4.10 RECREATION

This section presents the environmental setting and impact analysis for recreational resources that would be affected by the Proposed Project and its alternatives. This section addresses background information, applicable regulations, known resources, environmental impacts, and mitigation measures to reduce or avoid significant effects.

4.10.1 Approach to Data Collection

Recreational areas are defined as any public or quasi-public site or facility that is used for recreational activities, including:

- National, state, county, city or private parks (e.g., dog parks)
- Bicycle paths
- Trails
- Open space preserves
- Cultural centers
- Museums
- Campgrounds

This section does not address private recreational areas such as golf courses and amusement parks because CEQA does not address impacts to such facilities.

For the purposes of analyzing impacts in this section, the Proposed Project vicinity described below in Section 4.10.2.2 includes the Proposed Project work areas and a 1,000-foot buffer from the Proposed Project. The 1,000-foot buffer around the Proposed Project accounts for the area of potential indirect effects on recreational access and value. The extent of the regional setting for this section is the County of San Diego.

4.10.1.1 National Recreation Areas

National recreational areas were identified using the National Park Service (2015) park map for the County of San Diego and GIS data developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (2010).

4.10.1.2 State Recreation Areas

State recreational areas were identified using the California Department of Parks and Recreation (2015) park map for the County.

4.10.1.3 City Recreation Areas

Local recreational areas in the City of San Diego and City of Poway were identified using the following resources:

- Active park use GIS data developed by the County of San Diego, the District Attorney's Office, and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG 2011)
- Public park GIS data developed by the Parks and Recreation departments for the County of San Diego (2014a) and City of San Diego (2009a)

- Land use, zoning, and parcel data for the City of San Diego (2009b; 2014b), and City of Poway (2015)
- Field reconnaissance
- Review of available aerial imagery from 2014 (Digital Globe 2015)

4.10.1.4 Trails

Multi-use trails and trails that connect open space trails to adjacent neighborhoods were identified using the following data sources:

- GIS data prepared by the County of San Diego for the Community Trails Master Plan (County of San Diego 2014b)
- Trail maps prepared by the City of San Diego for the Black Mountain Open Space Park (2008b), Del Mar Mesa Preserve (2012b), and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (2005)
- Trail maps for the City of Carlsbad (2013)
- Field reconnaissance
- Review of available aerial imagery from 2014 (Digital Globe 2015)

4.10.2 Environmental Setting

4.10.2.1 Regional Setting

There are a variety of important recreational areas in the County of San Diego. Public and quasi-public recreational areas in the County generally include national parks and forests; state parks, beaches, and campgrounds; county and city parks and open space with various amenities (i.e., sport facilities, community centers, trails); school sports facilities; and cultural centers and museums. Important recreational areas in the County that are located in the region are described below. Recreational areas within the Proposed Project vicinity are described in Section 4.10.2.2.

National Recreation Areas

The closest national recreational areas to the Proposed Project are the Cabrillo National Monument and the Cleveland National Forest located approximately 17 miles south and 15 miles northeast of the Proposed Project, respectively.

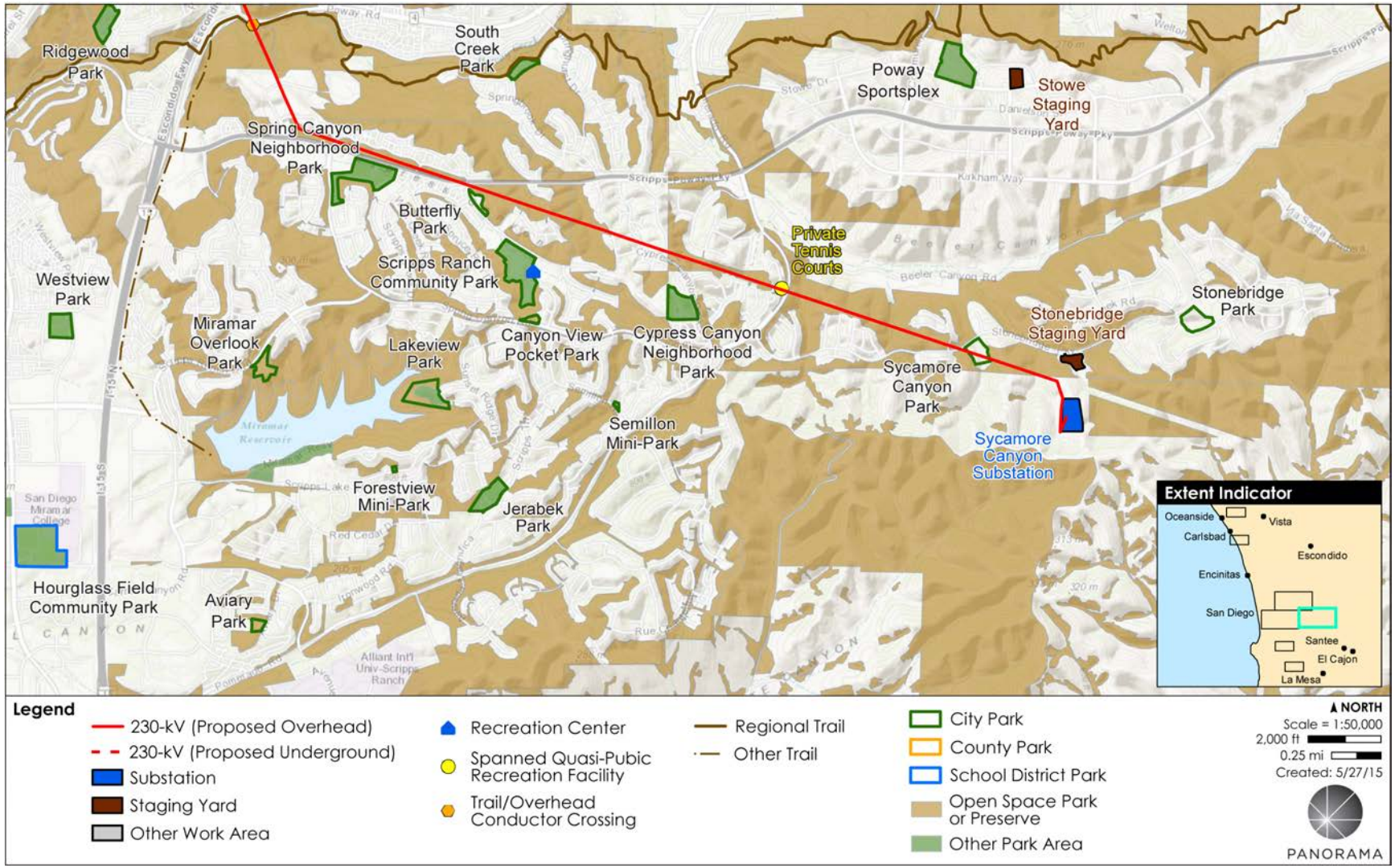
State Recreation Areas

The closest state recreation area to the Proposed Project is the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the Peñasquitos Substation.

