

4.13 RECREATION

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

Recreational Facilities

A variety of existing and planned recreational facilities are located in the project vicinity. Recreational facilities in the project area include local and regional parks, trails, open space areas, golf courses, and the OTC. Recreational facilities in the project vicinity are shown on Figures 4.13-1 and 4.13-2.

Parks

The City owns considerable lands that are open to recreational use, including regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, mini parks, urban parks, and special purpose parks (City of Chula Vista 2010). Parks within 1,000 feet of the project area are listed in Table 4.13-1. The proposed power line would span one park, the St. Germaine Tennis Courts, which is located within the existing SDG&E ROW (Figures 4.13-1 and 4.13-2).

Trails

A network of shared-use neighborhood, community, and regional trails are identified in the County of San Diego's Community Trails Master Plan (2005) and the City of Chula Vista's Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (2010). The trail network in the project area consists of both existing County of San Diego and City of Chula Vista trails as well as proposed trails associated with the development of the City of Chula Vista's Greenbelt Master Plan (2003), the City's Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (2010), and the Otay Ranch East Urban Center project, which is part of the phased development for the Otay Ranch planned community (City of Chula Vista 2009). Typical trail uses in the project area include hiking, bicycling, walking, jogging, and other non-motorized activities (City of Chula Vista 2003). Trails in the project area are shown on Figures 4.13-1 and 4.13-2.

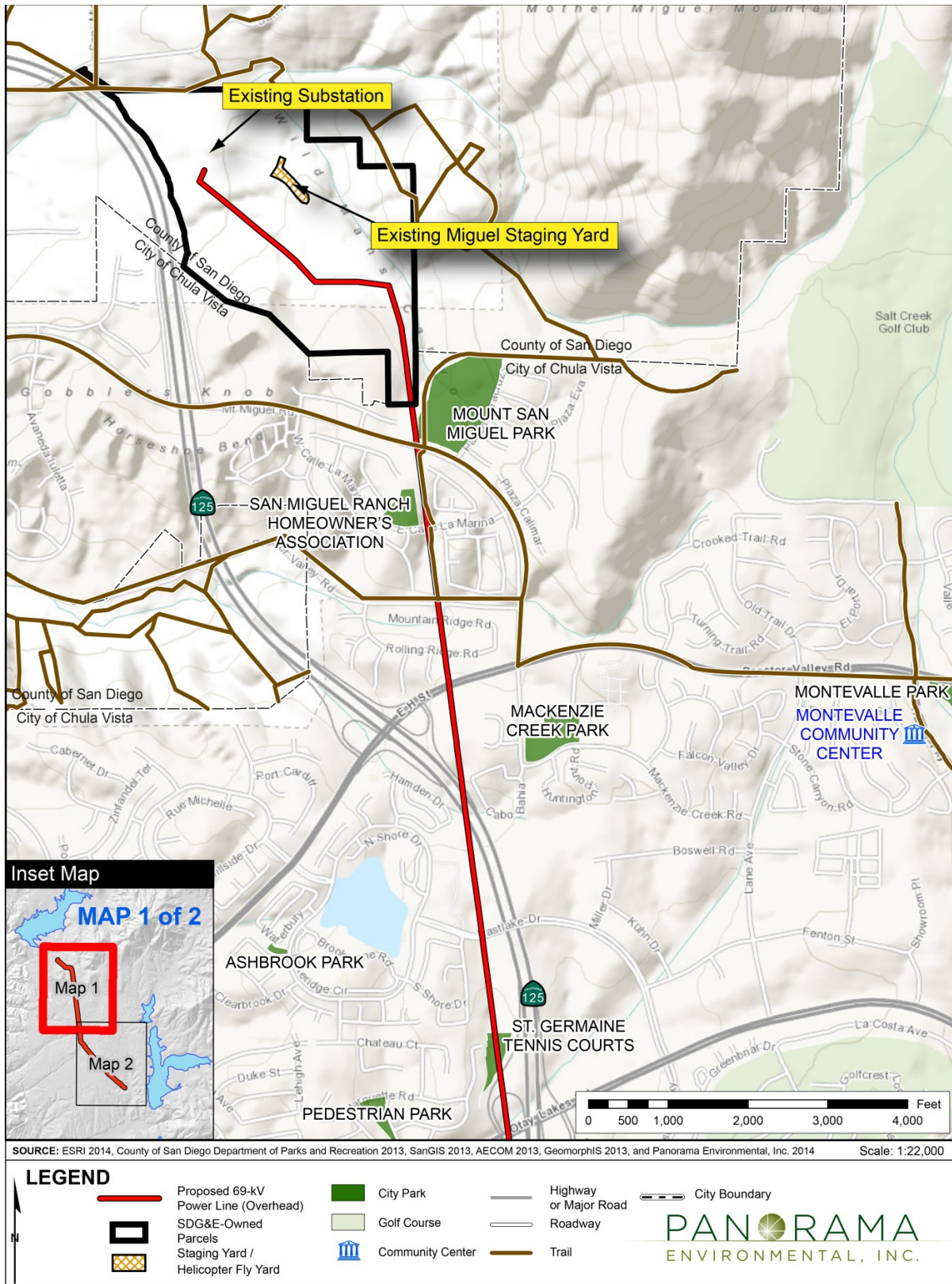
In addition to formal and improved trails, the public informally uses utility access roads in the transmission corridor and around the proposed substation, as well as a vast network of street sidewalks, to connect to City and County trails. In the transmission corridor, these informal trails include routes between Mountain Miguel Road and Proctor Valley Road, and south of Eastlake Parkway to the California Riding and Hiking Trail (see Figure 4-13.1). Utility access roads are comprised of both paved and unpaved gravel segments. Approximately 0.9 miles of designated trails and 5.7 miles of formal and informal trails exist within the transmission corridor and the proposed substation area.

