This section presents the environmental setting and impact analysis for recreational resources in the vicinity of the Revised Project components and the alternatives.

## 4.12.1 Consideration of Scoping Comments

The public expressed concerns regarding recreation impacts during public scoping for this Subsequent EIR. Table 4.12-1 summarizes the scoping comments received regarding recreation impacts and identifies how and/or where these comments are addressed.

 Table 4.12-1
 Scoping Comments Related to Recreation Impacts

Summary of Comment	Location Comment is Addressed
The project will impact recreational uses of the Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve, Santa Ana River Trail, and river bottom.	This Subsequent EIR considers construction, operation, and maintenance impacts of the Revised Project on the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, Santa Ana River Trail, and river bottom. Refer to Section 4.12.8: Revised Project Impact Analysis, Impact Recreation-a. The effects of the Proposed Project on recreation can be found in the 2013 RTRP EIR.

## 4.12.2 Definitions

Recreational areas are defined as any public or quasi-public site or facility that is used for recreational activities, including:

- National, state, county, city or private parks (e.g., dog parks)
- Bicycle paths
- Trails

- Open space preserves
- Cultural centers
- Museums
- Campgrounds

Although CEQA does not specifically define golf courses as recreational facilities, this Subsequent EIR considers golf courses to be recreational resources.

For the purpose of analyzing impacts in this section, the Revised Project vicinity described in this section includes the Revised Project work areas and a 1,000-foot buffer around the Revised Project components. The 1,000-foot buffer around the Revised Project components accounts for the area of potential indirect effects on recreational access and value.

# 4.12.3 Environmental Setting

#### **Regional Setting**

There are a variety of important recreational areas in the City of Jurupa Valley and Riverside County, including, but not limited to:

• State and local parks

• Sports facilities

- Trails
- Campground
- Natural preserves

- Historic sites
- Golf courses
- Fishing areas

The Santa Ana River Corridor is an important regional recreational resource that spans Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The river corridor offers open space, trails, wildlife habitat, and areas for other recreational uses.

## **Revised Project Setting**

The Revised Project would be located adjacent to trails and parks and would traverse a portion of a golf course. Recreational facilities are described below and depicted in Figure 4.12-1 and Figure 4.12-2.

## Trails

## City of Jurupa Valley Trail System

The City of Jurupa Valley has established a network of pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and multi-purpose trails that link urban, rural, and natural areas. The City of Jurupa Valley Trail System network is currently planned and implemented through the City's development review process in coordination with the Jurupa Valley Community Recreation and Parks District. The City intends to prepare a Master Trails Plan after the General Plan is adopted (City of Jurupa Valley, 2017a). Trails are classified and defined as follows:

- **Regional Trails.** Paved main trails within the County, generally maintained and operated by the County of Riverside's Parks and Open Space District. They are designed to eventually provide linkages between areas which could be quite distant from each other. Regional trails are also designed to connect with State and Federal trails as well as trails within Jurupa Valley, other cities, and unincorporated areas. Regional trails will have an easement of 14 to 20 feet wide and a trail width of 10 feet.
- **Community Trails.** Paved trails designed to link areas of a community to the regional trail system and to link areas of a community with each other, as further described below. Community trails are typically maintained and operated by a local parks and recreation district. Typically, community trails have an easement width of 10 to 14 feet wide, and a trail width of 4 to 8 feet.



Figure 4.12-1 Recreational Areas in the Revised Project Area (Map 1 of 2)

Sources: (ESRI, 2017; SCE, 2017a; City of Riverside Innovation and Technology Department, 2016; Riverside County Information Technology Geographical Solutions, 2014; Riverside County Information Technology Geographical Solutions, 2016; City of Jurupa Valley, 2017b)



Figure 4.12-2 Recreational Areas in the Revised Project Area (Map 2 of 2)

Sources: (ESRI, 2017; SCE, 2017a; City of Riverside Innovation and Technology Department, 2016; Riverside County Information Technology Geographical Solutions, 2014; Riverside County Information Technology Geographical Solutions, 2016; City of Jurupa Valley, 2017b)

- Historic Trails. Paved designated historic routes that recognize the rich history of Jurupa Valley and Riverside County. In Jurupa Valley, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is one segment of a planned 1,200-mile trail connecting historic, cultural, and recreation sites from Nogales, Arizona to the San Francisco Bay Area. Historic trail route designations are graphic representations of the general location of these historic routes and do not necessarily represent a planned Regional or Community Trail. In some cases, the trails have more detailed planning documents which describe interpretive routes for autos and/or non-motorized modes of transportation. There generally are regional or community trail designations that either follow or parallel these routes, thus providing opportunities to recognize the historic significance of these routes and allowing the possibility of developing interpretive signage and visitor facilities.
- **Combination Trails.** Paved combination Regional and Class I Bike Path. Regional connectors linking the urban and rural communities and major water bodies and regional parks in the County. Combination trails provide opportunities for long-distance users to take advantage of this system for long one-way or loop-type trips. These facilities may also include pedestrian and equestrian uses.

## Equestrian Lifestyle Protection Overlay

The Equestrian Lifestyle Protection Overlay (Overlay) is a land use designation established to preserve the equestrian lifestyle in specific areas of Jurupa Valley, including Mira Loma, Sunnyslope, Crestmore Heights, Pedley, Glen Avon, and areas between Riverview and the Santa Ana River. The Overlay is comprised of primary and secondary trail routes. The Overlay within the Revised Project area is shown in Figure 4.12-1 and Figure 4.12-2.