County Recreation Areas

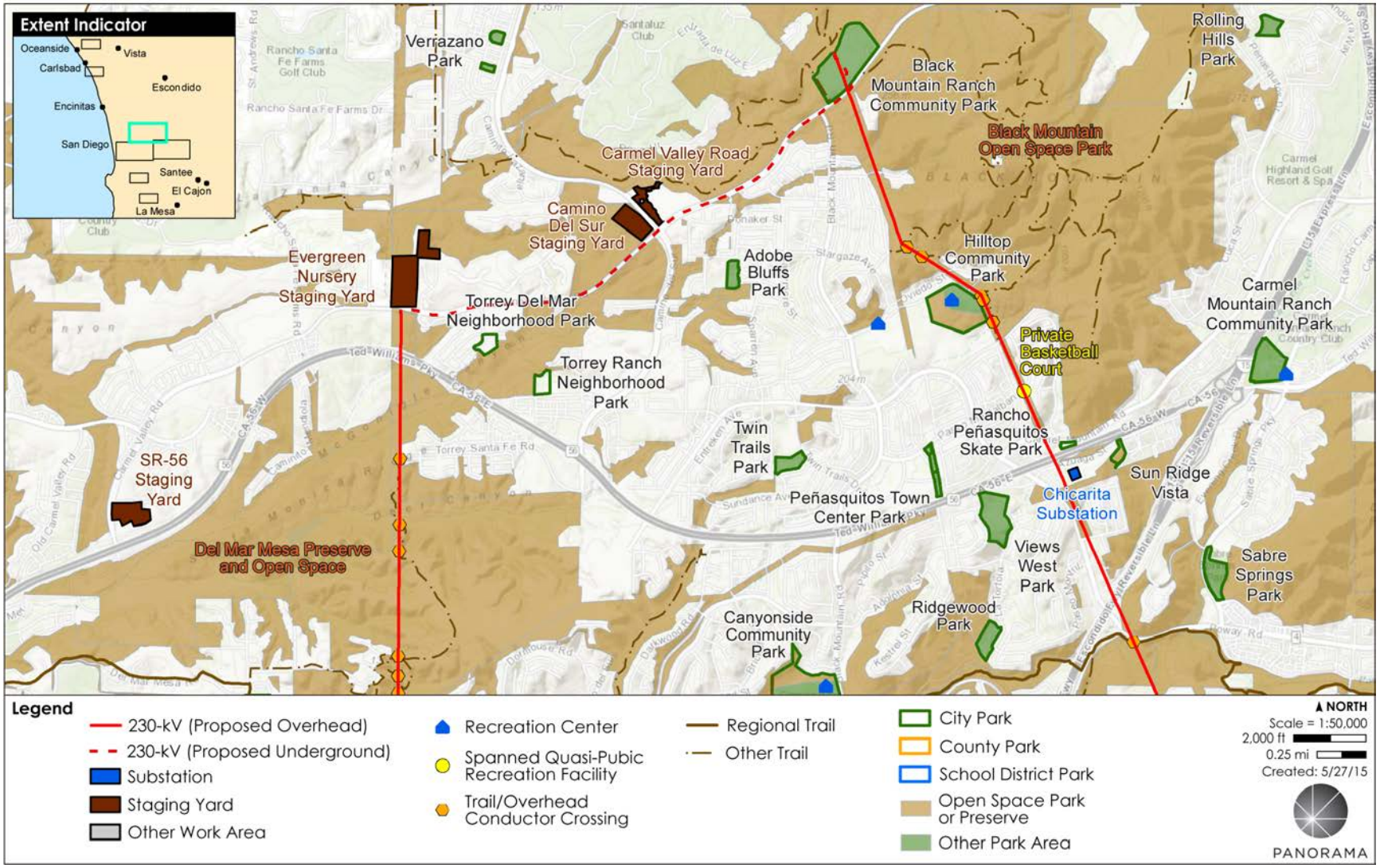
The nearest County parks to the Proposed Project are the Los Peñasquitos Adobe Preserve and 4-S Ranch. Los Peñasquitos Adobe Preserve is located in the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve approximately 1.65 miles east of the junction of Segments C and D, and 4-S Ranch is located approximately 1 mile northeast of the junction of Segments A and B. Both parks are shown on Figures 4.10-1 through 4.10-4.

Figure 4.10-1 Recreational Areas in the Proposed Project Vicinity and Surrounding Region (Map 1 of 4)



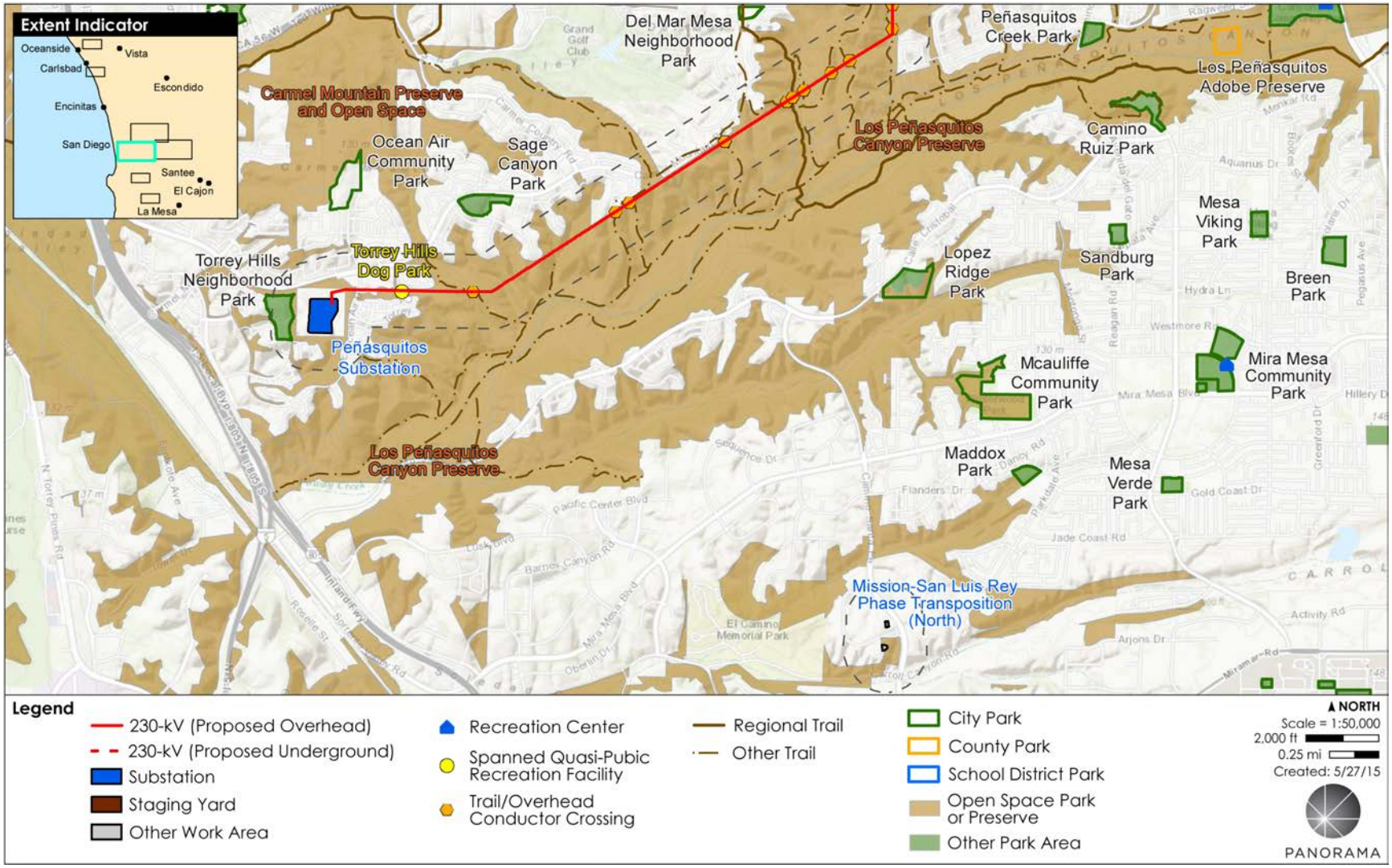
Sources: City of Poway 1991, City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2014b, County of San Diego 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011, SANDAG 2014, USDA Forest Service 2010, Esri 2015, and SDG&E 2014a and 2014b