Bicycle System

Bicycle routes and circulation are described in Section 4.14: Transportation and Traffic.

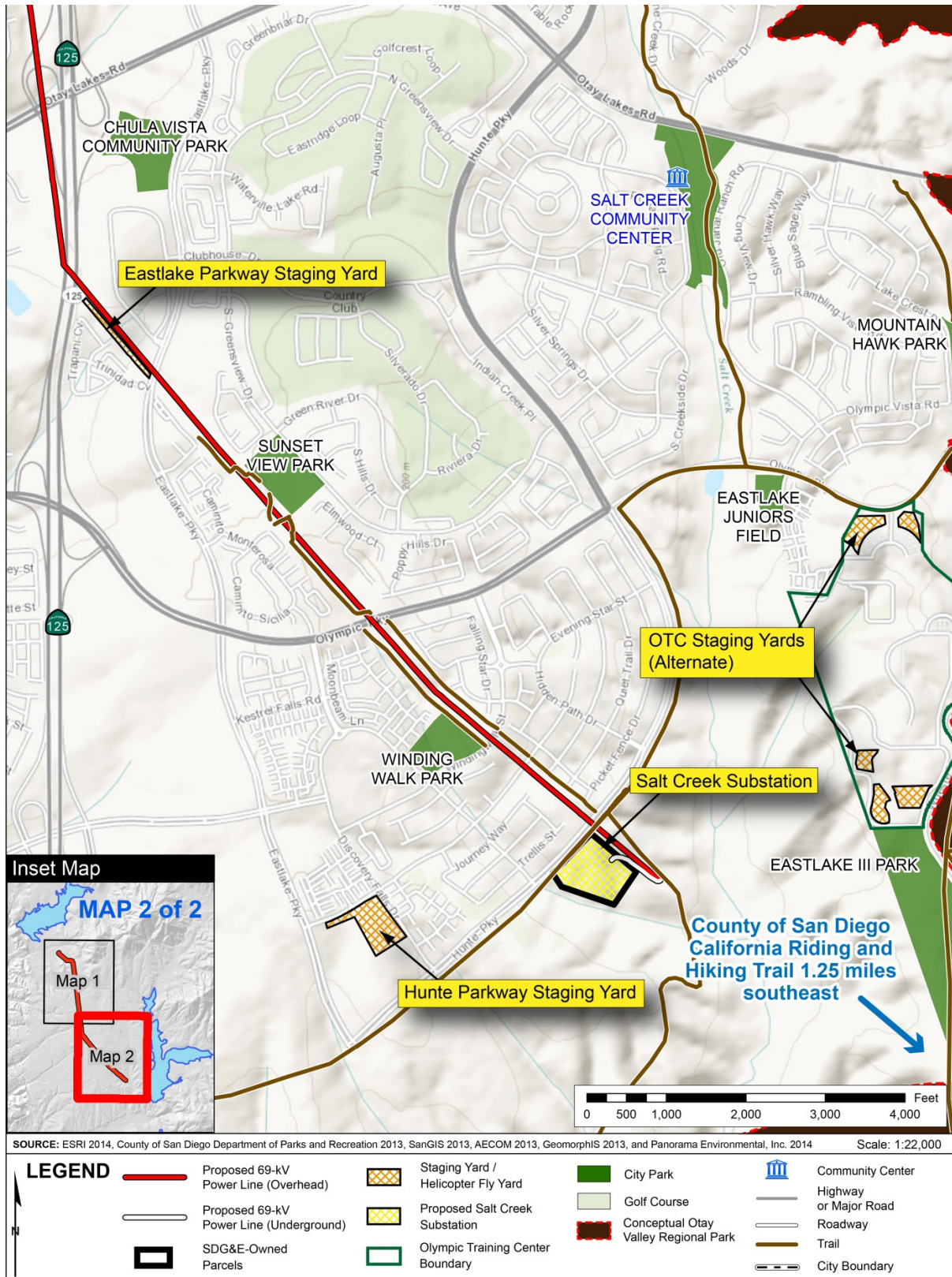
4.13 RECREATION

Figure 4.13-1 Recreational Facilities in the Project Area (1 of 2)



