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4.15 Recreation

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless APMs Incorporated	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.15.1 Introduction

This section describes the existing recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Project, and evaluates potential impacts to recreational resources that may result from construction or operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project. The proposed Salt Creek Substation site and the majority of the proposed power lines would be located within the City of Chula Vista. The Proposed Project does not include a recreational component and would not increase the use of recreational facilities in the area. As such, impacts would be less than significant. Any additional impacts related to recreational facilities (e.g., noise, aesthetics) are discussed in their corresponding sections.

4.15.2 Methodology

This recreation analysis involved a review of various documents, including aerial photographs of the Proposed Project area, the City of Chula Vista General Plan (2005), the City of Chula Vista Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (2010), and the Chula Vista Greenbelt Master Plan (2003). A literature search was conducted, which included County of San Diego publications, supplemented by Internet searches of government websites.

4.15.3 Existing Conditions

4.15.3.1 Regulatory Setting

County of San Diego General Plan

The Conservation and Open Space Element of the County’s General Plan (County of San Diego 2011) discusses parks and recreational opportunities within the county. There are no relevant goals or policies applicable to the Proposed Project.

City of Chula Vista

General Plan

The Public Facilities and Services Element of the City of Chula Vista’s General Plan (City of Chula Vista 2005) provides an inventory of existing recreational facilities and describes the different types of parks and recreational facilities within the City of Chula Vista. The General Plan includes the following applicable policies related to recreational facilities:

Policy PFS 15.4: Promote the inclusion of park and recreation facilities in or near development areas to both serve the new development and to contribute to meeting existing park and recreation needs.

Policy PFS 15.7: Work with proponents of new development projects and redevelopment projects at the earliest stages to ensure that parks, recreation, trails, and open space facilities are designed to meet City standards and are built in a timely manner to meet the needs of residents they will serve.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was updated in 2010 and contains an inventory of existing recreational facilities, a needs assessment, and policies to implement the General Plan (City of Chula Vista 2010). It defines community needs and establishes goals and policies for parks and recreational facilities. The following policy is applicable to the Proposed Project:

Policy 1.4: The City will pursue the recreational opportunities associated with public agency-owned lands and utility rights-of-way.

Greenbelt Master Plan

The Greenbelt Master Plan provides an open space and trails plan based on the City of Chula Vista’s General Plan (City of Chula Vista 2003). The Greenbelt consists of 28 linear miles of connected open space and trails encircling the City of Chula Vista. The Greenbelt connects the Sweetwater Valley Regional Park to the north, Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) to the south, Otay Lakes to the east, and San Diego Bay to the west. The Greenbelt Master Plan is designed for implementation over several years, with close coordination between resource agencies and local jurisdictions, including the County of San Diego and City of San Diego.

4.15.3.2 Parks and Recreational Facilities

The City of Chula Vista currently includes the following hierarchy of parks: regional, community, neighborhood, mini-parks, urban parks, and special purpose parks, as described below and shown in Figure 4.15-1.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are large open space and recreational facilities, such as public golf courses, beaches, lakes, trails, and wildlife refuges. In 2004, the City of Chula Vista had more than 9,400 acres of regional parks, including portions of the Sweetwater and Otay River Valleys and the Otay Reservoirs (City of Chula Vista 2005).

OVRP is an 8,700-acre regional open space that is an ongoing project between three jurisdictions: City of Chula Vista, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego. OVRP contains a preserve, as well as active and passive recreation, including equestrian, hiking, and biking trails. It is located in the southwestern portion of the City of Chula Vista, approximately 5 miles southwest of the proposed Salt Creek Substation site. According to the City of Chula Vista's General Plan, there are plans to extend this park east along the southern boundary of the City of Chula Vista to the land surrounding both Lower and Upper Otay Lakes (City of Chula Vista 2005).

The Sweetwater Regional Park extends throughout the Sweetwater River Valley and consists of 570 acres, of which 178 acres is located within the City of Chula Vista. The park is located approximately 1 mile northwest of the proposed power lines and contains camping sites, equestrian trails, picnic areas, an aquatic park, fishing, and an amphitheater.