Figure 4.10-2 Recreational Areas in the Proposed Project Vicinity and Surrounding Region (Map 2 of 4)



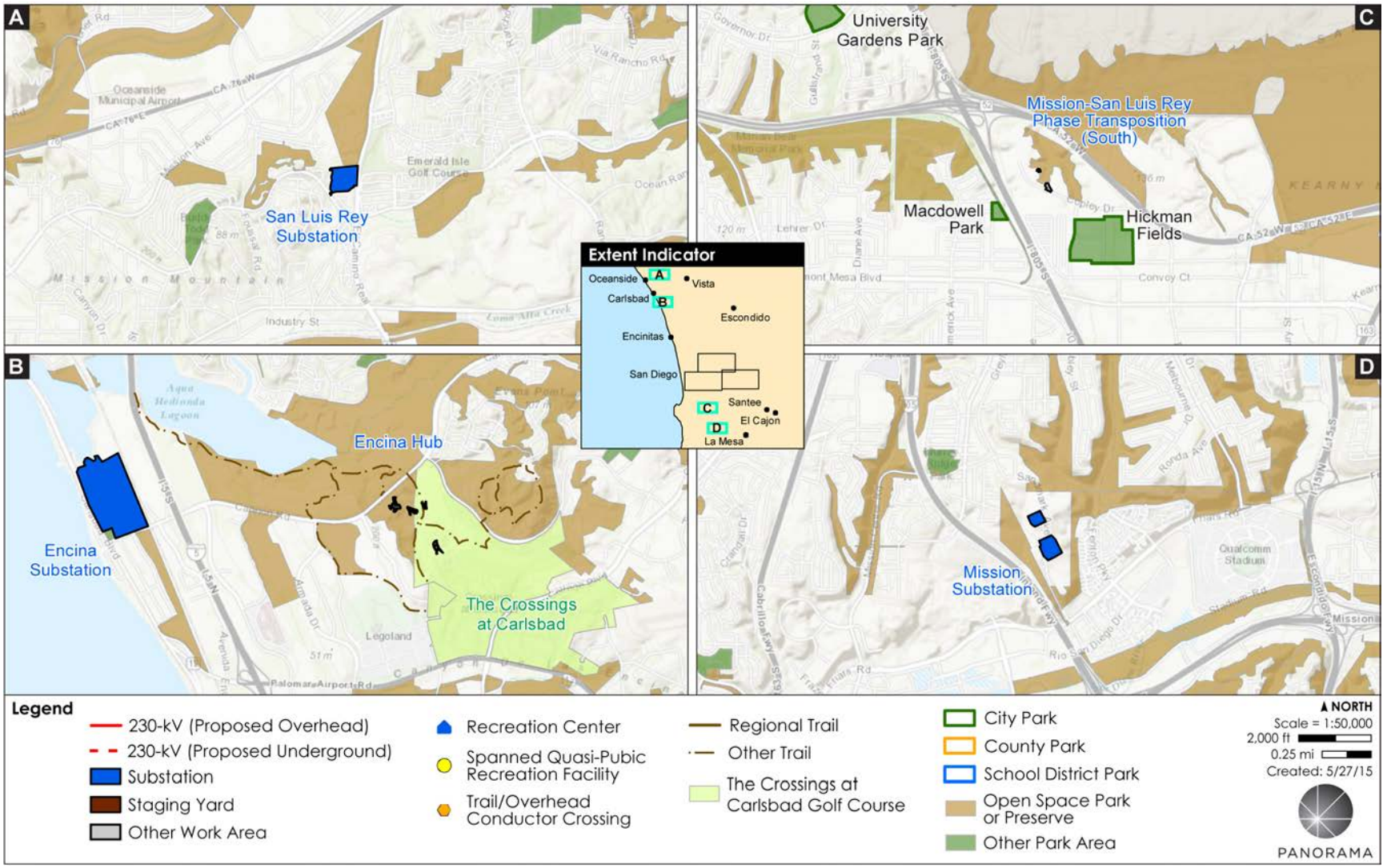
Sources: City of Poway 1991, City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2014b, County of San Diego 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011, SANDAG 2014, USDA 2010, Esri 2015, and SDG&E 2014a and 2014b

Figure 4.10-3 Recreational Areas in the Proposed Project Vicinity and Surrounding Region (Map 3 of 4)



Sources: City of Poway 1991, City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2014b, County of San Diego 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011, SANDAG 2014, USDA 2010, Esri 2015, and SDG&E 2014a and 2014b

Figure 4.10-4 Recreational Areas in the Proposed Project Vicinity and Surrounding Region (Map 4 of 4)



Sources: City of Poway 1991, City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2014b, County of San Diego 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011, SANDAG 2014, USDA 2010, Esri 2015, and SDG&E 2014a and 2014b

4.10.2.2 Proposed Project Setting

The Proposed Project would be located adjacent to open space recreational areas, trails, parks, and sport facilities. Recreational areas located within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Project are discussed below.

Open Space Recreation Areas and Trails

Open space areas and trails in the Proposed Project vicinity are shown on Figures 4.10-1 through 4.10-4.