4.13 RECREATION

Figure 4.13-2 Recreational Facilities in the Project Area (2 of 2)



4.13 RECREATION

Table 4.13-1 Recreational Facilities within 1,000 feet of the Project Area

Facility Name	Owner/ Type	Features		Approximate Distance ¹
Chula Vista Community Park	City of Chula Vista/ Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Green Space • Parking • Picnicking • Play Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms • Soccer • Softball • Volleyball 	650 feet east of Loc 24
Eastlake III Park (planned)	City of Chula Vista/NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		50 feet south of southern OTC staging yards
Mackenzie Creek Park	City of Chula Vista/ Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Open Green Space • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Play Area • Restrooms • Tennis 	850 feet east of Loc 28
Mount San Miguel Park	City of Chula Vista/ Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball • Basketball • Dog Park • Open Green Space • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Play Area • Restrooms • Softball • Tennis • Walking Trail 	25 feet east of Loc 34
Otay Valley Regional Park	City of Chula Vista, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego/ Regional Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biking • Hiking • Horseback Riding • Open Green Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space and Wildlife Preserves • Picnicking • Playing Fields 	200 feet east of the southern OTC staging yards
St. Germaine Tennis Courts	City of Chula Vista Mini Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis 	450 feet north of Loc 25 and in the transmission corridor
Sunset View Park	City of Chula Vista/ Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Open Green Space • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Play Area • Restrooms • Soccer 	100 feet northeast of Loc15 and Loc 16
Windingwalk Park	City of Chula Vista/ Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Green Space • Parking • Picnicking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Area • Restrooms • Softball • Tennis 	100 feet southwest of Loc 5 and Loc 6

Note:

¹ Project elements (Loc) described in this table are identified on Figures 2.6-1 through 2.6-11.

Sources: City of Chula Vista 2003, City of Chula Vista 2010, County of San Diego 2013, and Google Maps 2013

4.13.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

There are no federal laws or regulations pertaining to recreation that are applicable to the proposed project.

4.13 RECREATION

State

There are no state laws or regulations pertaining to recreation that are applicable to the proposed project.

Local

County of San Diego General Plan

The San Diego County General Plan (2011) establishes goals and policies for development projects. The County of San Diego's General Plan identifies the following policies relevant to the proposed project (County of San Diego 2011):

- Policy COS-23.1 Public Access. Provide public access to natural and cultural (where allowed) resources through effective planning that conserves the County's native wildlife, enhances and restores a continuous network of connected natural habitat and protects water resources.
- Policy M-12.6 Trail Easements, Dedications, and Joint-Use Agreements. Promote trail opportunities by obtaining easements, dedications, license agreements, or joint-use agreements from other government agencies and public and semi-public agencies.

County of San Diego Community Trails Master Plan

The County of San Diego Community Trails Program is detailed in the Community Trails Master Plan. The Community Trails Master Plan includes the following relevant policies (County of San Diego 2005):

- Policy CIS 1.6 Consider shared-use of public utility easements if beneficial to the trail system.
- Policy CP 3.5 Discourage non-consenting public use of private trail systems through restricting connections, staging area locations, and trail map publications.
- Policy CIS 4.8 Gates, fencing, and other physical barriers should be used to control access and provide increased user safety when warranted by site conditions.

City of Chula Vista General Plan

The City of Chula Vista General Plan (2005) establishes goals, objectives, and policies to provide guidance in the growth of the City. The following recreation policies were identified in the City of Chula Vista General Plan:

- Policy LUT 23.10 Promote the system of trails envisioned within the Chula Vista Greenbelt.
- Policy PFS 23.5 Appropriate secondary land uses (such as nurseries, RV storage, and useable open space and parks, among others) should be encouraged to locate within overhead transmission facility rights-of-way, when appropriate. Trails can also be included as a secondary land use, pursuant to agreement with SDG&E.

4.13 RECREATION

- Policy E 11.4 Prepare and implement a City-wide Trails Master Plan that defines staging and access areas, trail types, standards, and siting criteria, consistent with the Greenbelt Master Plan and the Chula Vista Multiple Species Conservation Program Subarea Plan, including the placement of appropriate limitations on public access outside of designated trails and staging and access areas.
- Policy E 11.9 Work with utility owners and operators to promote the use of utility easements and corridors as open space and trail corridors.
- Policy E 11.10 Encourage the retention of open space areas, including undeveloped natural areas and utility corridors, wildlife corridors, and key scenic corridors.
- Policy E 12.1 Collaborate with San Diego County, the City of San Diego, and other applicable agencies to provide connections between Chula Vista's open space and trails network and the regional network, in accordance with the Chula Vista Multiple Species Conservation Program Subarea Plan and Otay Valley Regional Park Concept Plan.

City of Chula Vista Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The City of Chula Vista's Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2010) contains goals and policies to manage and develop parks and recreational facilities in the city. The draft plan identifies the following policy relevant to the proposed project (City of Chula Vista 2010):

- Policy 1.4 The City will pursue the recreational opportunities associated with public agency-owned lands and utility ROWs.