Community Parks

Community parks are designed to serve more than one neighborhood and are ideally 30 acres or more. Community parks provide a wide variety of facilities, including swimming pools, playing fields, recreation centers, cultural centers, and picnic areas. The City of Chula Vista currently contains nine community parks, and is planning to double the number of community parks to 18 by 2030 (City of Chula Vista 2010).

Mount San Miguel Community Park is an approximately 19-acre park located adjacent to the northern portion of the proposed power lines and approximately 0.75 mile southeast of the Existing Substation. This park includes ball fields, a dog park, walking trails, tennis courts, and picnic areas.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks mainly serve local residents and range in size from 5 to 15 acres. They include open space, playing fields, play equipment, and picnic areas. The City of Chula Vista currently contains 34 neighborhood parks, and is planning to increase the number of neighborhood parks to 46 by 2030 (City of Chula Vista 2010).

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Two neighborhood parks are located adjacent to the Proposed Project. Sunset View Park is an approximately 12-acre neighborhood park with soccer fields, basketball courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas. The proposed power lines run adjacent to the southwestern boundary of Sunset View Park.

Windingwalk Park is an approximately 7-acre neighborhood park with ball fields, a playground, tennis courts, and picnic areas. The northeastern boundary of Windingwalk Park would abut the proposed power lines, and the park is approximately 0.35 mile northwest of the proposed Salt Creek Substation.

Mini-Parks and Urban Parks

Mini-parks and urban parks are both public and private facilities that are typically smaller than 4 acres. Mini-parks serve a smaller number of residents and contain limited facilities. Urban parks are generally located in urban downtown areas amid infill and redevelopment activity. Urban parks may contain public plazas, play structures, public art features, sports courts, trails, picnic areas, dog walk areas, some grass play areas, and trees. The City of Chula Vista currently contains 10 mini-parks and one urban park, and is planning to increase the number of mini-parks/urban parks to 29 by 2030 (City of Chula Vista 2010).

St. Germaine Tennis Courts is a 1.1-acre mini-park that would be located adjacent to the proposed power lines along SR-125 between Otay Lakes Road and Eastlake Parkway. This mini-park contains two tennis courts.