Black Mountain Open Space Park

The approximately 1,554-acre Black Mountain Open Space Park is located in the Rancho Peñasquitos planning area along Segment A of the Proposed Project. There are several hiking trails that traverse the park and connect to the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park, Hilltop Community Park, and adjacent neighborhoods. The Miner's Ridge Loop Trail, Nighthawk Trail, and Black Mountain Service Road all lead to the summit of Black Mountain (City of San Diego 2008b and 2014a).

Del Mar Mesa Preserve

The approximately 900-acre Del Mar Mesa Preserve is located south of Carmel Valley Road along and within Segments C and D of the Proposed Project. The resource management plan and Draft Trails Community Plan Amendment identified a network of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) access roads and trails used by horseback riders, bicyclists, and hikers (RECON Environmental, Inc. 2014, City of San Diego 2012b). In addition, there are several trails that traverse the preserve (RECON Environmental, Inc. 2014).

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

The Los Peñasquitos Canyon is located along and within portions of Segments A, C, and D. The preserve is spread over approximately 3,700 acres composed of the Peñasquitos Canyon and its tributary, Lopez Canyon (Van Dell and Associates, Inc. 1998; County of San Diego 2015a, 2015b). The preserve offers approximately 25 miles of hiking and biking trails, 14 miles of equestrian trails, a 16-acre equestrian center, five trailhead parking areas, and several historic and cultural visitor sites, including the Johnson-Taylor and Ruiz-Alvarado Adobes (Van Dell and Associates, Inc. 1998). The Trans County Regional Trail is located in the preserve and crosses the SDG&E right-of-way (ROW) in Segments A and D.

Other Open Space Conservation Areas

The Proposed Project would be located within 1,000 feet of open space conservation areas that are included in Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) Subarea Plans for the County and City of San Diego, City of Carlsbad, and City of Poway. These areas support trail connectivity between open space preserves and parks, as well as provide passive recreational uses. The following open space conservation areas are located within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Project (City of San Diego 2009c and SANDAG 2014):

- Black Mountain Ranch Open Space
- Butterfly Pocket Park Open Space
- Pacific Highlands Ranch Open Space
- Poway Open Space

- Carlsbad Open Space
- Del Mar Mesa Open Space
- Kearny Mesa Open Space
- La Zanja Canyon Open Space
- Los Peñasquitos Canyon Open Space
- McGonigle Canyon Open Space
- Mira Mesa Open Space
- Rancho Encantada Open Space
- Rancho Peñasquitos Open Space
- Sabre Springs Open Space
- Scripps Miramar Ranch Open Space
- Shaw Valley Open Space
- Torrey Hills Open Space

Encina Hub is located within an open space area designated by the City of Carlsbad, which includes the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and the Crossings at Carlsbad Golf Course (City of Carlsbad 2014). Existing and planned trails identified by the City of Carlsbad are located on SDG&E access roads at Encina Hub as shown on Figure 4.10-4 (City of Carlsbad 2013). There is one existing trail located in Encina Hub that follows an SDG&E access road from a trail head at the north end of The Crossings Drive to Faraday Avenue where it connects to other trails to the east. The existing trail provides access through the golf course located to the southeast and utilizes a bridge that crosses a creek.

City Parks

Eleven active-use city parks are located within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Project, as listed in Table 4.10-1 with the approximate distances from project features. City parks in the Proposed Project vicinity are shown on Figures 4.10-1 through 4.10-4.

Table 4.10-1 Active-Use City Parks within 1,000 Feet of the Proposed Project

Name and Location	Facilities	Location in Relation to Proposed Project[1]
Transmission Line Segment A		
Butterfly Mini Park *11885 Cypress Canyon Road, San Diego*	• Scripps Ranch Community Center • Parking • Picnic Tables • Trails	Approximately 200 feet south of P16
Cypress Canyon Neighborhood Park *11470 Cypress Canyon Road, San Diego*	• Ball Fields • Basketball Courts • Parking • Picnic Tables • Play Area	Approximately 900 feet south of P11
Hilltop Community Park *9711 Oviedo Way, San Diego*	• Basketball Courts • Open Space • Parking • Play Area • Picnic Tables • Hilltop Fieldhouse Recreation Center	Approximately 130 feet southwest of P35

Name and Location	Facilities	Location in Relation to Proposed Project[1]
Spring Canyon Neighborhood Park *10907 Scripps Poway Parkway, San Diego*	• Ball Fields • Basketball Courts • Parking • Picnic Tables • Play Area	Approximately 230 feet southwest of P18
Sycamore Canyon Park *Stonebridge Parkway and Stockwood Cove, San Diego*	• Ball Fields • Parking • Picnic Tables • Play Area	Proposed Project transmission lines overhead between P4 and P5
Rancho Peñasquitos Skate Park *10029 Carmel Mountain Road, San Diego*	• Skate Park	Approximately 350 east of P32
Transmission Line Segments A and B		
Black Mountain Ranch Community Park *14700 Carmel Valley Road, San Diego*	• Ball Fields • Parking	Project transmission lines overhead between structure P40, P40A, P41, and P41A; underground transmission line within park driveway and parking area.
Transmission Line Segment B		
Torrey Del Mar Neighborhood Park *7693 McGonigle Trail, San Diego*	• Open Space • Basketball Court • Picnic Tables • Play Area	Approximately 775 feet south of Carmel Valley Road and underground vault V9
Transmission Line Segment D		
Torrey Hills Neighborhood Park *4262 Calle Mejillones, San Diego*	• Ball Fields • Basketball Court • Open Space • Play Area	Approximately 400 feet west of the Peñasquitos Substation
Staging Yards		
Poway Sportsplex *12349 McIvers Court, Poway*	• Ball Fields • Play Area	Approximately 950 feet west of the Stowe staging yard

Notes:

[1] See Proposed Project Detail Maps in Appendix A for specific structure locations.

Sources: City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, and 2014b, and County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011

Quasi-Public Recreation Areas

The Proposed Project would span three privately-owned community sport facilities that are accessible to the public or adjacent neighborhood communities in Segment A and the privately-owned Torrey Hills Dog Park in Segment D between Structures P57 and P58. These facilities are all located in the existing SDG&E ROW. The privately-owned community sport facilities

spanned in Segment A include community tennis courts between Structures P8 and P9, and P31 and P32, and a basketball court between P33 and P34.

Bikeways
Class I, Class II, and Class III designated bikeways are located in the Proposed Project vicinity. Bikeways in the project vicinity and surrounding region are shown on Figure 4.7-3 in Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic.

4.10.3 Applicable Regulations, Plans, and Standards

4.10.3.1 Federal
There are no federal laws or regulations pertaining to recreation that are applicable to the Proposed Project.