4.13.3 Applicant Proposed Measures

SDG&E proposes to implement measures that would reduce environmental impacts. The following relevant APM is considered part of the proposed project (Table 4.13-2). The significance of the impact, however, is first considered prior to application of the APM and a significance determination is made. The implementation of the APM is then considered as part of the project when determining whether impacts would be significant and thus would require mitigation. This APM would be incorporated as part of any CPUC approval of the project, and SDG&E would be required to adhere to the APM as well as any identified mitigation measures. The APM is included in the MMRP for the proposed project (refer to Section 9: Mitigation Monitoring and Report Plan in this Draft EIR), and the implementation of the measures would be monitored and documented in the same manner as mitigation measures.

Table 4.13-2 Applicant Proposed Measure for Recreational Impacts

APM Number	Requirements
APM REC-1: Temporary Trail Detours	Where feasible, temporary detours will be provided for trail users. Signs will be posted to direct trail users to temporary trail detours. If a trail detour is not feasible, the trail will be closed and signs will alert trail users 1 week in advance of the closure. Signs will be posted within 200 feet of the trail closure area.

4.13 RECREATION

4.13.4 Significance Criteria

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 *et seq.*) provides guidance on assessing whether a project will have significant impacts on the environment. Consistent with Appendix G, the proposed project would have significant impacts on recreation if it would:

- 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.

4.13.5 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This impact analysis evaluates the potential effects to recreation from construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project. This section provides an assessment of whether the proposed project would affect recreational facilities including parks, trails, and bicycle paths or affect recreational values through impacts on the recreational experience (e.g., noise and aesthetic impacts to recreation).

Impact Assessment

Table 4.13-3 provides a summary of the significance of potential impacts to recreation prior to application of APMs, after application of APMs and before implementation of mitigation measures, and after the implementation of mitigation measures.

Table 4.13-3 Summary of Potential Impacts to Recreation

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMS	Significance After APMs and Before Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact Recreation-1: Potential to substantially disrupt recreational activities or increase the use of recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-1	Less than Significant MM Recreation-1, MM Traffic-3
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than Significant	Less than Significant	Less than Significant
Impact Recreation-2: Potential to include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	Construction	Significant	Significant	Less than Significant MM Recreation-2
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	No impact	No impact

4.13 RECREATION

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMS	Significance After APMs and Before Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact Recreation-3: Have a substantial adverse effect on the recreational value of existing recreational facilities during construction	Construction	Significant	Significant APM NOISE-1	Significant and Unavoidable MM Aesthetics-1, MM Aesthetics-2, MM Noise-1, MM Noise-2
Impact Recreation-4: Have a substantial adverse effect on the recreational value of existing recreational facilities during operation	Operation and Maintenance	Significant	Significant	Less than significant MM Aesthetics-1, MM Aesthetics-2

Impact Recreation-1: Potential to substantially disrupt recreational activities or increase the use of recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Construction of the proposed project will include the use of roads, which also function as informal trails, to access project construction sites. The sewer access road and adjacent utility access roads south of Hunte Parkway are currently used by recreationists to access the California Riding and Hiking Trail located south of the proposed substation site. Recreational use of the sewer access road and utility access roads would be closed, as necessary, to the public throughout the duration of construction (18 to 24 months). Access to the California Riding and Hiking Trail would remain available during construction via an existing trail along Hunte Parkway. Public closure of these access roads, which are used as biking and hiking trails, could substantially disrupt recreational activities and result in a significant impact. APM REC-1 requires SDG&E to provide detours for trail closures, if feasible. Impacts to recreational activities would be less than significant as a result of trail detours, which are discussed in further detail under Impact Recreation-2 (below). Trail detours would occur on existing utility access roads that would not be impacted by the project construction. Impacts to trails would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

The St. Germaine Tennis Courts are located within a City mini-park in the transmission corridor approximately 450 feet north of Loc 25 (see Figure 4.13-1). It is expected that the tennis courts would be inaccessible during overhead cable stringing because access to the driveway and parking lot would be closed to the public for safety. Access to the parking lot would be closed for up to three days. There are abundant other recreational facilities nearby, as shown in Table 4.13-1. Closure of access to the tennis courts and use of other tennis courts for three days would not substantially disrupt recreational activities or cause the physical deterioration of recreational facilities. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Use of the roads, which are also used as biking and hiking trails, and other trails to access work areas during construction would be temporary but could result in the physical deterioration of

4.13 RECREATION

the roads and trails due to increased use by heavy equipment. The physical deterioration of these facilities would be a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Traffic-3, which requires repair of any damage to roadways, would reduce impacts on public roads that are used for bicycling and on transmission corridor access roads that function as informal trails. Mitigation Measure Recreation-1 requires the repair of any trail damage caused by construction vehicles. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

