

3.15 Recreation

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
15. RECREATION—Would the project:				
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

3.15.1 Environmental Setting

Existing recreational and open space resources within the vicinity of the Project are discussed by jurisdiction below.

Federal Recreation Resources

Approximately 0.4 mile of the existing Missouri Flat-Gold Hill Line is located within an existing PG&E ROW within the southeastern portion of the Cameron Park Unit of the BLM-administered Pine Hill Preserve located northwest of the Shingle Springs Substation (see Figure 3.4-1g). The 4,746-acre Pine Hill Preserve is managed to protect the habitat of eight rare plant species and to provide the community with recreational and educational opportunities to promote the protection of these rare plants and their habitat (BLM, 2008a). Because the Preserve is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), allowable uses in the Cameron Park Unit are restricted to non-motorized recreational use of existing designated trails, including hiking and wildlife observation by the general public and guided tours (BLM, 2008a, b). Parking for access to the Cameron Park Unit is limited. Camping is not allowed within the Cameron Park Unit, and the BLM manages this unit to discourage illegal camping through the use of periodic BLM Law Enforcement and volunteer patrols (BLM, 2008a).

The Project also would parallel the California National Historic Trail, specifically the Carson Route from Nevada to Sacramento. This trail is a 1,000-mile historic route that commemorates the 250,000 emigrants who traveled to California during the mass migration of the 1840s and 1850s (NPS, 2014).

State Recreation Resources

The Project would be located within approximately 3 miles of three State Parks: Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, and Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park is located at 9980 Greenback Lane within the City of Folsom. On display at the Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park is one of the oldest hydroelectric facilities in the world, which is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Additional viewing attractions at this State Historic Park include the General

Electric transformers, the forebays, and canal system which bring water from the dam (California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2014b). The park provides recreational trails, picnic areas, a visitor center, and parking areas providing accessible vehicle and bus parking (California State Parks, 2011).

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area offers a wide range of recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, running, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, boating, and fishing. The 18,000-acre recreational area also includes Lake Natoma, downstream of Folsom Lake (California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2014a).

Prairie City SVRA is an open driving area for motorcycles and all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles. Prairie City SVRA features the Hangtown MX track, 1/4 Midget track, Go-Kart Track, Clay Oval Track, Mud Drags, and a four-wheel drive obstacle course. The park is located at 13300 White Rock Road in Rancho Cordova (California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2014c).

Local Recreation Resources

El Dorado County

El Dorado County operates three parks within the County, one of which is located in the community of Shingle Springs. Bradford Park is located approximately 0.5 mile east of the Project alignment and includes a playground, sports field and picnic areas (El Dorado County, 2014).

Local parks within the community of Cameron Park, which are within 1 mile of the Project alignment include: Christa McAuliffe Park, Dave West Park, and Hacienda Park. These parks offer a wide range of recreational opportunities including soccer fields, ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, and a skate park facility. The Project alignment crosses Christa McAuliffe Park, which is located at 2400 Merrychase Drive (Cameron Park Community Services District, 2014). Additional recreational facilities within 1 mile of the Project alignment include the Cameron Park Golf Course and Country Club.

Recreation opportunities and facilities provided by the El Dorado Hills Community Service District include an archery range, skate park facility, pools, athletic fields, and parks. Local parks within the community of El Dorado Hills which are within 1 mile of the Project alignment include: Laurel Oaks Park, Allan Lindsey Park, Village Green Park, Ridgeview Park, Peter Bertelsen Park, Deputy Jeff Mitchell Field, and Creekside Green Park. The Project alignment is adjacent to Peter Bertelsen Park, located at 831 Redwood Lane (El Dorado Hills Community Service District, 2014).

City of Folsom

The Folsom Parks and Recreation Department provides and maintains a full range of recreational activities and park facilities with the City of Folsom (City of Folsom, 2014b). There are a total of 47 within the City of Folsom, 17 of which are within 1 mile of the Project alignment. These parks include: Nisenan Park, Handy Family Park, Beacon Hill Park, Phillip C. Cohn Park, Prewett Mini Park, Cambridge Place Mini Park, Chadwick Mini Park, Folsom's Kid Play Park, Wellfleet Mini Park, Thorndike Mini Park, Keller Mini Park, Cummings Family Park, Amos P. Catlin Park, John

Kemp Community Park, Kentfield Mini Park, Windsor Mini Park, and Livermore Community Park (City of Folsom, 2010).

Within the City of Folsom there are approximately 34 miles of paved recreations trails. There are several bicycle paths, bicycle lanes, and bicycle routes adjacent to or within the vicinity of the Project (City of Folsom, 2014a). Between Cavitt Drive and Empire Ranch Road along Scholar Way and Broadstone Parkway, several Class I bicycle paths are located within the Project alignment (City of Folsom, 2012).

3.15.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

Bureau of Land Management

The Pine Hill Preserve Management Plan, a Cooperative Management Agreement among nine local, state, and federal agencies and one private organization, enables the preserve to work in coordination with these partners to increase protection of rare plant habitat and to provide the best management alternatives to maintain the rare plant populations' viability (BLM, 2008a). The BLM implements relevant aspects of the plan within lands it manages. The plan indicates that activities that have the potential to cause significant disturbance, such as construction of roads and high-voltage transmission lines, if permitted would require careful planning to avoid or to minimize resource impacts. The plan outlines management tasks, one of which is relevant to proposed improvements to unpaved roads within the Preserve:

Identify and implement appropriate measures to minimize impacts on rare plant habitat while providing road and trail maintenance, management, and public access.

PG&E would be required to obtain a Special Use Permit to construct the portion of the Project that would be located on BLM land; PG&E has contacted the BLM to initiate this process.