Special-Purpose Parks

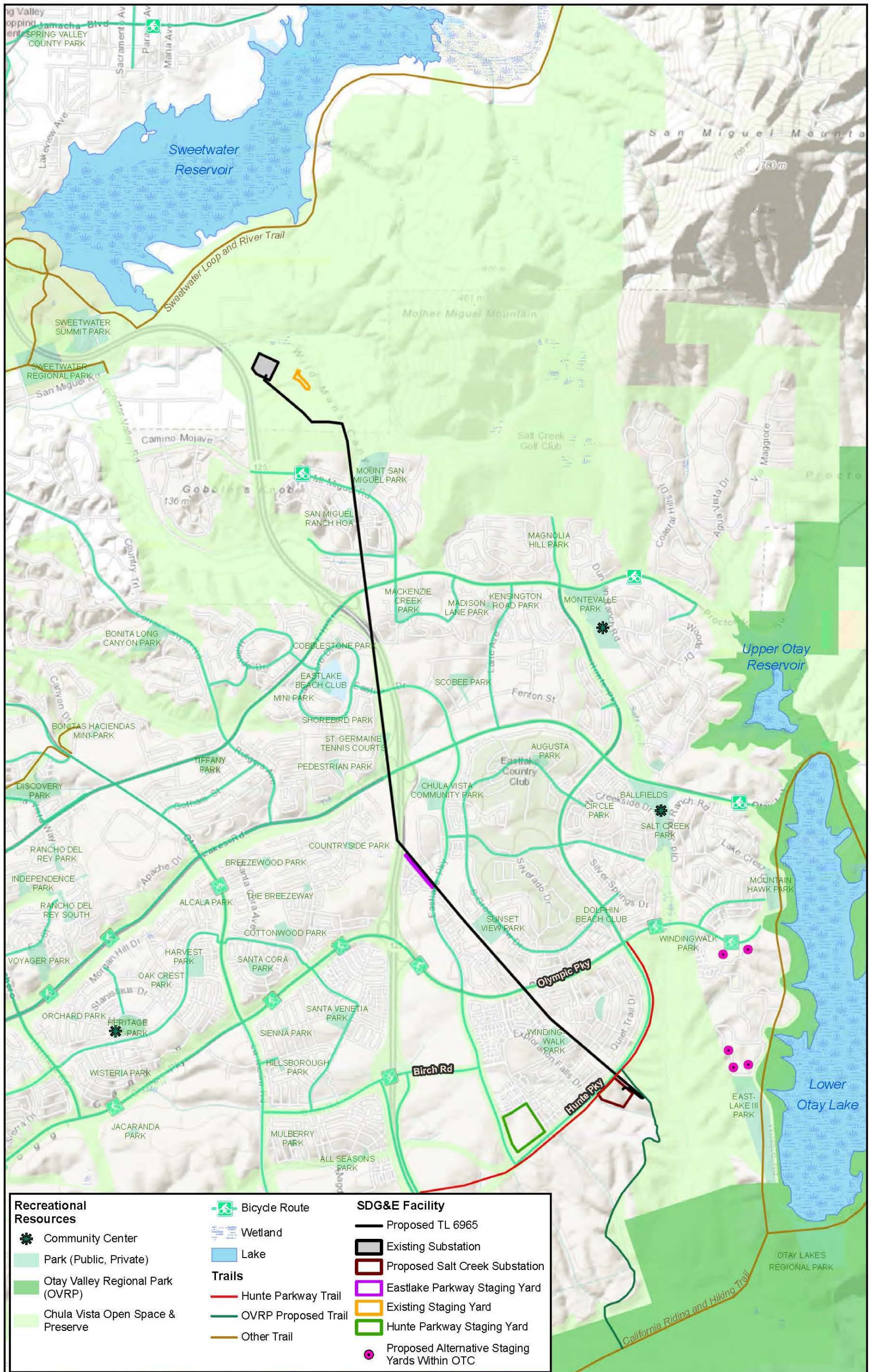
Special-purpose parks can vary in size and be up to 30 acres or more, and contain specialized facilities that serve the entire City of Chula Vista. The Living Coast Discovery Center (formerly known as the Nature Center) is the only special purpose park in the City of Chula Vista. It is a 3.4-acre zoo and aquarium located in the northwestern corner of the City, approximately 7.5 miles west of the proposed power lines.

4.15.3.3 Community Centers

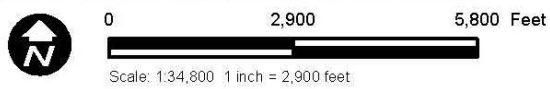
The City of Chula Vista currently contains 12 community centers and is planning to add one more by 2030 (City of Chula Vista 2010). The Monteville Community Center is located approximately 1.2 miles east of the proposed power lines, near the corner of Hunte Parkway and Proctor Valley Road. The Salt Creek Community Center is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the proposed power lines on Otay Lakes Road.

A private 2-acre recreational facility is located adjacent to the western boundary of the proposed power lines on Calle Marina. Part of the San Miguel Ranch Homeowner's Association (HOA), the recreational facility includes a pool, tennis court, playground, and community rooms.

Figure 4.15-1: Recreational Facilities



Source: Geomorphis LLC, AECOM, SDG&E, 2012; Esri Basemaps, 2013
 Recreational resources data: SanGIS/SANDAG Data Warehouse, 2012



Note: SDG&E is providing this map with the understanding that the map is not survey grade.