The project would not directly or indirectly induce growth in the area (refer to Chapter 7) and would therefore not increase use of neighborhood or regional recreational facilities that would result in deterioration of those facilities. There would be no impact from increased use of recreational facilities.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of project facilities would be similar to maintenance activities for the existing power lines in the transmission corridor. Operation and maintenance activities would not disrupt recreation activities or cause the physical deterioration of recreation facilities. Impacts to recreation facilities would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-1 and Traffic-3

Mitigation Measure Recreation-1: SDG&E shall prepare a Pre-Project Trail Condition Report that documents the condition of designated and unofficial trails located within the project work area, prior to construction. The Pre-Project Trail Condition Report shall be submitted to CPUC 30 days prior to construction. SDG&E shall repair all damage to trails (e.g., rutting) caused by construction vehicles by the completion of construction. SDG&E shall prepare a Post-Project Trail Condition Report documenting the final state of all trails within the project work area and access roads. The Post-Project Trail Condition Report shall be submitted to the CPUC within 90 days of construction completion. SDG&E shall complete all trail repairs to the approval of CPUC.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-2: Potential to include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

The project would not include the construction or expansion of any permanent recreational facilities. Temporary trail detours would be provided when trail or access roads are closed to the public. Trail closures and detours are expected to be short-term and would be discontinued following construction. Trail detours could result in an adverse physical effect if they were located in an area with significant cultural resources or biological resources, which would result in a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Recreation-2 requires the use of existing trails for temporary detours. New trails would not be constructed as part of the project. This mitigation

4.13 RECREATION

measure avoids potential impacts to sensitive resources. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance would not include construction or expansion of recreation facilities. There would be no impact.

Mitigation Measure: Recreation-2

Mitigation Measure Recreation-2: SDG&E shall use existing trails, paths, and walkways for any temporary trail detours.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-3: Have a substantial adverse effect on the recreational value of existing recreational facilities during construction (*Significant and unavoidable*)

Construction of the proposed project would impact the recreational value of trails, parks, and open space that are adjacent to project work areas. The recreational experience at these locations would be impacted by trail and park closures, construction noise, and the visibility of construction equipment and disturbed soil, all of which may reduce the desirability for recreationalists to use these areas.

Impacts would be greatest at (1) recreational facilities adjacent to the proposed substation where construction activities and equipment use would be concentrated and (2) near the OTC staging yards during helicopter activities. Recreational facilities near the proposed substation and OTC staging yards include the City of Chula Vista Greenbelt, Otay Valley Regional Park, Eastlake Juniors Field, Eastlake III Park (planned), and open space land east of Lower Otay Reservoir. Facilities along the transmission line corridor where construction would be dispersed would be intermittently affected when poles and conductors are installed. Impacts would be greater for passive recreational activities (e.g., bird watching or hiking) than for active recreational activities (e.g., soccer or baseball) because passive recreation is often more sensitive to outside noise and, unlike focused team sports, often involves enjoyment of scenic views. Substation construction would impact the recreational value of passive recreational facilities east and north of the proposed substation through degradation of the visual quality in the area and construction-generated noise.

The presence of the graded substation slope, electrical infrastructure, and masonry walls would cause a substantial change in views of open space areas from trails in the City of Chula Vista Greenbelt and Otay Valley Regional Park. Views from nearby trails would be significantly impacted by the substation during and immediately following substation construction. The impacts to these views would be a significant impact on the recreational value of the open space trails. Mitigation Measure Aesthetics-1 specifies requirements for landscape visual screening of the proposed substation. Mitigation Measure Aesthetics-2 requires color treatment of the substation facility to reduce visual contrast. Impacts to the recreational value of the nearby trails

4.13 RECREATION

would be significant for up to five years as vegetation around the substation matures to screen the facility. Impacts from substation construction would be significant and unavoidable because it would take up to 5 years for the mitigation to effectively screen the facility and reduce impacts on recreation.

Noise generated during substation and distribution construction could have a significant impact on the recreational value of the Hunte Parkway Trail and transmission corridor trail adjacent to the substation. SDG&E proposed APM NOISE-1 to maintain functioning mufflers on all equipment. The recreational areas on Hunte Parkway and within the transmission corridor are very close to the construction activity and would not be shielded from the noise; therefore, the impact on the recreational values could still be significant with APM NOISE-1. Noise levels would be intermittently 20 to 30 dBA higher than background conditions at the Hunte Parkway Trail. Mitigation Measure Noise-1 requires SDG&E to accept and address all noise complaints relating to construction activities. Mitigation Measure Noise-2 requires SDG&E to install noise barriers. The noise barriers would reduce noise from the substation by approximately 9 to 10 dBA. Impacts to recreational values from substation construction noise would be temporarily significant and unavoidable because the noise level during project construction would increase by more than 10 dBA over background noise levels.

Use of helicopters during power line stringing would affect the recreational value of parks and recreational areas located near staging yards and along the power line corridor. The noise generated from helicopters would be substantial, as described in Section 4.11: Noise, and could affect recreational enjoyment of areas near the helicopter use. Helicopter use would be limited to five hours per day over a 4-day period, and the helicopters would not remain in a single location for more than 20 minutes. Because of the short-term and temporary nature of the helicopter use, the impact to recreational values would be less than significant.