State

No State plans or policies concerning recreation apply to the Project.

Local

El Dorado County

The *El Dorado County General Plan* (2004) identifies policies regarding recreation in the Parks and Recreation element of the General Plan.

Policy 9.1.1.1: The County shall assist in the development of regional, community, and neighborhood parks, ensure a diverse range of recreational opportunities at a regional, community, and neighborhood level, and provide park design guidelines and development standards for park development. The following national standards shall be used as guidelines for the acquisition and development of park facilities:

GUIDELINES FOR ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARK FACILITIES	
Park Type	Development
<i>Regional Park</i>	1.5 ac/1,000 population
<i>Community Parks</i>	1.5 ac/1,000 population
<i>Neighborhood Parks</i>	2 ac/1,000 population
Specific Standards (Neighborhood and Community Parks)	
Cameron Park Community Service District	5 ac/1,000 population
El Dorado Hills Community Services District	5 ac/1,000 population
Planned Communities	5 ac/1,000 population

City of Folsom

The *City of Folsom General Plan* (1988) identifies policies regarding recreation in the Parks and Recreation element of the General Plan.

Goal 35: To achieve and maintain quality parks which provide optimum satisfaction to the leisure and recreation needs of the citizens.

Policy 35.12: The following standards are the minimum acceptable standards for parks, open space and recreation facilities in the City of Folsom:

- *Parkland Acreage Standards.* 5 acres per 1,000 population.
 - *Mini Park.* .5 to 1 acres per 1,000 – 2,000 population.
 - *Neighborhood Park.* 2.5 to 3.5 acres per 2,000 – 5,000 population.
 - *Community Park.* 2.5 to 3.5 acres per 12,000 – 25,000 population.
 - *Special Use Recreation Area/Natural Area/Wildlife Area/Parkway.* Variable with community 25,000 – 50,000 population.
 - *Regional.* 5 to 10 acres contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.

3.15.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

The Project includes the following APM proposed by PG&E to minimize potential Project impacts on recreational resources.

APM REC-1: Coordination with Park and Open Space Management and Signage

PG&E will coordinate closely with park and open space management for temporary public land closures during project construction activities. If traditional access is temporarily unavailable, signs advising recreational facility users of construction activities, including directions to alternative trails and/or bikeways, will be posted at entrance gates to park and open space areas. Signage will be posted at least 1 week in advance of construction, near parks and open space areas.

3.15.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

- a) **Whether 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: *LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.***

As described in *Section 3.15.1, Environmental Setting*, the Project would be located adjacent to recreation activities.

The Project would not result in a significant increase in local population or housing, which typically would be associated with increased demand for parks or other recreational facilities. The number of construction workers that would be required for Project construction, at its peak, would be approximately 45 crew members per day. The Project construction activities would be temporary, lasting approximately 24 months. It is possible that construction workers could increase the use of existing park and recreation facilities. However, any such increase would not be substantial and would not result in a substantial increase in demand for existing park or recreational facilities, resulting in substantial physical deterioration of existing facilities. The impacts would be less than significant.

In addition to potential impacts from some increased usage of parks and other recreational facilities, the Project would include construction activities within and/or adjacent to Christa McAuliffe Park, Peter Bertelsen Park, and the Class I bicycle path along Scholar Way and Broadstone Parkway in Folsom. Overhead lines would be strung above Christa McAuliffe Park and the bicycle path. An existing tubular steel pole adjacent to Peter Bertelsen Park would be removed and replaced within the park and may be fenced for public safety, but this would result in fewer than 1,000 square feet of the park becoming inaccessible, which represents just 0.2 percent of the nearly 11-acre park (PG&E, 2013; El Dorado Hills Community Service District, 2007). Additionally, the Project would include reconductoring of overhead lines, replacement of TSPs, and unpaved road improvement within the Cameron Park Unit of the Pine Hill Preserve. These activities may temporarily decrease access to and/or within the Preserve, but access would be restored per BLM management policies after completion of construction. These activities would not result in the displacement of users to other parks that would result in their increased use and/or accelerated degradation.

Impacts to these recreational facilities would be temporary in nature, but could result in short-term closures or partial closures. Furthermore, construction equipment used during reconductoring and pole replacement would generate noise, dust, and exhaust emissions that could also displace recreational users. As a result, the use of other nearby recreational facilities could increase during this period as users are displaced from facilities along the Project alignment; however, the increase would be temporary, as construction would progress at a rate of 1,500 to 2,500 feet per week (Table 2-6). Therefore, construction of the Project would not cause or accelerate any substantial physical deterioration of Project area parks or other recreational facilities.

No changes to existing operation and maintenance activities are anticipated with Project implementation. As a result, the operation, maintenance, and presence of the Project would be similar to the existing facilities and conditions, and would not result in the displacement of

recreational users compared to existing conditions. Additionally, operation and maintenance would result in no increase in area residents or employees. Therefore, Project operation and maintenance would not result in a measurable change in the existing level of use at neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, and so would not cause or accelerate any substantial physical deterioration of those facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Additionally, PG&E has committed to implementing APM REC-1, which would ensure coordination between PG&E and recreational facilities management for temporary public land closures during Project construction activities. If traditional access is temporarily unavailable, signs advising recreational users of construction activities, including directions to alternative trails and/or bikeways, would be posted at the entrances of the facilities.

b) Whether the Project includes recreational facilities or requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment: *NO IMPACT.*

The Project does not propose and would not require the addition of new or the expansion of any existing recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment for the reasons described above under a). Therefore, the Project would have no impact regarding this criterion b).

References

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