4.10.3.2 State
There are no state laws or regulations pertaining to recreation that are applicable to the Proposed Project.

4.10.3.3 Local

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

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 San Diego General Plan
The 2008 City of San Diego General Plan (2008a) with amendments in 2010 and 2012 provides guidance for development within the City of San Diego and policies to maintain recreational resources. The City of San Diego General Plan includes the following policies that are relevant to the Proposed Project:

Policy RE-D.6	Provide safe and convenient linkages to, and within, park and recreation facilities and open space; and improve public access through development of, and improvements to, multi-use trails within urban canyons and other open space areas.
Policy RE-D.7	Provide public access to open space for recreational purposes.

Policy RE-E.6	Use underutilized or unnecessary City ROW and utility easements to help meet recreational needs, where appropriate.
Policy RE-F.1	Protect and enhance park lands from adjacent incompatible uses and encroachments.
Policy RE-F.4	Balance passive recreation needs of trail use with environmental preservation.
Policy RE-F.5	Utilize open space lands for outdoor recreation purposes, when doing so is compatible with cultural, historic preservation, and MSCP conservation goals and surrounding land uses, including, but not limited to corridors that link recreation facilities and open space areas such as utility easements, river and stream corridors, trails, and scenic highway corridors.
Policy RE-F.7	Create or enhance open space multi-use trails to accommodate, where appropriate, pedestrians/hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians; and locate canyon and other open space trails to take advantage of existing pathways and maintenance easements where possible and appropriate.
Policy CE-B.1	Protect and conserve the landforms, canyon lands, and open spaces that define the City's urban form; provide public views/vistas; serve as core biological areas and wildlife linkages; are wetland habitats; provide buffers within and between communities; or provide outdoor recreational opportunities. c. Protect urban canyons and other important community open spaces including those that have been designated in community plans for the many benefits they offer locally and regionally as part of a collective citywide open space system. g. Require sensitive design, construction, relocation, and maintenance of trails to optimize public access and resource conservation.
Policy PF-M.4	Cooperatively plan for and design new or expanded public utilities and associated facilities (e.g., telecommunications infrastructure, planned energy generation facilities, gas compressor stations, gas transmission lines, electrical substations, and other large scale gas and electrical facilities) to maximize environmental and community benefits. c. Maximize land use and community benefit by locating compatible/appropriate uses within easements/right-of-ways (e.g., passive parkland natural open space, wildlife movement, urban gardens, plant nurseries, parking, access roads and trails). Trails can be allowed in these easement/right-of-ways, provided proper

indemnification, funding, and maintenance is set forth in a written agreement between the public utility, the City, and project developer.

g. Coordinate projects in the public right-of-way with all utility providers.

San Diego Community Plans

Community plans work together with the City and County General Plans to provide location-based policies and recommendations within community planning areas. Community plans are written to refine General Plan policies, designate land uses and housing densities, and include additional site-specific recommendations where needed. The plans include goals, implementing principles, and policies that address recreational development and preservation guidelines for parks, nature preserves, designated open spaces, community recreational facilities, and an interconnected network of mixed-use trails and paths. The plans also address utility easements and access roads, and expectations for shared recreational uses when feasible. The Scripps Miramar Ranch (Scripps Miramar Ranch Planning Committee, Rick Engineering Company, and the City of San Diego 2011) and Torrey Hills Community Plans (City of San Diego 2014c) contain specific guidelines that are relevant to the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would also be located within other San Diego community planning areas including Miramar Ranch North, Sabre Springs, Rancho Peñasquitos, Black Mountain Ranch, Torrey Highlands, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Del Mar Mesa, and Carmel Valley; however, none of the community plans for these areas have recreational guidelines applicable to the Proposed Project.

Scripps Miramar Ranch Community Plan

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element Objectives

Goals of the parks recreation and open space element include:

- Assure continuation of the open space network throughout the planning area to permit walking between various community facilities and areas, including schools, parks, and residential, commercial, industrial and institutional developments. Guarantee that open space areas are easily accessible to residents and include usable recreation areas which permit such uses as hiking and picnicking.

Open Space Guidelines

The 200-foot SDG&E easement, which traverses the northeastern portion of Scripps Ranch, should serve as an open space connector and passive park. This plan advocates the following treatments:

- Where the easement traverses natural areas slated for preservation, those areas should remain unchanged.
- Where grading or roads occur in the easement, the graded area should be revegetated with low-lying groundcover which will not impede access to transmission lines. At the edge of the easement, transitional plantings such as native chaparral species, shrubs and eucalyptus species shall be provided in order to buffer the open space connector from adjacent development while still providing view into the open space.

- The proposed improved open space shown in the northeastern portion of the Community Plan Area under the easement should be treated in such a manner as to meet SDG&E requirements, and yet still provide a grassy-type area for passive recreational uses.

Torrey Hills Community Plan

Residential Design Adjacent to SDG&E Substation

Residential areas that border the Peñasquitos Substation require special design consideration when preparing site plans for development. For these areas, the following design guidelines shall apply:

- Within the 100-foot building setback, a minimum 40-foot landscape buffer area shall be provided to screen the substation from views within the residential areas. Community Circulation Element roadways, private recreation facilities, parking, service drives and uses accessory to the residential development (such as trash receptacles and recreation areas) may occur within the 100-foot building setback. Where these uses fall within the 40-foot landscape buffer, sufficient landscaping shall occur such that the substation is satisfactorily screened from residential views.
- Temporary access to the SDG&E substation shall be provided through Torrey Hills and Community Sports Park.

Preserve and Open Space Park Management Plans

The Proposed Project area includes areas within Del Mar Mesa Preserve, Black Mountain Open Space Park, and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. These areas support both active and passive recreational uses. The following plans address land management, authorized uses, and preservation policies for these locations. The plans address the activities that are authorized within SDG&E easements and the use of utility access roads as trails.

Carmel Mountain[1] and Del Mar Mesa Preserves Resource Management Plan

The Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Preserves Resource Management Plan (RECON Environmental, Inc. 2014) identifies the following guidelines that apply to SDG&E activity within the Del Mar Mesa Preserve:

- Whenever possible, maintenance and/or patrol vehicle activity should be minimized within the preserves when soils are wet to avoid degradation of trails.
- The City Park and Recreation Department, Open Space Division staff reserves the right to restrict the use of and/or close any public trail or access point on Carmel Mountain or Del Mar Mesa to protect public health, safety, and welfare. An example of such conditions would include, but is not limited to,

[1] The management plan is a joint document for the Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Preserves; however, the Carmel Mountain Preserve is located approximately 0.5 mile from the Peñasquitos Substation and Segment D, and is not in the immediate project area.

restrictions/closures during inclement weather, trail overuse, landform deterioration, and other adverse conditions.
- Trail closures should be instituted to: allow native vegetation to recover; facilitate wildlife movement; protect archaeological sites and biological sensitive species or areas; allow added protection for sensitive species during breeding season; provide erosion control; ensure public safety; and allow for trail maintenance. Such closures may be temporary or permanent depending on the need.
- Fencing may be needed to keep people on the trails and out of sensitive areas.