**Primary Trail Routes.** Primary trail routes connect Jurupa Valley's equestrian-oriented communities with secondary equestrian routes and provide regional connections to the trails systems in surrounding communities' adjacent trails systems. These trail routes consist of improved equestrian trail paths located behind a curb along one side of the public ROW and typically include a compacted, all-weather surface, three-rail running fencing, equestrian street crossings, lighting, and safety signage. Primary routes generally follow major streets (68th Street in the Revised Project area) and designated flood control channels.

**Secondary Trail Routes.** Secondary equestrian trail routes connect residential neighborhoods with the Santa Ana River, Jurupa Mountains, schools, parks, neighborhood markets, cultural facilities, and other important local destinations. The trail routes exist along one side of a public ROW, typically along connector streets or minor arterials. Trail routes consist primarily of unimproved equestrian trails located on the unpaved shoulder and behind drainage swales or catch basins.

#### Santa Ana River Trail

The Santa Ana River Trail is part of a planned regional trail extending across multiple jurisdictions from the Pacific Ocean in Orange County to the San Bernardino Mountains in San Bernardino County. The Revised Project alignment crosses the Santa Ana River Trail at Distribution Line Relocation #7 and Distribution Line Relocation #8 (Figure 4.12-2). The trail in the Revised Project area consists of a paved, two-lane multi-use path within the Hidden Valley and Santa Ana River Wildlife Areas.

## Parks

The City of Jurupa Valley and the City of Riverside have a variety of parks. The various park types are described below.

## Community and Neighborhood Parks

Community and neighborhood parks are intended to meet the recreational and open space needs of the larger community as well as the needs of adjacent neighborhoods. Most of a community park's service population of 20,000 to 30,000 people should live within 1 mile of the park. These parks are typically 20 to 30 acres in size and provide all the facilities included in a neighborhood park. They also include facilities for more structured activities, such as swimming pools, lighted athletic complexes, community centers, restrooms, parking and group picnic areas. Since they provide similar facilities to neighborhood parks, community parks serve as neighborhood parks for nearby residents. Neighborhood parks satisfy non-programmed recreational and open space needs at locations within walking distance (one-half mile) of the population they serve, estimated at three to five thousand residents. These parks typically encompass approximately ten acres of land.

#### **Equestrian Parks**

Equestrian parks are designated specifically for equestrian camping and trail riding.

#### Sports Parks

Sports parks are recreational facilities designated for athletic activities and include features such as field houses, baseball and soccer fields, and stadium seating.

#### Special Use Parks

These sites are generally dedicated to a specialized use or a group of related uses that serve the entire city. Major sports complexes, golf courses, and hobbyist parks are examples. These parks can also have joint-use management structures between the city and another entity whereby the other entity owns the property and the city maintains it in exchange for use of the facilities. Sports organizations, universities, and colleges are examples of non-city entities.

#### **Regional Parks**

The use of these open space and wilderness areas is not programmed and structured like local parks. They are intended to provide an alternative to more intensely used parks. Such parks offer a more natural setting for limited recreation activities, such as trails for hiking, off-road cycling, and selective other amenities. They can also support habitat and important natural resources within the Riverside region. The larger urban parks, like Fairmont, also provide open space but generally contain more amenities for park users, such as designated picnic areas, pavilions, and restrooms.

**Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve and Santa Ana River Wildlife Area.** The Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve and Santa Ana River Wildlife Area are managed by the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District. The Hidden Valley Wildlife Area covers 1,500 acres along the Santa Ana River, extending from the eastern Norco boundary to Van Buren Boulevard. The Santa Ana River Wildlife Area comprises approximately 650 acres to the east of Van Buren Boulevard along the Santa Ana River.

The Hidden Valley Wildlife Area and Santa Ana Wildlife Area operate as regional parks. Land uses within the parks must not be converted to a use other than public outdoor recreation in compliance with the policies of the LWCF Act. Land conversions must be requested and approved by the NPS.

Distribution Line Relocation #7 would be located within the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, and Distribution Line Relocation #8 would be located within the Santa Ana Wildlife Area as shown in Figure 4.12-2. Underground utilities are permitted on land bought with funds provided by the LWCF Act if the land is restored to pre-construction condition within 12 months of disturbance. Aboveground utilities are not an approved use of LWCF lands and would require a conversion request and NPS approval (NPS, 2008a).

#### Bikeways

The City of Jurupa Valley has designated bicycle paths, bicycle lanes, and bicycle routes within the city. There are no bike paths located in the vicinity of the Revised Project components.

## Goose Creek Golf Club

Goose Creek Golf Club is a privately-owned, parkland-style golf course located in Jurupa Valley that is open to the public year-round. Approximately 1,000 feet of new underground transmission line would be located within the golf course. The line would transition to an overhead position within the golf course.

# 4.12.4 Regulatory Setting

#### Federal

## Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965

The LWCF Act of 1965 (Public Law 88- 578, 78 Stat 897) was enacted to:

- Create parks and open spaces
- Protect wilderness, wetlands and refuges
- Preserve wildlife
- Enhance recreational opportunities

The LWCF Act established the LWCF State Assistance Program, which provides matching grants to help states and local communities protect parks and recreational resources. LWCF Act § 6(f)(3) states unequivocally that grant-assisted areas are to remain forever available for "public outdoor recreation use" or be replaced by lands of equal market value and recreation usefulness. To convert properties or facilities funded with LWCF assistance to uses other than

public outdoor recreation, NPS must first approve the conversion (NPS Pacific West Regional Office administers the LWCF program for California). A property proposed for replacement must be of at least equal fair market value and provide reasonably equivalent usefulness (NPS, 2008a).

Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8 would be located within land purchased with funds from the LWCF Act. Underground utilities are permissible in LWCF lands if the site is restored to its pre-existing condition to ensure the continuation of public outdoor recreational use within 12 months after the ground within the easement area is restored. If the time for restoration exceeds the 12-month period or the easement activities result in permanent above-ground changes, NPS shall be consulted to determine if the changes would trigger a land use conversion. If present or future outdoor recreation opportunities will be impacted in the easement area or in the remainder of the § 6(f)(3) area, a conversion will be triggered (NPS, 2008b).

State

#### **Coastal Conservancy**

#### Santa Ana River Conservancy Program

The Santa Ana River Conservancy Program was created within the Coastal Conservancy by the California state legislature in 2014. The program addresses the resource and recreational goals of the Santa Ana River region, including open space, trails, wildlife habitat, agricultural land protection, water quality protection, educational use, and public access. The Santa Ana River Conservancy Program works closely with the region's counties, cities, other federal, state and local agencies, and non-profits to promote and sustain collaboration around opportunities relating to the River (California State Coastal Conservancy, 2017).

#### Santa Ana River Parkway and Open Space Plan

The Santa Ana River Conservancy Program is developing the SARP&OSP in conjunction with the various jurisdictions along the Santa Ana River. The goal of the SARP&OSP is to expand the river's reach beyond the existing Santa Ana River trail. Through collaboration with agency and nonprofit partners, the SARP&OSP will identify and prioritize opportunities for recreation, education, greening, aesthetic improvement, and wildlife habitat along the corridor of the river and in parts of the river channel that can be improved without infringing on water quality, water supply, or necessary flood control (California State Coastal Conservancy, 2017).

Local

#### County of Riverside

#### County of Riverside General Plan

The Riverside County General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element provides regulation for parks and recreation land use and oversight. In addition, the Land Use Element provides information that relates directly to preserving and enhancing open space through land use-related methods. The Land Use Element includes restrictions on development of open space,

focusing urban growth, providing recreational and open space opportunities within the built environment, and achieving a balance between urban uses and open space/habitat.

The Open Space Element identifies the following policies that pertain to recreation resources:

Policy OS 20.2	Prevent unnecessary extension of public facilities, services, and utilities, for urban uses, into Open Space Conservation-designated areas.
Policy OS 20.3	Discourage the absorption of dedicated park lands by non-recreational uses, public or private. Where absorption is unavoidable, replace park lands that are absorbed by other uses with similar or improved facilities and programs.

## City of Jurupa Valley

## 2017 Draft General Plan

The City of Jurupa Valley adopted the 2017 Draft General Plan on August 17, 2017 (City of Jurupa Valley, 2017a). The following measures outlined in Chapter 2: Land Use Element, Chapter 3: Mobility Element, and Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, are applicable to the Revised Project.

The Land Use Element identifies the following policies that pertains to recreation resources:

Policy LUE 5.2	<b>Land Use and Circulation Planning.</b> Within the Overlay, give priority to preserving, facilitating, and improving equestrian uses, access, and safety, trails and other equestrian-serving facilities when planning public transportation, utilities, public buildings, and other public facilities.
Policy LUE 5.44	<b>Development Setbacks.</b> Require development, where allowable, to be set back an appropriate distance from the top of the bluffs, to protect the natural and recreational values of the river and to avoid public responsibility for property damage that could result from soil erosion or future floods.
Policy LUE 5.53	<b>Utilities.</b> Discourage utility lines within the river corridor and floodplain. If approved, lines shall be placed underground where feasible and shall be located and designed in a manner to harmonize with the natural environment and to be visually unobtrusive.
The Mobility Element	identifies the following policy that pertains to recreation resources:
Policy ME 4.2	<b>Removal of Barriers.</b> Maximize visibility and access and encourage the

Policy ME 4.2 **Removal of Barriers.** Maximize visibility and access and encourage the removal or modification of barriers (e.g. walls, fences, utilities, drainage ditches, refuse bins) for safe and convenient equestrian movement. Special emphasis should be placed on creating and maintaining safe and convenient trail linkages with the Equestrian Lifestyle Protection Overlay.

The Conservation and Open Space Element identifies the following policies that pertains to recreation resources:

- Policy COS 8.3 **Conversion.** Discourage the conversion of dedicated parklands and designated open space to non-recreational or non-open space uses. Where conversion is unavoidable, require developers or responsible agencies to replace parklands that are converted to other uses with similar or improved facilities and programs, and open space with land of equivalent open space value.
- Policy COS 9.4 **View Protection in New Development.** The City will include in all environmental review and carefully consider effects of new development, streets and road construction, grading and earthwork, and utilities on views and visual quality.

**Equestrian Lifestyle Protection Overlay.** The Overlay preserves Jurupa Valley's equestrian heritage and lifestyle and ensures the keeping of horses and other farm animals can continue, subject to regulations specified in the Zoning Ordinance. All new developments within this Overlay must meet equestrian-friendly requirements, such as minimum parcel area and building setback requirements, provide community and local trails, and accommodate equestrian use in accordance with the City's trail planning (City of Jurupa Valley, 2017a).

