

1 **5.16 Recreation**

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3 **5.16.1 Environmental Setting**

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5 The northwestern portion of the proposed project area would run adjacent to multiple recreation areas,
6 including open space preserves that form a near-contiguous natural area, namely the Clear Creek Greenway,
7 Horsetown Clear-Creek Preserve, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Mule Ridge Trails, Swasey
8 Recreation Area, Cloverdale Trails, and Clear Creek Gorge Overlook. The Clear Creek Greenway, Swasey
9 Recreational Area and Mule Ridge Trails trail map, produced by the Bureau of Land Management, Redding
10 Field Office, depicts the orientation of these near-contiguous natural areas near the proposed project area
11 (BLM n.d.). Portions of the Clear Creek Greenway, Horsetown Clear-Creek preserve, Mule Ridge Trails,
12 and Cloverdale Trails are adjacent to, or 1 mile or less from the proposed project alignment. Whiskeytown
13 National Recreation Area and Swasey Recreation Area are both located approximately 3 miles from the
14 proposed project alignment.

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16 Recreational activities at the Clear Creek Greenway, Swasey Recreation Area, Horsetown Clear-Creek
17 Preserve, Cloverdale Trails, and Mule Ridge Trails include hiking, walking, bicycling, horseback riding, and
18 other passive outdoor activities. The Cloverdale Trailhead, situated along the proposed project alignment on
19 Cloverdale Road, is a staging area that provides access for recreationists to the Clear Creek Greenway.
20 Hunting is prohibited at the Horsetown Clear-Creek Preserve, but is permitted in designated areas
21 throughout the Clear Creek Greenway, Mule Ridge Trails, and Swasey Recreation Area. Recreational
22 activities at the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area include hiking, boating, hunting within designated
23 areas, camping, and other passive recreation activities (NPS 2017, 2018). The recreation areas are listed in
24 Table 5.16-1, along with their respective managing agencies and their approximate distance from the closest
25 point of the proposed project.
26

Table 5.16-1 Recreational Areas Near the Proposed Project Route

Recreational Area	Managing Agency	Approximate Distance from Project (Closest Point)
Clear Creek Greenway	Bureau of Land Management	Adjacent
Horsetown Clear-Creek Preserve	Horsetown Clear-Creek Preserve (private, nonprofit)	0.5 mile
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	National Park Service	3.3 miles
Mule Ridge Trails	Bureau of Land Management	1.0 mile
Clear Creek Gorge Overlook	California Department of Fish and Game	0.85 mile
Swasey Recreation Area	Bureau of Land Management	2.75 miles
Cloverdale Trails	Bureau of Land Management	Adjacent

Source: BLM n.d.

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28 **5.16.2 Regulatory Setting**

29
30 **Federal**

31 There are no federal regulations applicable to the proposed project area with respect to recreation.

32
33 **State**

34 There are no state regulations applicable to the proposed project area with respect to recreation.
35

1 **Local**

2 **Shasta County General Plan.** The Shasta County General Plan contains multiple objectives pertaining to
3 recreational land and facilities. The proposed project would not conflict with any of the policies described in
4 the general plan. (Shasta County 2004)
5

6 **Shasta County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan.** The 2009 Shasta County Parks, Trails, and Open
7 Space Plan provides an update to the Shasta County General Plan, with a focus on identifying the issues and
8 opportunities for improving the provision of parks, trails, and open space in Shasta County. The plan
9 recommends policies to maximize the environmental sustainability, economic vitality, and community health
10 through expansion and improvement of parks, trails, and open spaces, such as requiring setbacks or buffers
11 to protect sensitive lands from development. The proposed project would not conflict with any measures
12 described in the Shasta County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan (Shasta County 2009).
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14 **5.16.4 Environmental Impacts and Assessment**
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16 The impact analysis below identifies and describes the proposed project’s potential impacts on recreation
17 within the proposed project area. Potential impacts were evaluated according to significance criteria based
18 on the checklist items presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and listed at the start of each
19 impact analysis section below. Both the construction and maintenance/operations phases were considered;
20 however, because the construction phase could result in physical changes to the environment, analysis of
21 construction phase effects warranted a more detailed evaluation. The proposed project would not include
22 recreation facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreation facilities. There would be no
23 impact under criterion (b), and a detailed discussion is therefore not provided.
24

25 **Applicant Proposed Measures**

26 The applicant has not incorporated APMs to specifically minimize or avoid impacts on recreation. A list of
27 all project APMs is included in Table 4-2 in Chapter 4.
28

29 **Significance Criteria**

30 Table 5.16-2 describes the significance criteria from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines’ recreation
31 section, which the CPUC used to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project.
32

Table 5.16-2 Recreation Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

33

1 *a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational*
2 *facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

3
4 Construction crews are expected to be composed of a maximum of 22 workers on site at any given time.
5 Crews would be hired locally, so there would be no influx of large groups of workers from outside of the
6 region. Construction work on the project is anticipated to be conducted in 10-hour work days, Monday
7 through Friday. Because construction crews would only temporarily occupy each segment of the proposed
8 project area before moving to install additional segments, no single recreation area is expected to experience
9 prolonged increased usage by construction crews. Because population growth during construction would not
10 be substantial, the project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other
11 recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of facilities would occur or be accelerated.
12 Once installed, the fiber optic system would require minimal maintenance. Any required maintenance
13 activities would be temporary and would not require access to parks or recreational facilities. Therefore,
14 project impacts associated with construction activities and operation and maintenance would be less than
15 significant with regards to recreation.

16
17 **Significance: Less than significant.**

18
19 **Mitigation Measures**

20 Because all impacts on recreation for the proposed project would be less than significant or no impact, no
21 mitigation measures are required.
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