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4.15.3.4 Trails and Bicycle Facilities

The Greenbelt Master Plan anticipates a 28-mile open space trail system that encircles the City of Chula Vista and links to the city's current park system (City of Chula Vista 2003). Currently, the Sweetwater Loop and River Trail is an approximately 8-mile trail that navigates around the Sweetwater Reservoir and is located approximately 0.75 mile north of the Existing Substation (County of San Diego 2005). The approximately 100-mile portion of the California Riding and Hiking Trail, an ongoing project to create a 3,000-mile statewide trail system, was restored in San Diego County between Otay Lakes to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The California Riding and Hiking Trail is located approximately 1 mile southeast of the proposed Salt Creek Substation site and travels along the Otay River. The existing Hunte Parkway Trail runs adjacent to the proposed Salt Creek Substation site and extends along Hunte Parkway from Olympic Parkway to SR-125. In addition, the OVRP proposed trail would extend from Hunte Parkway, in the vicinity of the existing transmission access road, down into the OVRP.

The City of Chula Vista maintains a bicycle system; refer to Section 4.16, Transportation and Traffic, for more information.

4.15.4 Impacts

4.15.4.1 Significance Criteria

Determination of impacts was derived from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Impacts to recreation would be considered potentially significant if the Proposed Project would:

- increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities to the extent that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated, or
- require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities to meet population demand, potentially resulting in an adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.15.4.2 Impact Analysis

Question 4.15(a) Increase the use of existing recreational facilities

Construction – Less-than-Significant Impact

The Proposed Project would not require construction of new recreational facilities, and it would not increase the use of existing neighborhood, community, or regional parks or other recreational facilities, as it would not result in an increase in population. Trails are located along Hunte Parkway adjacent to the proposed Salt Creek Substation and also along portions of the Transmission Corridor. During construction it may be necessary to temporarily close off sections of trails to keep the public at a safe distance from construction areas, as described below.

Salt Creek Substation

The proposed Salt Creek Substation would be located approximately 0.35 mile southeast of Windingwalk Park. Construction activities for the proposed Salt Creek Substation are anticipated to occur for approximately 18 to 24 months, and may require up to 35 workers per

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day during peak times. These workers may periodically use nearby parks during breaks or after work; however, their use of these facilities would be temporary and would not contribute to a significant use of the parks or other recreational facilities in the area. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Patrons using the access roads in the adjacent Transmission Corridor or paths/trails along Hunte Parkway may experience a slight temporary increase in noise, dust, and odors from construction equipment during construction of the Proposed Project. These increases would occur periodically and intermittently over a period of no longer than 24 months. Construction notices and temporary closures would be posted to alert the public of any construction in the area. SDG&E would coordinate with the City of Chula Vista on trail closure needs during construction. Since construction would be temporary and would not disrupt large portions of existing access roads or paths/trails, impacts would be less than significant.

TL 6965 and TL 6910 Loop-In

The proposed TL 6965 within the existing Transmission Corridor would be located adjacent to five recreational facilities. The northern portion of the Transmission Corridor is adjacent to the western boundary of Mount San Miguel Community Park and the western boundary of the Transmission Corridor is adjacent to the San Miguel Ranch HOA recreational facility. In addition, St. Germaine Tennis Courts is located adjacent to the Transmission Corridor along SR-125 between Otay Lakes Road and Eastlake Parkway.

Two parks would be near the southern portion of the proposed power lines: Sunset View Park and Windingwalk Park. The proposed power lines run adjacent to the southwestern boundary of Sunset View Park and adjacent to the northeastern boundary of Windingwalk Park.

Construction activities for the power lines are anticipated to occur for approximately 8 to 12 months and may require up to 35 workers per day during peak times. These workers may periodically use nearby parks during breaks or after work; however, their use of these facilities would be temporary and would not contribute to a significant use of the parks or other recreational facilities in the area. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Patrons of the access roads or paths/trails along the existing Transmission Corridor may experience a slight temporary increase in noise, dust, and odors from construction equipment during construction of the Proposed Project. These increases would occur periodically and intermittently over a period of no longer than 12 months. Construction notices and temporary closures would be posted to alert the public of any construction in the area. SDG&E would coordinate with the City of Chula Vista on trail closures, as needed, during construction. Since construction would be temporary and would not disrupt large portions of the existing access roads or paths/trails, impacts would be less than significant.