## **City of Riverside**

#### General Plan 2025

The City of Riverside has prepared the 2025 General Plan which was adopted in November 2007. The following policies outlined in the Open Space and Conservation Element, the Land Use and Urban Design Element, and the Circulation and Community Mobility Element, are applicable to the Revised Project (City of Riverside, 2012a; City of Riverside, 2013; City of Riverside, 2012b).

The Open Space and Conservation Element identifies the following policies that pertain to recreation resources:

Policy OS-7.1	Focus river improvements on the following areas: Fairmount Park and Mt. Rubidoux, Tequesquite Avenue and the Old Landfill, Martha McLean Park, Van Buren Bridge and the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area.
Policy OS-7.3	Preserve and expand open space along the Santa Ana River to protect water quality, riparian habit and recreational uses.
	Interconnect the Santa Ana River Trail with other parks, cultural and community centers throughout the City through trails and linkages to encourage more pedestrian and bicycle usage and reduce automobile traffic.

The Circulation and Community Mobility Element identifies the following policies that pertains to recreation resources:

Policy CCM-10.1	Ensure the provision of bicycle facilities consistent with the Bicycle Master Plan.
Policy CCM-10.7	Maintain an extensive trails network that supports bicycles, pedestrians and horses and is linked to the trails systems of adjacent jurisdictions.

# 4.12.5 Applicant's Environmental Protection Elements

SCE has proposed EPEs to reduce environmental impacts. EPEs that avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts of the Revised Project will be incorporated as part of any CPUC project approval, and SCE will be required to adhere to the EPEs as well as any identified mitigation measures. The EPEs are included in the MMRP for the Revised Project (refer to Chapter 9: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan of this Subsequent EIR), and the implementation of the EPEs will be monitored and documented in the same manner as mitigation measures. The EPEs that are applicable to the recreation analysis are provided in Table 4.12-2.

Environmental Protection Element	Requirements	
EPE REC-01: Recreational Area Restrictions	In the event of short-term restriction on recreation use at parks, or on existing bike lanes, bike paths, or trails are necessary during project construction, the public would be notified in coordination with the agencies that manage the impacted resource.	
EPE REC-02: Closure Notices	When temporary park or trail closures are necessary, on-site notices would be posted prior to the closure.	
EPE REC-03: Revegetation	Any park areas temporarily affected by project construction would be revegetated and returned to preconstruction conditions.	

Table 4.12-2 Environmental Protection Elements for Recreation

# 4.12.6 CEQA Significance Criteria

Appendix G of CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 *et seq.*) provides guidance on assessing whether a project would have significant impacts on the environment. Changes to the Proposed Project or changes in baseline conditions that were not analyzed in the 2013 RTRP EIR require additional analysis to fully disclose potential impacts of the Revised Project. The CPUC prepared an Initial Study Checklist (refer to Appendix B of this Subsequent EIR) to identify the new potentially significant or increased impacts that may occur as a result of the Revised Project elements or changes in baseline conditions. The Initial Study Checklist indicated that the project has the potential for new or increased impacts under the significance criterion included below. The CPUC has customized the Appendix G significance criteria to reflect the potential for construction, operation, and maintenance of the Revised Project to affect existing recreational

areas. The CEQA significance criterion is lettered below to match the criterion lettering in the 2013 RTRP EIR<sup>1</sup>. The Revised Project would have significant impacts on recreation if it would:

c. Cause substantial physical deterioration of a recreational facility or substantially interfere with the use of recreational facilities

# 4.12.7 Revised Project Impact Analysis

## Approach to Impact Analysis

This impact analysis considers whether implementation of the Revised Project would result in significant impacts to recreational facilities and focuses on reasonably foreseeable effects of the Revised Project as compared with baseline conditions. The analysis uses significance criteria based on the CEQA Appendix G Guidelines. These criteria may be modified to address project impacts. The potential direct and indirect effects of the Revised Project are addressed below, and the cumulative effects are addressed in Chapter 5: Cumulative Impacts. Refer to the 2013 RTRP EIR for analysis of other elements of the Proposed Project.

Applicable EPEs are identified and mitigation is defined to avoid or reduce significant recreation impacts. The significance of the impact is first considered prior to application of EPEs and a significance determination is made. The implementation of EPEs is then considered when determining whether impacts would be significant and thus would require mitigation. Mitigation measures included in the 2013 RTRP EIR, with modifications when appropriate, and/or additional new mitigation measures are identified to reduce significant impacts of the Revised Project.

#### **Summary of Impacts**

Table 4.12-3 presents a summary of the CEQA significance criteria and impacts on recreation that would occur during construction, operation, and maintenance of the Revised Project.

<sup>1</sup> The CPUC is using a customized impact statement to address the following impact addressed in the 2013 RTRP EIR:

c. Would the Revised Project disrupt recreational activities, which would adversely affect the recreational value of existing facilities?

Significance Criterion	Project Phase	Significance before EPEs	Significance after EPEs and before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Recreation-c: Would the Revised Project cause substantial physical deterioration of a recreational facility or substantially interfere with the use of recreational facilities?	Construction	Significant	Significant EPE REC-01 EPE REC-02 EPE REC-03	Less than Significant MM REC-01 MM REC-03 MM REC-04 MM REC-05
	Operation and Maintenance	No Impact		

## Table 4.12-3 Summary of Revised Project Impacts on Recreation

Impact Discussion	
	Significance Determination
Impact Recreation-c: Would the Revised Project cause substantial physical deterioration of a recreational facility	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation
or substantially interfere with the use of recreational facilities?	Operation & Maintenance: No Impact

## Overview

The Revised Project involves construction, operation, and maintenance of an electrical transmission line and telecommunication facilities as well as modifications to existing electrical distribution lines. The Revised Project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. Therefore, the Revised Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The potential for the Revised Project to cause substantial physical deterioration of recreational facilities or interference with the use of a recreational facility is discussed below.