Black Mountain Open Space Park Natural Resources Management Plan

The Black Mountain Open Space Park Natural Resources Management Plan (City of San Diego 2014a) identifies the following guidelines for all utility projects and maintenance within the park that may be applicable to the Proposed Project:

- No unauthorized motorized vehicles, except emergency vehicles, Park managers, or maintenance personnel (i.e., County Water Authority, SDG&E, Pacific Bell, AT&T), shall be allowed on any trails or off the trails in the Park without first notifying Park staff. Vehicle use must be restricted to existing access roads as much as feasible to avoid disturbance and/or destruction of habitat.
- Maintenance activities should be coordinated with a Park Ranger. If activities will result in impacts to resources, the Park Ranger will notify the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Natural Resource Manager. Notification of appropriate City of San Diego personnel should also occur as soon as possible when emergency action is required.
- Whenever possible, maintenance and/or patrol vehicle activity should be minimized within the Park when soils are wet to avoid degradation of trails.
- All construction and maintenance activities should use BMPs for erosion control at construction/work sites and should provide for park user safety, such as temporary signs and/or barricades.
- Trails should be located within and/or adjacent to existing utility access roads wherever possible to consolidate use areas; trails located within utility easements may be subject to periodic closure for utility construction or maintenance activities.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Master Plan

The Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Master Plan (Van Dell and Associates, Inc. 1998) identifies the following operating responsibilities for the Preserve:

- Certain trails in the Preserve are actually utility service roads following SDG&E transmission lines or sewer lines. Maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of the respective utility. Maintenance of these roads should include sensitive brush and weed control to reduce fire hazard, erosion control, and removal of obstructions such as tree limbs.

City of Poway General Plan

The City of Poway General Plan (1991) includes community development goals and policies that address recreational land uses for parks, open spaces, and other recreational facilities. There are no specific goals or policies applicable to the Proposed Project or for SDG&E operations within the existing easement.

City of Carlsbad General Plan

The City of Carlsbad General Plan, Parks and Recreation Element (2003) and Open Space and Conservation Element (2006), address planning and development objectives for parks and open space areas in the city. The Open Space and Conservation Element contain the following specific objectives that may be relevant to the Proposed Project:

- Assure that major power line easements receive credit toward the 15-percent Growth Management open space performance standard if they are enhanced or improved to establish key links in the Carlsbad Trail System.
- Establish that the "Carlsbad Trail System," as depicted on the Conceptual Open Space and Conservation Map, is the conceptual representation of the possible trail alignments throughout the City (shown on Map 2: Conceptual Open Space and Conservation Map in the General Plan).
- Prohibit the approval of a project which would eliminate the trail alignments as depicted on the Conceptual Open Space and Conservation Map, unless a general plan amendment is approved to delete such a trail segment.

4.10.4 Applicant Proposed Measures

SDG&E has proposed measures to reduce environmental impacts. The significance of the impact is first considered prior to application of APMs and a significance determination is made. The implementation of APMs is then considered as part of the Project when determining whether impacts would be significant and thus would require mitigation. These APMs would be incorporated as part of any CPUC project approval, and SDG&E would be required to adhere to the APMs as well as any identified mitigation measures. The APMs are included in the MMRP for the Proposed Project (refer to Chapter 9 of this EIR), and the implementation of the measures would be monitored and documented in the same manner as mitigation measures. The APMs that are applicable to the recreation analysis are provided in Table 4.10-2.

Table 4.10-2 Applicant Proposed Measures for Recreation Impacts

APM Number	Requirements
APM REC-1: Coordination with Parks and Preserves, and Buffer Between Active Work Areas and Trails	Appropriate safety measures will be implemented where trails and parks are located in close proximity to construction areas to provide a safety buffer between recreational users and construction areas. Construction schedule and activities will be coordinated with the authorized officer for each affected recreation area.
APM REC-2: 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.

APM Number	Requirements
APM AES-1: Visual Screening	Where staging yards are visible to the public, opaque mesh or slats (or equivalent material) will be installed along the fence that will screen view of the staging yards from public vantage points, such as roads and residences.
APM AES-2: Restore Temporarily Disturbed Areas	When Proposed Project construction has been completed, all temporarily disturbed terrain will be restored, to the extent practical, to approximate preconstruction conditions while maintaining adequately safe work areas for operation and maintenance activities, as needed. Re-vegetation will be used, where appropriate (re-vegetation in certain areas is not possible due to vegetation management requirements related to fire safety) to re-establish a natural appearing landscape and reduce potential visual contrast between disturbed areas and the surrounding landscape. In addition, all construction materials and debris will be removed from the Proposed Project area and recycled or properly disposed of off-site.
APM AES-3: Landscaping for Cable Poles	Final design of the eastern and western cable poles will consider design measures, such as landscaping installed outside of new perimeter chain-link fencing.
APM AES-5: Glare Reduction	New pole structures are designed utilizing dulled galvanized steel to minimize the potential for visual impacts relating to glare. Non-specular conductors are used to reduce potential glare. New fencing installed as part of the Proposed Project, including fencing around new cable poles, will be a dull, non-reflective finish or vinyl coated to reduce potential glare.
APM NOISE-1: Generator Usage	Generator use will be limited to less than 50 horsepower (50 HP) at all staging yards, unless larger generators are appropriately permitted. Any generators used at staging yards will be located away from noise sensitive areas, and positioned on the property to comply with local noise ordinances.
APM NOISE-4: Helicopter Use	Helicopter usage for the Proposed Project would be limited to those hours deemed acceptable for construction activities by the City of San Diego Noise Code (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and the City of Poway Noise Code (7 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Helicopter usage at any one location would be very brief as the lines are being strung or during pole removal and installation activities.
APM NOISE-5: City Noise Variance and Blasting Guidelines	For the few locations where the Proposed Project would exceed the noise ordinances, SDG&E would meet and confer with the appropriate city to discuss temporarily deviating from the requirements of the Noise Code, as described in the construction noise variance process. Additionally, in the unlikely event that rock blasting is used during construction, a noise and vibration calculation will be prepared and submitted to SDG&E Environmental Programs and Transmission Engineering and Design for review before blasting at each site. The construction contractor will ensure compliance with all relevant local, state, and federal regulations relating to blasting activities, as well as SDG&E's blasting guidelines.
APM PS-1: Temporary Access	Where construction within existing public parks, preserves, and open space areas would not completely restrict access through these areas, and where necessary, SDG&E will create temporary foot and bicycle paths along with appropriate advanced notice and signage to direct and allow for the pedestrian and bicycle access through each affected park.
APM PS-2: Notification of Construction	SDG&E will provide the public with advance notification of construction activities. Concerns related to dust, noise, and access restrictions with construction activities will be addressed within this notification.

