to construction to ensure that the facility users are duly informed of service restrictions and or disruptions.~~

Significance Criteria

Table 5.15-2 includes the significance criteria from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines’ recreation section to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Table 5.15-2 Recreation Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?*

The proposed project would directly alter the physical conditions within portions of two recreation facilities to accommodate construction staging, materials storage and helicopter uses associated with TL666D activities, including the removal of utility poles. The proposed project’s Torrey Pines Fly Yard would be located in the North Beach Parking Lot at Torrey Pines State Beach. The Del Mar Heights Fly Yard would be located within the outdoor athletic field at Del Mar Heights Elementary School (Del Mar Heights School – Athletic Fields).

The applicant would use gravel as needed to level surfaces at Del Mar Heights Fly Yard. The yard would be located atop an existing softball field. In the context of criterion (a), above, the temporary use of Del Mar Heights School’s softball field for the purpose of equipment staging during project construction could potentially cause physical deterioration of the facility associated with truck trips, material deposition, compaction, etc. At the Torrey Pines North Beach Lot, SDG&E proposes using the existing surface parking lot as a construction vehicle staging area and fly yard for helicopter operations.

These construction activities would restrict public access to the parking lot during active construction use. To prevent the potential for physical degradation to the facility or incidental damage to natural features in and around the park environment, the applicant shall incorporate **MM REC-1**. This measure would require the applicant to document pre-project conditions at both the Torrey Pines Fly Yard and Del Mar Heights Fly Yard, and to restore each space to conditions matching those at the onset of the proposed

1 project. If it is determined that construction-related activities have substantially degraded the physical
2 conditions either site, the applicant would restore work areas to pre-existing conditions.

3
4 **MM REC-1: Documentation of Conditions.** The applicant shall photograph pre-project conditions
5 at the Torrey Pines and Del Mar Heights Fly Yards from multiple viewpoints to adequately represent
6 pre-construction conditions at both sites. The applicant shall submit a portfolio of these images to
7 CPUC staff and to appropriate representatives of Del Mar Heights Elementary School and Torrey
8 Pines State Beach prior to the use of either facility for construction-related purposes.

9 Upon completion of project construction, the applicant shall restore the fly yard sites to pre-project
10 conditions and submit a portfolio of “before and after” photographs documenting physical conditions
11 of each site, as applicable. The portfolio of images shall be submitted to the CPUC and to designated
12 agents on behalf of Del Mar Heights School and Torrey Pines State Beach parking facility to ensure
13 that the affected facilities are returned in satisfactory condition.

14
15 Project operations would involve routine and emergency maintenance, along with aerial and ground
16 inspections at least once per year. No substantial increase in operation and maintenance activities
17 compared to those occurring under existing conditions are anticipated following project completion.
18 Reconfiguring Line C510 from an overhead to an underground alignment would eliminate the need to
19 maintain this overhead line and maintenance activities would be restricted to its underground duct bank
20 and associated risers. Removal of line TL666D would eliminate the need to conduct maintenance work on
21 this line within Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and within the San Dieguito Lagoon. Because the
22 proposed project would involve the realignment of existing facilities with similar operations and
23 maintenance requirements, the proposed project is not be expected to increase the use of recreational
24 facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur.

25
26 **Significance: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation**

27
28 *b. Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of*
29 *recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

30
31 The proposed project would entail reconfiguration and removal of electrical infrastructure and no new or
32 expanded recreational facilities would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, the
33 proposed project would not result in adverse physical changes to the environment related to the
34 construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and no recreational impacts would occur.

35
36 Construction activities may temporarily limit the public’s use of existing recreational facilities in the
37 project area due to intermittent access disruptions caused by vehicle movement, materials staging, and
38 site-specific safety and spatial requirements during the proposed project’s anticipated 12-month
39 construction period. The nearly 8-mile-long utility corridor extends across or runs adjacent to various
40 recreational sites that would be occupied at least temporarily by construction vehicles that could limit or
41 completely restrict access to facilities intermittently during construction. Figure 5.15-1 illustrates the
42 facilities, including Del Mar Heights School, Torrey Pines State Beach, and others where temporary work
43 spaces and buffer zones established for public safety may temporarily restrict public access and use of
44 recreational facilities.

1 SDG&E proposes **APM REC-01** and **APM REC-02** to address advance notification to recreational
2 facilities managers and the public related to temporary access restrictions that may be required at certain
3 facilities during construction. Moreover, as presented in Section 5.14, “Public Services,” **APM PS-01**
4 directs the applicant to coordinate with schools within 250 feet of project construction areas at least 60
5 days prior to construction commencing. The advance notice is intended to provide school officials
6 sufficient time to develop alternate program activities as needed during the period when access to Del
7 Mar Heights School’s athletic fields would be restricted.

8
9 **Significance: Less than Significant**

10
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