## Construction

## Overview

Table 4.12-4 provides a summary of the impacts on recreational facilities from the Revised Project construction activities. The relocation of the overhead 230-kV transmission line to the west side of Wineville Avenue would not result in any new or greater impacts than analyzed in the 2013 RTRP EIR. No further analysis of the change in location of the overhead alignment along Wineville Avenue is needed.

Location	Type of Facility	Type of Impact	Closure Duration <sup>a</sup>
Trails			
68th Street: Pats Ranch Road to	Community Trail	Direct—Closure during construction of 3,452 feet of underground segment	14 days for vault installation
Lucretia			34 days for trenching
	Primary Equestrian Trail	Indirect—Construction adjacent to trail; temporary closure during construction	28 days for vault installation
			25 days for trenching
68th Street and Dana Avenue	Community Trail	Direct—Trench across	7 days for vault installation
			5 days for trenching
68th Street and Lucretia	Community Trail	Direct—Trench across	7 days for vault installation
Avenue			7 days for trenching
Santa Ana River Trail	Regional Trail	Direct—Trench across	Up to 7 days
Parks and Other F	Recreational Facilitie	es	
Limonite Meadows Park	City and Community Park	Indirect—Construction adjacent to park; temporary disruption of park activities	No closures planned
Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve	Wildlife Preserve	Direct—Trench across	Up to 7 days
Santa Ana River Wildlife Area	Wildlife Area	Direct—Trench across	Up to 7 days
Goose Creek Golf Club	Golf Club	Direct—1,000 feet of underground transmission line within club	No closures planned
Nataa			

#### Table 4.12-4 Revised Project Construction Impacts on Recreational Facilities

Notes:

<sup>a</sup> The durations of closures for community and equestrian trails were calculated for vault installation and trenching during construction of the Revised Project underground transmission line. Vault installation is estimated to require a closure of 7 days per vault. Trenching would require a closure of approximately 5.3 days per 0.10 mile. Refer to Appendix A: Proposed Project Details, Schedule, and Route Maps for more details on the work areas and schedule for underground construction.

Sources: (SCE, 2017b; City of Jurupa Valley, 2017a)

#### Underground 230-kV Transmission Line

Construction of the Revised Project underground 230-kV transmission line would include the installation of two riser poles at either end of the underground alignment and the installation of underground vaults and conduit predominantly in city streets and within the Goose Creek Golf Club. Underground construction has the potential to damage and disrupt the use of trails, parks, and the Goose Creek Golf Club. Impacts on these recreational resources are discussed below. Impacts on bike paths are discussed in Section 4.13: Transportation and Traffic.

#### **Pedestrian Trails**

The underground transmission line would require trenching and the installation of underground vaults and conduit duct banks. Underground construction within Pats Ranch Road and 68th Street would impact regional trails, equestrian trails, and bike paths that cross or parallel the streets where construction occurs. Refer to Table 4.12-4 for the locations where construction would impact trails. Trenching and vault installation activities would require temporary trail closures ranging from 7 to 34 days (SCE, 2017b). Physical deterioration of trails may occur where underground construction crosses the trail or work spaces and construction staging overlaps with the trail. Trail closures and deterioration of trails would be a significant impact. Restrictions on trail use would also potentially increase the use of neighboring recreational resources if no detours are available, which would be a potentially significant impact.

SCE would implement EPE REC-01, EPE REC-02, and EPE REC-03 as part of the Revised Project. EPE REC-01 requires SCE to notify the public and coordinate with agencies in the event of short-term restrictions on trails. EPE REC-02 requires SCE to post onsite notices prior to closures of parks or trails. EPE REC-03 requires SCE to revegetate any park areas temporarily affected by project construction or return them to pre-construction conditions. Significant impacts on recreation would remain, however, as these EPEs do not include requirements for trail detours when feasible. EPE REC-03 does not specify requirements for the restoration of trails; potential damage to trails would remain a significant impact.

MM REC-03 and MM REC-04 require that SCE identify temporary trail detours and submit Preand Post-Project Trail and Recreation Area Condition Reports to the CPUC to ensure that trails, detours, and recreation areas are restored to CPUC standards. *Impacts on trails would be less than significant with mitigation.* 

#### **Equestrian Trails**

The revised underground alignment on 68th Street between Pats Ranch Road and Lucretia Avenue would be located adjacent to a primary equestrian trail and within the Overlay. Construction would occur within the street; therefore, ground disturbance would not directly impact the equestrian trail. Construction activities such as excavation, trenching, and duct bank installation could require temporary closures of the equestrian trail, which would be a potentially significant impact. MM REC-05 requires detours and signage where trails are impacted. *The impact on equestrian trails would be less than significant with mitigation*.