Impact Recreation-4: Have a substantial adverse effect on the recreational value of existing recreational facilities during operation (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

The proposed 69-kV power line would result in a low visual impact along the transmission corridor (refer to visual simulations for KOPs #1 through #6 in Section 4.1: Aesthetics) and would have a less than significant impact on recreational values. The proposed substation would result in a high visual impact to views from the Hunte Parkway Trail (KOP #7) and the transmission corridor trail adjacent to the substation (KOP #13) and would result in moderately high visual impacts to trails in the City of Chula Vista Greenbelt (KOP #15). Recreationists along the Hunte Parkway Trail, transmission corridor trail, and City of Chula Vista Greenbelt trail could be moderately or highly sensitive to visual change due to: (1) the contrast with the extensive open space in areas to the south of the trail, and (2) the long viewing time while walking or biking. The visual change at the substation could have a substantial adverse effect on the recreational value of these trails, resulting in a significant impact. Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-1 and Aesthetics-2 define success criteria for the landscape plantings along the substation perimeter and color treatment of the substation to screen the facility, respectively, to reduce the visual contrast of the facility with the surrounding landscape. The recreational value

4.13 RECREATION

of these facilities would not be substantially affected with implementation of the proposed mitigation (see Chapter 4.1). The impacts to recreational values from project operation and maintenance would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Aesthetics-1, Aesthetics-2, Noise-1, and Noise-2

Significance after Mitigation: Significant and unavoidable.

4.13.6 Project Alternatives

Table 4.13-4 provides a summary of the potential impacts to recreation from the project alternatives.

Table 4.13-4 Summary of Impacts from Alternatives by Significance Criteria

Significance Criteria	No Project Alternative	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Impact Recreation-1: Potential to substantially disrupt recreational activities or increase the use of recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated	No impact	Less than significant with mitigation APM REC-1 MM Recreation-1, MM Traffic-3	Less than significant with mitigation APM REC-1 MM Recreation-1, MM Traffic-3	Less than significant with mitigation APM REC-1 MM Recreation-1, MM Traffic-3
Impact Recreation-2: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	No impact	Less than significant with mitigation MM Recreation-2	Less than significant with mitigation MM Recreation-2	Less than significant with mitigation MM Recreation-2
Impact Recreation-3: Have a substantial adverse effect on the recreational value of existing recreational facilities during construction	No impact	Significant and unavoidable APM NOISE-1 MM Aesthetics-1, MM Aesthetics-2, MM Noise-1, MM Noise-2	Significant and unavoidable APM NOISE-1 MM Aesthetics-1, MM Aesthetics-2, MM Noise-1, MM Noise-2	Significant and unavoidable APM NOISE-1 MM Aesthetics-1, MM Aesthetics-2, MM Noise-1, MM Noise-2
Impact Recreation-4: Have a substantial adverse effect on the recreational value of existing recreational facilities during operation	No impact	Less than significant with mitigation MM Aesthetics-1, MM Aesthetics-2	Less than significant with mitigation MM Aesthetics-1, MM Aesthetics-2	Less than significant with mitigation MM Aesthetics-1, MM Aesthetics-2

4.13 RECREATION

Alternative 1: 230/12-kV Substation and 230-kV Loop-in

Environmental Setting

Alternative 1 involves construction of a 230/12-kV substation within the SDG&E fee-owned parcel south of Hunte Parkway. The recreational facilities, parks, and trails near the proposed substation and Hunte Parkway and OTC staging yards described in Section 4.13.1 would be proximate to this alternative. There is a trail located on Hunte Parkway adjacent to the substation and an informal trail in the transmission corridor that connects to the trail network south of the substation, as shown on Figure 4.13-2. The recreational facilities and trails located in and near the transmission corridor would not be a part of the environmental setting for Alternative 1.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Construction of the 230/12-kV substation would have similar impacts to recreation as construction of the proposed substation. Similar to the proposed project, construction would include the use of informal trails to access the substation, 230-kV loop-in, and cable pole work areas during construction. The sewer access road and utility access roads near the substation site would be closed, as necessary, to recreationists throughout the duration of construction. These informal trails would be closed up to 30 months, which is 6 to 12 months longer than for the proposed project. The closure of these trails could substantially disrupt and cause a significant impact to recreational activities. APM REC-1 requires SDG&E to implement trail detours during construction. Impacts to recreational activity would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Similar to the proposed project, work within the Hunte Parkway trail and within the trail in the transmission corridor could cause deterioration or damage to these recreational facilities, resulting in a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-3 requires repair of any damage to roadways or trails. Impacts to recreational facilities would be less than significant with mitigation.