APM Number	Requirements
APM PS-3: Coordination with Recreational Facilities	All construction activities will be coordinated with the authorized officer for each affected park, trail, or recreational facility prior to construction in these areas.
APM PS-4: Signage	As needed, signs will be posted directing vehicles to alternative park access and parking, if available, in the event construction temporarily affects parking near trailheads.
APM PS-5: Recreational Facility Repair	All parks, trails, and recreational facilities that are physically impacted during construction activities and are not directly associated with the new permanent facilities, will be returned to an approximate pre-construction state, while still allowing for SDG&E to safely operate and maintain the facilities, following the completion of the Proposed Project. SDG&E will replace or repair any damaged or removed public equipment, facilities, and infrastructure in a timely manner.

4.10.5 CEQA Significance Criteria

Appendix G of CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 *et seq.*) provides guidance on assessing whether a project would 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

Given the specific location and design of the Proposed Project, impacts to two thresholds not listed in Appendix G are also analyzed. Under these thresholds, the Proposed Project would have a significant impact on recreation if it would:

c. Substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area
d. Substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource

4.10.6 Approach to Impact Analysis

This impact analysis considers whether implementation of the Proposed Project or alternatives would result in significant impacts to recreational resources. The analysis focuses on reasonably foreseeable effects of the Proposed Project and alternatives as compared with baseline conditions. The analysis uses significance criteria based on the CEQA Appendix G Guidelines. The potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Project and alternatives are addressed; cumulative effects are addressed in Chapter 5: Cumulative Impacts. Effects that would result from operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project and alternatives are also addressed. Applicable APMs are identified and mitigation is defined to avoid or reduce significant impacts to recreational resources.

4.10.7 Proposed Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.10-3 provides a summary of the significance of 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 4.10-3 Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Recreation

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and Before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Recreation-1: 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	Significant	Significant APM PS-5	Less than significant MM Recreation-1 MM Traffic-3
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
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	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-2	Less than significant MM Recreation-2
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Recreation-3: Substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-1 APM PS-1 APM PS-2 APM PS-3 APM PS-4	Significant and unavoidable MM Recreation-3 MM Recreation-4 MM Traffic-7
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Recreation-4: Substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource	Construction	Significant	Significant APM AIR-1 APM AES-2 APM AES-5 APM NOISE-1 APM NOISE-4 APM NOISE-5	Significant and unavoidable MM Noise-2 MM Biology-6
	Operation and Maintenance	Significant	Significant APM AES-3	Significant and unavoidable MM Aesthetics-2 MM Aesthetics-3 MM Aesthetics-4 MM Noise-4 MM Noise-5

Impact Recreation-1: Would the Proposed 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? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

The Proposed Project involves construction, operation, and maintenance of an electrical transmission line. The Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth, as discussed in Chapter 7: Other CEQA Considerations. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The physical deterioration of recreational facilities that may result from construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line is discussed below.

Construction

Parks

Construction of the Proposed Project would involve construction in one park. The installation of the new poles within Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would involve new ground disturbance and use of earthmoving equipment within the baseball field, which could cause physical deterioration of the park resulting in a significant impact. SDG&E would implement APM PS-5 as part of the Proposed Project. APM PS-5 requires restoration of all parks and recreational facilities that are physically impacted during construction. A significant impact to recreation would remain after implementation of APM PS-5 if the park restoration did not match pre-construction conditions. Mitigation Measure Recreation-1 would reduce impacts from physical deterioration of the park by requiring a pre- and post-construction report to document the restoration. Impacts from physical deterioration of parks would be less than significant with mitigation.

Trails

Construction traffic, grading, and earthwork on trails that are located in a Proposed Project work area or on an SDG&E access road have the potential to cause physical deterioration to pedestrian and bicycle trails. Trails located in a Proposed Project work area or on an access road are shown on Figures 4.10-1 through 4.10-4. The physical deterioration of trails would be a significant impact. SDG&E would implement APM PS-5 as part of the Proposed Project. APM PS-5 would require restoration of any recreation facilities impacted during construction to approximately pre-construction conditions. While APM PS-5 requires trail restoration to approximately pre-construction conditions, a significant impact could occur if the pre-construction condition was not adequately documented resulting in inadequate restoration of the trail condition. Mitigation Measure Recreation-1 would ensure the pre-construction condition of parks and trails is documented and adequate repairs are made to any impacted facilities. Impacts to trails would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Bikeways located at staging yard ingress and egress locations, and where the underground transmission line would be constructed could be damaged during construction of the Proposed Project. Bikeways run along Stonebridge Parkway, Carmel Valley Road, and Camino Del Sur, as shown on Figures 4.7-5 through 4.7-8 in Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic. These bikeways

are located near the ingress and egress point for the Stonebridge, Carmel Valley, Camino Del Sur, and Evergreen Nursery Staging Yards. The physical deterioration of these bike lanes would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-3 requires a pre-project road condition assessment near staging yards and along Carmel Valley Road and restoration of the roads including the bike lane to pre-project conditions. The Proposed Project would not cause permanent physical deterioration of bike lanes with proper restoration of these facilities. Therefore, impacts from physical deterioration of bike lanes would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operations and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not increase use of any recreational facilities because operation and maintenance of the project would not create any permanent employment opportunities and would not increase the population of the area (refer to Section 7.3: Growth Inducing Impacts in Chapter 7: Other CEQA Considerations for further details). The Proposed Project would not have any impact associated with population growth on use of recreational areas. Inspection and maintenance activities would continue to be conducted annually in conjunction with inspections and maintenance for the existing transmission infrastructure in SDG&E's ROW. The inspection and maintenance activities would not cause physical deterioration of any recreational facility due to the short duration and low intensity of maintenance activities on an annual basis. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-1 and Traffic-3 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Mitigation Measure Recreation-1: Pre- and Post-Construction Report. Prior to the start of construction, SDG&E shall prepare a Preconstruction Parks and Trails Condition Report that documents the existing condition of project work areas in preserves and parks (e.g., Black Mountain Ranch Community Park, Sycamore Canyon Park, Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve), and where multi-use trails are present in work areas, including both designated trails and unofficial trails along access roads. At a minimum, the report shall include text descriptions and accompanying photographs for each resource located in a work area. The Preconstruction Parks and Trails Condition Report shall be submitted to the CPUC no less than 30 days prior to construction.

SDG&E shall repair all damage to parks and trails (e.g., rutting and ground disturbance) caused by construction vehicles and equipment once construction is completed in each work area in a timely manner (no more than 30 days).