#### Parks

Limonite Meadows Park is a public park adjacent to the proposed underground alignment on Pats Ranch Road between Limonite Avenue and 68th Street (Figure 4.12-1). Construction of the underground transmission line would occur in the roadway adjacent to the park and would not directly impact the park; however, construction activities may temporarily restrict access to the park, and construction noise may affect park users. SCE would implement EPE REC-01 and EPE REC-02 to notify the public of any temporary closures. Impacts on park users would be short in duration. A variety of other public recreational areas in the vicinity would be able to

accommodate recreationalists, including Vernola Park and Wineville Park. *Impacts on park users would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.* 

## Goose Creek Golf Club

The 2013 RTRP EIR considered impacts within Goose Creek Golf Club; however, the 2013 Proposed Project included the construction of overhead transmission line while the Revised Project includes the construction of underground transmission line. Two riser poles and approximately 1,000 feet of underground 230-kV transmission line would be installed in the Goose Creek Golf Course. No demolition of permanent existing buildings within the golf course property is expected. Construction of the riser poles would involve new ground disturbance and use of earthmoving equipment. Construction of the underground transmission alignment would include excavation, trenching, and cable installation. Temporary work space would follow an existing SCE easement along an existing golf cart path and through a vegetated area that separates the driving range from the 10th hole. Temporary work space could impinge on areas of the course. Construction of the underground transmission line would temporarily disrupt operations of the golf club for approximately 2 to 3 months, excluding weekends, and activities would cause physical deterioration of the golf course, resulting in a significant impact. MM REC-01 requires coordination with recreational facility owners. MM REC-01 also requires SCE to schedule construction activities outside of heavy recreational use periods (e.g., holidays or tournaments). MM REC-04 requires SCE to prepare a Pre-Project Trail and Recreation Area Condition Report prior to construction that documents the condition of the golf course within the Revised Project work areas. SCE shall repair all damage to the golf course caused by construction vehicles and equipment by the completion of construction. SCE shall prepare a Post-Project Trail and Recreation Area Condition Report documenting the final state of the Goose Creek Golf Course within the Revised Project work areas. Impacts within Goose Creek Golf Club would be less than significant with mitigation.

# Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8

#### Santa Ana River Trail

**Direct Impact.** Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8 would cross the Santa Ana River Trail as shown in Figure 4.12-2. Construction activities at Relocation #7 would require construction traffic, grading, and earthwork on the Santa Ana River Trail. The duct bank for the new underground distribution line would cross the Santa Ana River Trail and, if left unrestored, would cause permanent damage to the trail. Degradation of the Santa Ana River Trail due to construction activities would be a significant impact.

SCE would implement EPE REC-03, which requires revegetation of all trails affected by project construction, returning them to pre-construction conditions. While EPE REC-03 requires trail restoration to pre-construction conditions, a significant impact could still occur it the pre-construction condition was not adequately documented, resulting in inadequate restoration of the trail condition. MM REC-04 requires that the pre-construction condition of trails is documented, and adequate repairs are made to any recreational facilities degraded by construction activities. *Impacts on trails from construction activities would be less than significant with mitigation*.

**Indirect Impact.** Construction activities would require temporary trail closures in the vicinity of Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8. Trail closures would be temporary, lasting approximately 6 hours for a maximum of 7 days at each location (SCE, 2017b). Recreationalists who intend to use the Santa Ana River Trail may establish unauthorized overland routes to avoid construction if alternate routes are not identified for users before they arrive at closed trail segments. Unauthorized overland routes would cause deterioration of the park lands, which would be a significant impact.

SCE would implement EPE REC-01 and EPE REC-02 as part of the Revised Project. EPE REC-01 requires notification of the public and coordination with agencies in the event of short-term restrictions on trails. EPE REC-02 requires SCE to post onsite notices prior to closures of trails. Significant impacts on recreational facilities would remain after EPE implementation because EPE REC-01 and EPE REC-02 do not require identification of feasible alternate routes as detours for trail users. MM REC-03 and MM REC-04 require SCE to identify alternate routes or temporary trail detours where feasible and submit Pre- and Post-Project Trail Condition Reports to ensure that trails and detours are restored to pre-construction conditions. *The impact on trails near Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8 would be less than significant with mitigation.* 

## Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve and Santa Ana River Wildlife Area

**Direct Impact.** Construction at Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8 (Figure 4.12-2) would include pole removal and installation and the construction of underground distribution line. Ground-disturbing activities, including pole removal and trenching, could potentially cause temporary disruptions for users of the Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve and Santa Ana River Wildlife area. Distribution Line Relocation #7 would require approximately 1.06 acres of ground disturbance within the Hidden Valley Wildlife, and Distribution Line Relocation #8 would require approximately 1.34 acres of ground disturbance within the Santa Ana River Wildlife Area. Construction could also cause damage to trails and other recreational areas, which would be a significant impact.

MM REC-01 requires SCE to coordinate with recreational facility owners in the event of temporary closures. MM REC-03 requires SCE to maintain access to trails and bike paths by providing temporary detours on other existing trails or adjoining unvegetated areas. MM REC-04 requires SCE to submit a Pre- and Post-Project Trail Condition Report and repair all damage to trails and detours caused by construction. *The impact on the Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve and Santa Ana River Wildlife area would be less than significant with mitigation.* 

**LWCF Requirements.** The Hidden Valley Wildlife Preserve and Santa Ana River Wildlife Area are subject to LWCF requirements for conversion of land within LWCF-funded areas. The Revised Project would involve undergrounding two distribution lines within the boundaries of land purchased with funds provided through the LWCF Act. Underground utilities are permitted on land purchased with this funding without requiring a request for land conversion so long as land disturbed during construction is restored within 12 months of construction. No

new aboveground structures would be installed at Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8 as part of the Revised Project. Failure to revegetate areas disturbed during construction would be considered conversion of LWCF land and in conflict with LWCF requirements, resulting in a significant impact.