Similar to the proposed project, use of detours as required by APM REC-1 could result in impacts to biological and/or cultural resources if SDG&E were to construct a new trail. Mitigation Measure Recreation-2 requires the use of existing trails for trail detours during construction. Impacts from construction of new trails would be avoided with Mitigation Measure Recreation-2. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Construction of this alternative would produce noise that would affect the recreational experience and value of the recreational facilities along Hunte Parkway and the access road trail adjacent to the substation. The 230/12-kV substation construction would last approximately 6 to 12 months longer than the proposed project, resulting in a longer duration of construction noise that would be intermittently 20 to 30 dBA higher than background levels at nearby trails. The noise would have a significant impact on the recreational value of the trails during construction, particularly for recreationists that are using the trails to enjoy the open space views and quiet atmosphere along and within the Otay County Open Space Preserve. SDG&E proposes APM NOISE-1 to maintain functioning mufflers on all equipment. The recreational areas on Hunte

4.13 RECREATION

Parkway and within the transmission corridor would be very close to construction activities and would not be shielded from noise; therefore, the impact on the recreational values could still be significant with APM NOISE-1. Mitigation Measure Noise-1 requires SDG&E to accept and address all noise complaints relating to construction activities. Mitigation Measure Noise-2 requires SDG&E to implement noise barriers. The noise barriers would reduce noise from the substation by approximately 9 to 10 dBA. The reduction in noise levels from use of the barriers would maintain the recreational value of the trails. Impacts to recreational values from substation construction noise would be less than significant with mitigation.

The 230/12-kV substation is a higher profile substation than the proposed 69/12-kV substation. The substation, including the 40-foot-high retaining wall, would result in a substantial impact to the visual quality of views from nearby trails. Visual simulations of the 230/12-kV substation from the Hunte Parkway trail, trails located in the transmission corridor, and trails in the open space area south of the project are provided in Section 4.1: Aesthetics. The visual impact of the larger substation would have a significant impact on the recreational value of the surrounding trails. Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-1 and Aesthetics-2 would slightly reduce the visual contrast of the substation; however there is no practical method for visually screening the Alternative 1 substation due to its large height. Alternative 1 would therefore have a significant and unavoidable impact on the recreational value of nearby trails throughout the operational life of the project.

This alternative does not require a new power line and would avoid all noise and visual impacts on recreational facilities associated with construction of the power line.

Operation and maintenance activities for the 230/12-kV substation would be similar to maintenance activities for the proposed project. Roads and informal trails would be open to recreational users during operation. Operation and maintenance would not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities and would not increase the use of, or cause physical deterioration of existing recreation facilities. Impacts from physical deterioration of recreational facilities would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Alternative 2: 69/12-kV Substation and Generation at Border and Larkspur Electric Generating Facilities

Environmental Setting

Alternative 2 would involve construction of a substation, distribution lines, and TL 6910 loop-in the same manner as the proposed project. The recreational facilities, parks, and trails near the proposed substation and Hunte Parkway and OTC staging yards described in Section 4.13.1 would be proximate to Alternative 2.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Construction of the Alternative 2 substation would result in the same impacts to recreational facilities and activities as the proposed project because the 69/12-kV substation would be constructed in the same manner and location as the proposed substation. Implementation of APMs REC-1 and NOISE-1, and Mitigation Measures Recreation-1, Recreation-2, Traffic-3, Noise-1, Noise-2, Aesthetics-1, and Aesthetics-2 would reduce impacts to recreational facilities

4.13 RECREATION

and trails; however, visual impacts from construction of the substation would be significant and unavoidable during the vegetation establishment period, as described in Section 4.13.6 above. Impacts from substation operation would be less than significant with Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-1 and Aesthetics-2.

Alternative 2 does not require a new power line. This alternative would therefore avoid all noise and visual impacts on recreational facilities and trail closures associated with construction of the proposed project power line in the transmission corridor north of Hunte Parkway.

Use of the electric generation facilities at Border and Larkspur would not affect recreational facilities, users, or activities because these facilities currently exist and operate for energy production. Additional use of the facilities would not require new recreational facilities, impact existing recreational areas, or impact the value of a recreational area. There would be no impact, and no mitigation is required.

Impacts to recreational facilities, users, and activities from Alternative 2 operation and maintenance would be identical to those for the proposed project substation because maintenance of the Alternative 2 substation would require the same activities as the proposed project. Mitigation Measure Aesthetics-1 and Aesthetics-2 would reduce visual impacts of the substation during project operation. No impact would occur during project operation at the Border and Larkspur energy generation facilities because these facilities already exist. Maintenance at these facilities would follow current practices. Impacts from operation and maintenance would be less than significant with mitigation.

Alternative 3: 69/12-kV Substation and Underground 69-kV Power Line within Public ROW

Environmental Setting

The recreational facilities, parks, and trails described for the proposed substation and Hunte Parkway and OTC staging yards in Section 4.13.1 would be proximate to Alternative 3. Alternative 3 involves construction of an underground power line in lieu of the proposed overhead power line. Recreational facilities and parks within 1,000 feet of the underground power line route are listed in Table 4.13-5.