Existing Substation Modifications

The Existing Substation is approximately 0.75 mile northwest of Mount San Miguel Community Park. Modifications would occur at the Existing Substation on SDG&E's existing fee-owned property as part of the Proposed Project. Modifications proposed would occur within the

Existing Substation. No public use of access roads or trails exists in the vicinity of the Existing Substation. Therefore, no impacts to trail users would occur.

Proposed modifications at the Existing Substation are anticipated to take approximately 3 months and may require up to 35 workers. This minor increase in workers in the area would be temporary and would not result in an increase in the utilization of Mount San Miguel Community Park or other recreational facilities in the area. Impacts would be less than significant.

Staging Yards

Three temporary staging areas would be used for the Proposed Project: one would be at the Existing Substation on SDG&E fee-owned property; one would be on the west side of Eastlake Parkway within the Transmission Corridor between SR-125 and Eastlake Parkway; and another one would be on the north side of Hunte Parkway between Discovery Falls, Eastlake Parkway, and Crossroads Street. Alternative staging yard locations have been identified within the OTC, which would include five potential alternative staging yards.

The Existing Substation staging yard is approximately 0.75 mile northwest of Mount San Miguel Community Park. The Eastlake Parkway staging yard is approximately 0.2 mile south of Chula Vista Community Park. The Hunte Parkway staging yard is approximately 0.35 mile southwest of Windingwalk Park. The OTC staging yard is located on private land, approximately 0.70 mile northwest of the proposed Salt Creek Substation. Staging yards would be used to temporarily store construction materials and equipment for Proposed Project components, and, therefore, would not result in an increase in population in the area or an increase in the use of parks. No impact would occur.

Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

The Proposed Project is designed to meet the electrical needs of the area and, therefore, would not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly. Additionally, long-term operation and maintenance activities for the Proposed Project would not result in the demand for new residential units or significantly increase the desirability or affordability of the surrounding area. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a permanent increase in park use. Following construction, the proposed Salt Creek Substation would be unattended, and no permanent jobs would be created in the vicinity of the Proposed Project that would result in an increase in park use or cause substantial physical deterioration of facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Question 4.15(b) Require construction or expansion of recreational facilities – No Impact

Construction and Operation and Maintenance – No Impact

The Proposed Project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of any existing recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment; therefore, no impact would occur.

4.15.5 Project Design Features and Ordinary Construction/Operations Restrictions

With implementation of the ordinary construction restrictions, as outlined within Section 3.8, Project Design Features and Ordinary Construction/Operations Restrictions, potential impacts relating to recreation would remain less than significant.

4.15.6 Applicant-Proposed Measures

The Proposed Project’s impacts on recreation would be less than significant; therefore, no APMs are required or proposed.

4.15.7 Detailed Discussion of Significant Impacts

Based on the above analyses, no significant impacts have been identified for the Proposed Project, and no APMs are required or proposed.

4.15.8 References

City of Chula Vista. 2003. Greenbelt Master Plan. Adopted September 16, 2003. Available at http://www.chulavistaca.gov/city_services/development_services/planning_building/Planning/greenbelt.asp.

City of Chula Vista. 2005. General Plan. Public Facilities and Services Element. Adopted December 13, 2005. Available at http://www.chulavistaca.gov/City_Services/Development_Services/Planning_Building/General_Plan/documents.asp.

City of Chula Vista. 2010. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. Draft available December 2010. Available at http://www.chulavistaca.gov/City_Services/Development_Services/Planning_Building/PDF/DraftParkandRecreationMasterPlanUpdate_001.pdf.

County of San Diego. 2005. Community Trails Master Plan. Adopted January 12, 2005. Available at <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/trails.html>.

County of San Diego. 2011. General Plan. Conservation and Open Space Element. Adopted August 3, 2011.

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