SCE would implement EPE REC-03, which requires SCE to revegetate any disturbed park areas and return them to pre-construction conditions. Significant impacts would remain because the EPE does not dictate that the land be returned to pre-existing conditions within 12 months from the time that ground disturbance begins in accordance with the LWCF Act. MM REC-04 requires SCE to document the condition of recreational areas prior to construction and repair all areas disturbed during construction to pre-existing conditions within 12 months from the start of construction. The installation of underground activities would not constitute a land use conversion as long as the land is restored within 12 months as specified in MM REC-04. *Impacts resulting from LWCF land conversion would be less than significant with mitigation.* 

#### Etiwanda Marshalling Yard

Material storage, equipment maintenance and crew meetings at the Etiwanda Marshalling Yard would be contained within the boundary of the Marshalling Yard and would not result in impacts on recreational facilities. *No impact would occur*.

#### **Operation and Maintenance**

The Revised Project would not require any SCE personnel to be present during operation of the new transmission facilities. Maintenance of the Revised Project overhead alignment would involve periodic inspections by SCE personnel, as described in the 2013 RTRP EIR. The underground vaults would be routinely inspected to ensure structural integrity. Qualified electricians would periodically perform routine testing and check on the condition of the voltage limiting arresters, grounding connection, splices, terminations, lightning arrestors, and conductor.

In most instances, these inspection and maintenance events would not require ground disturbance. Maintenance clearing and trimming of vegetation would be required where vegetation is close to Revised Project components in order to ensure safe and reliable operation of all infrastructure. Inspection and maintenance activities would not require closure of recreational parks or trails. Operation and maintenance activities within the Goose Creek Golf Club would be similar to activities performed for an existing 115-kV line owned and operated by SCE and would be coordinated around regular golf club operations. *No impact would occur.* 

## Mitigation Measures: MM REC-01, MM REC-03, MM REC-04, and MM REC-05 Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

## 4.12.8 Revised Project Mitigation Measures

#### MM REC-01: Recreation Area Closures (from 2013 RTRP EIR)

When temporary short-term closures to recreational areas are necessary for construction activities, closures would be coordinated with recreational facility owners. Schedule construction activities to avoid heavy recreational use periods (e.g., holidays or tournaments). Post notices prior to the closure.

#### Applicable Locations: Goose Creek Golf Club

#### Performance Standards and Timing:

- Prior to Construction: SCE coordinates with facility owners and posts notices prior to closure
- During Construction: SCE coordinates with facility owners and posts notices prior to closure
- Following Construction: N/A

#### MM REC-03: Maintain Access to Trails

SCE shall identify existing alternate routes to allow trail and path users to circumvent trail segments that are closed due to construction activities. Trail detours must be located on existing trails or unvegetated areas and shall not be located where they could impact sensitive biological resources. Trail detours may be placed along the perimeter of active work areas or through inactive work areas when it is safe to do so. Proposed alternate routes shall be delineated on project plans and provided to the CPUC at least 30 days prior to construction for review and approval.

Signs shall be posted at trail entrances to inform trail users of construction activities that may be encountered, such as excavations, and vehicles and equipment on trails.

**Applicable Locations:** Revised Project construction work and staging areas at 68th Street and Lucretia Avenue, 68th Street and Dana Avenue, Limonite Avenue and Pats Ranch Road, Landon Drive and Wineville Avenue, and at Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8

#### Performance Standards and Timing:

- Prior to Construction: Submittal of proposed alternative trail and bike path routes to CPUC for review and approval at least 30 days prior to construction
- During Construction: SCE installs and maintains signs informing trail users of detours or closures
- Following Construction: N/A

#### MM REC-04: Trail and Recreation Area Conditions and Repairs

SCE shall prepare a Pre-Project Trail and Recreation Area Condition Report prior to construction that documents the condition of designated trails, proposed detour routes, and recreational areas located within Revised Project work areas. The Pre-Project Trail and Recreation Area Condition Report shall be submitted to the CPUC no less than 30 days before construction.

SCE shall repair all damage to trails, detour routes, and recreation areas caused by construction vehicles and equipment by the completion of construction. SCE shall prepare a Post-Project Trail and Recreation Area Condition Report documenting the final state of all trails and recreation areas within the Revised Project work areas. The Post-Project Trail and Recreation Area Condition Report shall be submitted to the CPUC within 30 days of completing construction in each project segment. SCE shall complete all trail and recreation area repairs to the approval of the CPUC. SCE shall restore all LWCF land to pre-existing conditions within 12 months from the start of construction.

**Applicable Locations:** Revised Project construction areas at 68th Street and Lucretia Avenue, 68th Street and Dana Avenue, Limonite Avenue and Pats Ranch Road, Landon Drive and Wineville Avenue, at Distribution Line Relocations #7 and #8, and Goose Creek Golf Club

#### Performance Standards and Timing:

- Prior to Construction: SCE submits a Pre-Project Trail and Recreation Area Condition Report to the CPUC 30 days before construction
- During Construction: Trail and recreation area damage is adequately repaired within 12 months from start of construction
- Following Construction: SCE submits a Post-Project Trail and Recreation Area Conditions Report to the CPUC within 30 days of completing construction

#### MM REC-05: Maintain Access to Equestrian Trails

SCE shall maintain access to primary and secondary equestrian trails within the Equestrian Lifestyle Protection Overlay. Where closure of equestrian trails is necessary, SCE shall provide detours and appropriate signage to notify users of construction activities.

