

5.15 Recreation

This section describes the environmental and regulatory setting and discusses impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Sanger Substation Expansion Project (proposed project) proposed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E, or the applicant) with respect to recreation.

As part of the proposed project, the applicant would mount two dishes, each measuring about 4 feet in diameter, on an existing tower at the Fence Meadow Repeater Station in the Sierra National Forest. Because the dishes would be installed on an existing structure in an area already used for telecommunications infrastructure and the construction activities would not involve construction of new recreation facilities or cause an increased use of existing recreation facilities, the antenna system is not discussed further in this section.

5.15.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed project would be located in Fresno County, California. The proposed project site is 3.5 miles southeast of the City of Fresno and 2 miles west of the City of Sanger. Most recreational areas, including hiking and biking trails in the county, are concentrated either within city boundaries or in the natural mountain areas located 10 miles east of the proposed project. The closest recreational facilities to the project area are:

- **Rotary Ball Park:** youth ball park and stadium; approximately 2 miles east of the project area in the City of Sanger.
- **Greenwood Park:** picnic areas, open grass, playground; approximately 2.1 miles east of the project area in the City of Sanger.

There are no recreational facilities or areas within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

5.15.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal and State

There are no federal or state regulations applicable to the proposed project related to recreation.

Local

Fresno County General Plan

At a regional level, Fresno County has recreation-related goals and policies identified in the “Open Space and Conservation Element” of the Fresno County General Plan, such as to designate and promote future development of public and private recreational facilities (Goal OS-H) and to develop recreation paths (Goal OS-1); however, these policies are not relevant to the analysis presented in this section (Fresno County 2000).

City of Sanger General Plan

The City of Sanger, in which the closest recreational facilities to the proposed project are located, also includes recreation-related goals and policies in “The Open Space, Recreation, and Public Facilities Element” of the Sanger General Plan, such as to provide adequate park and recreation facilities for the community (Goal 1) and to preserve open space from encroachment of urban land (Goal 4); however,

these goals are not relevant to the analysis presented in this section because the proposed project does not involve recreation facilities or open space (City of Sanger 2003).

5.15.3 Environmental Impacts and Assessment

Applicant Proposed Measures

The applicant has not incorporated applicant proposed measures into the proposed project to specifically minimize or avoid impacts on recreation. A list of all project APMs is included in Table 4-5.

Impacts on Recreation

Table 5.15-1 includes the significance criteria from Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Guidelines' recreation section to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Table 5.15-1 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"/>

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?

Construction

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Construction crews are expected to be composed of a maximum of 30 people on site at any given time. Workers would be mostly from the Central Valley region. If workers from outside the area temporarily relocate, the increase in use of local parks by up to 30 people for the 24- to 30-month construction period would be miniscule to nil, given that the existing park and recreation facilities in the City of Fresno and City of Sanger accommodate about 516,000 and 25,000 people, respectively (U.S. Census Bureau 2014a, 2014b). Any temporary increase in use of parks would be minimal and would not result in or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Construction of the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact under this criterion.

Operation and Maintenance

NO IMPACT

The substation would be unstaffed; operation would be controlled from PG&E's Grid Control Center in Vacaville. The site would be visited by maintenance personnel on an intermittent basis only. Since the

1 substation would be unstaffed, operation of the proposed project would have no effect on the use of
2 existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreation facilities. Operation of the proposed project
3 would, therefore, result in no impact under this criterion.
4

5 *b. Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of*
6 *recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*
7

8 *NO IMPACT*
9

10 The proposed project would not include recreation facilities or require the construction or expansion of
11 recreation facilities. There would be no impact.
12

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