The trail networks described in Section 4.13.1 would apply to this alternative since the power line would be in the same general vicinity as the proposed project.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

69/12-kV Substation. Construction of the substation under Alternative 3 would result in similar impacts to recreational facilities, users, and activities as the proposed substation because the substation would be constructed in the same location and manner as the proposed project. Implementation of APMs REC-1 and NOISE-1 and Mitigation Measures Recreation-1, Recreation-2, Traffic-3, Noise-1, Noise-2, Aesthetics-1, and Aesthetics-2 would reduce impacts to recreational facilities and trails. Visual impacts on the recreational value of trails near the substation would be significant and unavoidable during construction and for up to 5 years following construction of the substation, as described in Section 4.13.6. Impacts from substation

4.13 RECREATION

construction would be significant and unavoidable. Impacts from substation operation would be less than significant with Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-1 and Aesthetics-2.

Table 4.13-5 Recreational Facilities within 1,000 feet of the Alternative 3 Underground Power Line

Facility Name	Owner/ Type	Features	Approximate Distance
Circle Park	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Play Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms <p>950 feet southeast of the intersection of Hunte Parkway and North Greensview Drive</p>
Dolphin Beach Club	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Parking • Play Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool • Restrooms • Volleyball <p>50 feet south of the intersection of Hunte Parkway and South Greensview Drive</p>
Eastlake Little League Field	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking <p>950 feet southeast of the intersection of Hunte Parkway and Otay Lakes Road</p>
Kensington Road Park	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restroom <p>700 feet southeast of the intersection of Proctor Valley Road and Lane Avenue</p>
Mackenzie Creek Park	City of Chula Vista/ Neighborhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Open Green Space • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Play Area • Restrooms • Tennis <p>600 feet south of the intersection of Proctor Valley Road and Cabo Bahia</p>
Madison Lane Park	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restroom <p>700 feet southwest of the intersection of Proctor Valley Road and Lane Avenue</p>
Monteville Community Center	City of Chula Vista/ Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball • Basketball • Dog Park • Open Green Space • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Play Area • Restrooms • Softball • Tennis • Walking Trail <p>150 feet east of the intersection of Hunte Parkway and Proctor Valley Road</p>
Mount San Miguel Park	City of Chula Vista/ Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball • Basketball • Dog Park • Open Green Space • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Play Area • Restrooms • Softball • Tennis • Walking Trail <p>100 feet north of the intersection of Mt. Miguel Road and Paseo Veracruz</p>
San Miguel Ranch Homeowner's Association	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Play Area • Pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms • Tennis <p>600 feet southwest of the intersection of Mt. Miguel Road and Paseo Veracruz</p>

Sources: City of Chula Vista 2003, City of Chula Vista 2010, County of San Diego 2013, and Google Maps 2013

4.13 RECREATION

Alternative 3 would have no impacts to recreational facilities associated with the power line between Miguel Substation and the proposed substation, including effects on access and use of the St. Germain Tennis Courts, because no power line would be built in the transmission corridor for this alternative.

69-kV Underground Power Line. Construction of the underground power line would necessitate temporary partial and/or full road closures and intersection closures. These partial and/or full road closures would impact recreational use of bicycle paths. Partial and/or full closures on Mountain Miguel Road would temporarily impede access to Mount San Miguel Community Park, where the only access to the park is via Mountain Miguel Road. Impeded access to bicycle paths and Mount San Miguel Community Park could result in the increased use of other existing parks and bicycle paths or trails in the area. This increase would be temporary and would not cause significant deterioration of the parks, bicycle paths, or trails. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

The recreational facilities located along the underground power line route involve active recreational activities. Noise from construction of the buried underground power line would be temporary because construction equipment would be constantly moving along the underground alignment. Noise from underground power line construction would not substantially affect the recreational value of the facilities. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

Operation and maintenance of the Alternative 3 substation would result in the same recreational impacts as the proposed project. The substation could substantially impact the recreational value of nearby trails if the landscape screening were not successful. Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-1 and Aesthetics-2 include performance standards and contingency measures for the landscaping and color treatment of the substation to reduce the visual contrast of the facility. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Like the proposed project, minimal maintenance would be required for the underground power line. Maintenance of the underground power line could require lane closures to access the buried pipeline within the roadway. These lane closures would typically be short in duration and would not significantly impede access to or use of recreational facilities, parks, and trails along the alignment. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, SDG&E would meet energy needs of the southeast Chula Vista area by adding two additional transformer banks at the Proctor Valley Substation and installing additional distribution circuits in the Otay Ranch area. None of the facilities associated with the proposed project or alternatives evaluated in this Draft EIR would be constructed. Therefore, none of the impacts to recreational resources described in this section would occur.

4.13 RECREATION

The two transformer banks at Proctor Valley Substation are currently approved and would be constructed even if the proposed project were constructed. Construction of the transformer banks at Proctor Valley Substation was previously considered, and their construction would have no additional impacts to recreation. The additional distribution circuits would be located within existing roadways and would not impact recreational facilities or recreational values. There would be no impact.