Applicable Locations: 68th Street between Limonite Avenue and Lucretia Avenue

#### Performance Standards and Timing:

- Prior to Construction: N/A
- During Construction: SCE maintains access to equestrian trails and posts signage as needed
- Following Construction: N/A

#### 4.12.9 Alternatives Setting

#### **Environmental Setting**

Refer to Figure 4.12-1 for a location of recreational facilities in the area of the Revised Project and alternative alignments. Two public recreational facilities, Vernola Family Park and Turnleaf Community Park, are located adjacent to the Alternative 1 and 2 alignments. A community trail is located along Wineville Avenue adjacent to the Alternative 1, 2, and 4 alignments. There are no recreational facilities located in the vicinity of the Alternative 3 alignment. Impacts from Alternative 3 are not discussed further below.

#### **Regulatory Setting**

The regulatory settings for recreation under Alternatives 1 through 4 would include the federal, state, and Jurupa Valley policies and regulations identified for the Revised Project (refer to Section 4.12.4: Regulatory Setting). Regulations that pertain to the City or County of Riverside are not applicable because none of the alternatives considered in this analysis occur in the City or unincorporated County of Riverside.

#### 4.12.10 Alternatives Impact Analysis

#### **Alternatives Analysis Scope**

The following analysis considers only the environmental impacts resulting from construction and operation of each alternative alignment segment. Any specific alternative replaces only a portion of the Revised Project and would require combination with the remaining unaffected segments of the Revised Project to form a complete alternative route through Jurupa Valley. Impacts resulting from construction and operation of the additional Revised Project elements necessary to form a complete alternative route are not considered in this section. A discussion of

the environmental impacts resulting from construction and operation of the complete alternative route, comprised of each alternative alignment plus the unaffected Revised Project elements, is provided in Chapter 6: Comparison of Alternatives.

#### Impacts Avoided by the Alternatives

Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 would be constructed in the same general project area as the Revised Project and would have no impact on the following CEQA Appendix G significance criterion:

- 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?
- b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

None of the alternatives involve the construction or expansion of any permanent recreational facilities. Impacts associated with this significance criterion are not discussed further.

Alternatives 1, 2 and 4 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 involve construction of two riser poles at the northwest corner of Wineville Avenue and Cantu-Galleano Ranch Road. The Alternative 1 underground transmission line would be located within Wineville Avenue, Bellegrave Avenue, and Pats Ranch Road. The Alternative 2 underground transmission line would be located within Wineville Avenue and Limonite Avenue. Both Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 would meet the Revised Project underground alignment at the intersection of Limonite Avenue and Pats Ranch Road. Alternative 4 involves construction of a segment of underground transmission line that follows Wineville Avenue and Landon Drive. Two riser poles would be constructed at either end of the underground segment.

		Significance Determination
	Impact Recreation-c: Would Alternative 1, 2 or 4 cause substantial physical deterioration of a recreational facility	Construction: Less than Significant with Mitigation
or substantially interfere with the use of recreational facilities?		Operation & Maintenance: No Impact

#### Construction

Alternative 1 and 2 construction activities at the corner of Bellegrave Avenue and Wineville Avenue would occur adjacent to Vernola Family Park and Turnleaf Community Park. Construction would take place primarily in the roadway, similar to the Revised Project, and would not directly cause physical deterioration of either park. The entrance and parking facility for Vernola Family Park is located on Wineville Avenue. Construction of Alternative 1 and 2 would not impact access to the park. Construction noise may temporarily deter park users and interfere with recreational activities for up to 5 weeks (likely non-consecutive) when construction would occur adjacent to the park. *The impact on parks would be less than significant.* 

For Alternatives 1, 2 and 4, construction of underground transmission lines on Wineville Avenue between Cantu-Galleano Ranch Road and Bellegrave Avenue would occur adjacent to a community trail on the west side of Wineville Avenue. Equipment and material staging, as well as vault installation, along Wineville Avenue may require trail closure for safety purposes and could cause deterioration of the trail. The impact would be significant.

SCE would implement EPE REC-01, EPE REC-02, and EPE REC-03 as part of the Revised Project. EPE REC-01 would require that SCE notify the public and coordinate with agencies in the event of short-term restrictions on trails. EPE REC-02 would require that SCE post onsite notices prior to closures of parks or trails. EPE REC-03 would require that SCE revegetate any park areas temporarily affected by project construction or return them to preconstruction conditions. Significant impacts to recreation would remain, however, as these EPEs do not include requirements for trail detours when feasible. EPE REC-03 does not specify requirements for the restoration of trails; potential damage to trails would remain a significant impact.

MM REC-03 and MM REC-04 require that SCE identify temporary trail detours, and submit Pre- and Post-Project Trail Condition Reports to CPUC to ensure that trails and detours are restored to CPUC standards. *Impacts on trails would be less than significant with mitigation*.

#### **Operation and Maintenance**

Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 would locate the transmission lines within the roadway and would not affect recreational facilities or recreational use. *No impact would occur*.

# Mitigation Measures: MM REC-03, MM REC-04 (Refer to Section 4.12.8: Revised Project Mitigation Measures)

Significance after Mitigation: Less than Significant

## 4.12.11 No Project Alternative Impact Analysis

Battery storage would most likely be installed within or adjacent to existing SCE or RPU substations or facilities and would not impact recreational facilities. The RERC substation is located approximately 490 feet from the Santa Ana River Trail. The No Project Alternative would not induce population growth and would not create additional demand for recreational facilities. *No impact would occur.* 

## 4.12.12 References

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