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4.13 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.13.1 Introduction

This section of the PEA describes the existing conditions and potential project-related impacts to recreational areas as a result of short- or long-term conditions associated with the implementation of the Proposed Project. In addition, this section would analyze consistency with any recreational plans or policies. A recreation area is defined herein as any site or facility that is used for recreational activities, including national, State, county, city or private parks or trails; open space; cultural center or museum; campground; or private recreational site such as a golf course, amusement park, or amphitheater. No impacts are anticipated to occur during construction, operation, or maintenance of the Proposed Project. Direct impacts to parks and recreational facilities from construction of the Proposed Project are included within Section 4.12, Public Services.

4.13.2 Methodology

The recreation analysis within this section involved a review of various documents including aerial photographs of the Proposed Project area, the general plans for the cities of San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente and for the County of Orange, and other relevant government planning documents reviewed to identify potential recreational resources within the Proposed Project area as well as online information sources. The review also included the use of GIS data. Site visits confirmed existing recreational resources within the Proposed Project area.

4.13.3 Existing Conditions

4.13.2.1 Public Parks and Recreation Areas

The proposed replacement of the existing transmission line, like the existing line itself, directly crosses four public parks. The Capistrano Substation to Rancho San Juan segment of the Proposed Project (Segment 1) crosses Junipero Serra Park, a 3.75-acre park with automatic irrigation, bike paths, a children’s play area, drinking fountains, and a grassy area (refer to Figure 4.9-1, Sheet 1). Segment 1 also crosses El Camino Real Park, Arroyo Park and Russell Cook Park. El Camino Real Park is a long linear park with trees, tables, and a meandering foot path

located adjacent to Camino Capistrano. Arroyo Park is a 1.5-acre area with an equestrian trail and a grassy area with automatic irrigation. Russell Cook Park is an approximately 19-acre park with soccer fields, paved bike paths, natural vegetation, and grassy areas with automatic irrigation. The Proposed Project passes within 0.25 mile of three other private recreational areas: Four Oaks Park, Liberty Park, and La Pata/Vista Hermosa Sports Park (refer to Figure 4.9-1).

4.13.2.2 Private Recreation Area

The Proposed Project would involve replacing two existing overhead 138kV transmission lines with new underground 138kV transmission lines extending west from the proposed San Juan Capistrano Substation site, through a residential neighborhood where a private pool, recreational facilities, and open space are located. This area is currently occupied by an existing SDG&E easement with two 138kV transmission lines as well as SDG&E distribution lines.

4.13.2.3 Golf Courses

There are several golf courses located in the vicinity of the Proposed Project area. The Proposed Project passes directly over Marbella Country Club and within 0.25 mile of the San Juan Hills Golf Club in Segment 2 of the Proposed Project (San Juan Capistrano Substation to Rancho San Juan) and within 0.25 mile of the Talega Golf Club and the Pacific Golf and Country Club in Segment 3 of the Proposed Project (Rancho San Juan to Talega Hub). Only the Marbella Country Club has transmission structures currently located within the limits of the golf course. One of the two current 138kV transmission structures located within the Marbella Country Club golf course would be replaced with a new 230kV steel pole. The new 230kV pole would be placed within 30 feet of the existing structure location.

4.13.2.4 Equestrian, Bicycle, and Hiking Trails

The Proposed Project crosses several local proposed and existing local equestrian and hiking trails in the city of San Juan Capistrano. Specifically, along the San Juan Capistrano Substation to Rancho San Juan segment, the transmission lines cross the Caballo Trail, Belfore-Marbella Trail, the San Juan Creek Trail, Las Vaqueres Trail, Juliana Farms Trail, and the Whispering Hills West Trail. Continuing from Rancho San Juan to the Talega Substation, the transmission lines cross the Whispering Hills East Trail, the Pico and La Pata trails. In the city of San Clemente, the Proposed Project crosses the Prima Deshecha and Cristianitos regional trails. The Cristianitos Regional Trail crosses the Proposed Project south of the Prima Deshecha Landfill and just west of the Talega Substation. The Prima Deshecha Regional Trail generally follows the existing transmission line ROW from approximately south of the Prima Deshecha Landfill to the Talega Substation. In addition, the transmission lines cross the following Orange County bicycle trails, which range from Class I to Class II trails, as indicated below.

- Rancho Viejo Road – Class I
- Ortega – Proposed Class II
- San Juan Creek – Class I
- Avenida La Pata – Class II
- Pico – Class II

4.13.4 Potential Impacts

4.13.4.1 Significance Criteria

Standards of impact significance were derived from Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*. These guidelines note when a proposed project could have a potentially significant impact to recreation, as follows:

- 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; or
- 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.

4.13.4.2 Question 4.13a – 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?

Construction – No Impact

The population of South Orange County may increase very slightly during the construction phase as a result of the approximately 60 workers per day (maximum number of workers during peak of construction, refer to Section 4.11, Population and Housing) required during the various phases of construction. The potential minor increase in population would not create substantial additional demand on existing recreation facilities due to the small, temporary nature of the potential increase in local population. Any small increase in the use of existing recreational facilities as a result of the Proposed Project would not create or accelerate the physical deterioration of any existing recreational facilities. Thus, no impact would occur.

Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

As described in Section 4.11, Population and Housing, the Proposed Project would not create a need for additional housing or long-term population immigration that could result in increased utilization of existing recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. No new employees would be hired to operate or maintain the Proposed Project facilities. The facilities would be operated and maintained by existing SDG&E personnel in the same manner that the existing facilities are operated and maintained. Thus, no impact would occur.

4.13.4.3 Question 4.13b – 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?

Construction and Operation & Maintenance – No Impact

The Proposed Project involves upgrading existing SDG&E electrical facilities, almost all of which is within existing SDG&E property and ROW. The Proposed Project does not include construction or expansion of any recreational facilities. Thus, no impacts would occur.

4.13.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

The Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts relating to recreation. Therefore, no APMs are being proposed. APMs for direct impacts to parks and recreational facilities from construction of the Proposed Project are included within Section 4.12, Public Services.

4.13.6 References

City of San Clemente. 1993. *General Plan*.

City of San Clemente. *Regional Trails Map*. Online: <http://san-clemente.org/sc/Rec/Trails/Questions/AllTrails.pdf>. Site visited September 2, 2011.

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