Following construction for the entire project, SDG&E shall prepare a Post-Construction Parks and Trails Restoration Report that documents the parks and trails restoration effort. The post-construction report shall describe which resources were impacted and avoided, as well as photographs of the impacted sites prior to and following restoration. The Post-Construction Parks and Trails

Report shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval following completion of all repairs and no later than 60 days after construction completion in the area. SDG&E shall complete all park and trail repairs to the satisfaction of the CPUC.

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

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

Construction

The Proposed Project does 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, as required by APM REC-2. 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 and result in a significant impact if they were located in undisturbed or vegetated areas, located outside of Proposed Project work areas, or if the detour directs trail users to a trail marked for closure by park officials. Mitigation Measure Recreation-2 requires the all trail detours use existing trails that are not marked for closure by park officials, construction work areas that have been surveyed and contain no sensitive resources, or previously disturbed or developed areas (e.g., bare ground), to avoid impacting sensitive resources or creating new trails. With implementation of Mitigation Measure Recreation-2, the Proposed Project would not construct recreational facilities that could have an adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance would not involve construction or expansion of recreation facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-2

Mitigation Measure Recreation-2. Use of Existing Trails and Access Roads. SDG&E shall use existing trails and roads that are not marked for closure by park officials, for any temporary trail detours. Alternatively, SDG&E may place alternate access routes on the perimeter of project work areas in areas that have been surveyed and are free of sensitive biological or cultural resources. Alternative access routes within project work areas will be restored following construction.

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-3: Would the Proposed Project substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area? (*Significant and unavoidable*)

Construction

Parks

Construction of the Proposed Project would require temporary closure of public and private parks for overhead stringing of the new transmission line, installation of poles, and removal of existing poles within parks. Table 4.10-4 provides a summary of the parks that would be closed during construction of the Proposed Project, the activities proposed within the park, and the duration of closure at each park.

Sycamore Canyon Park and Black Mountain Ranch Community Park are public recreational facilities with ball fields that are heavily used by the community for baseball and soccer games on weekdays during evening hours and all day on weekends. Temporary closures of Sycamore Canyon Park and Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would substantially disrupt recreational activities because the sports fields would not be accessible to the public during construction and the fields are currently used year-round for recreational activities (with the

Table 4.10-4 Temporary Park Closures

Park	Activity	Anticipated Duration of Closure
Sycamore Canyon Park	Existing conductor removal	2 days
	New conductor installation	Two 6-day periods (12 days total)
Black Mountain Ranch Community Park	Existing H-frame structure topped	2 days
	New tangent pole installed (P40A)	2 days
	Existing conductor removed	2 days
	New conductor installation	Two 6-day periods (12 days total)
Black Mountain Ranch Community Park Parking Lot	Underground trenching	9 days – closure of 68 parking spaces
	Cabling	25 days – closure of 20 parking spaces
Dog Park between Structures P57 and P58[1]	Conductor installation	Two 6-day periods (12 days total)
Private Tennis Courts between Structures P8 and P9 and P31[1]	Conductor installation	Two 6-day periods (12 days total)
Basketball Court between Structures P33 and P34[1]	Conductor installation	Two 6-day periods (12 days total)

Note:

[1] Structure locations are shown in Appendix A: Detailed Route Maps.

Sources: SDG&E 2014a, 2014b, and 2015

exception of maintenance closures in July) (pers. comm. Davis 2015). The temporary closure of public parks and earthwork would have a significant impact on recreational activities. SDG&E has proposed APMs REC-1, PS-2, PS-3, and PS-4 as part of the Proposed Project to reduce impacts from temporary park closures. APM REC-1 and APM PS-3 require SDG&E to coordinate with the appropriate park management officer for the affected parks. APMs PS-2 and PS-4 require notification of park closures and alternate recreational locations through posting of signs. Even with APMs, the impact from closure of the parks would be significant if the parks were closed during active recreational use periods. Mitigation Measure Recreation-3 requires that SDG&E coordinate with the City of San Diego prior to any temporary closure during construction and that SDG&E maintain safe access to the park facilities. Black Mountain Ranch Community Park is only closed for maintenance for approximately 1 month a year (July). It would not be feasible to complete all construction activities in the park during this 1-month period because there are multiple phases of construction activity that are required within the park (e.g., stringing, trenching, new poles installation). The temporary closure of the park would therefore substantially disrupt recreational activities even with mitigation and impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

Quasi-public facilities identified on Figures 4.10-1 through 4.10-4 including the community tennis courts, basketball court, and dog park would be closed temporarily for two six-day periods during overhead stringing of the transmission line in Segments A and D. Quasi-public facilities within the existing SDG&E ROW are not significant public recreational resources. Temporary closure of these facilities would not significantly impact public recreational activities. Impacts to recreational activities from closure of quasi-public facilities would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Trails

Construction of the Proposed Project involves construction access, pole installation, and overhead stringing within and near multi-use trails in Black Mountain Open Space Park, Del Mar Mesa Preserve, Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Black Mountain Ranch Community Park, and in an open space located in Carlsbad. Trails located within and adjacent to Proposed Project work areas and the overhead alignment are listed in Table 4.10-5 and shown on Figures 4.10-1 through 4.10-4. Trails located in work areas or along access roads would be temporarily closed or redirected during construction consistent with APM REC-1, which requires maintaining a buffer between the active work areas and trails to protect public safety. Trail closures would be expected to last for less than a week at each pole while the pole is installed; however, extended trail closures could occur during overhead conductor installation due to safety concerns. Additionally, trail restoration required by Mitigation Measure Recreation-1 may involve short term trail closures (i.e., approximately 1 day) if substantial soil recontouring is necessary. Implementation of Mitigation Measures Recreation-1 and Recreation-2 would avoid the need for long term closures to rehabilitate impacted trails.

Table 4.10-5 Trails and Utility Access Roads near Proposed Project Work Areas

Trail Description	Open Space Preserve or Park Location	Location of Trail in Relation to the Proposed Project
Transmission Line Segment A		
Trans County Regional Trail	Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment A
Nighthawk Trail	Black Mountain Open Space Park	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment A and located within structure work areas and stringing site
Black Mountain Service Road	Black Mountain Open Space Park	Spanned by overhead alignment and located within structure work areas and stringing sites
Black Mountain Community Park Connections (Three Segments)	Black Mountain Open Space Park and Black Mountain Ranch Community Park	Spanned by overhead alignment and located adjacent to structure work areas and stringing site
Transmission Line Segment C		
SDG&E Access Roads *From Santa Fe Canyon Place, Park Village Road, and The Preserve Terrace to Structures E7, E8, E9, E10, E11, E12, P43, and P44*	Del Mar Mesa and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserves	Located adjacent to structure work areas and a stringing site
Transmission Line Segment D		
Del Mar Mesa/Peñasquitos Authorized Trail (East and West Segments); and SDG&E Access Road *From The Preserve Way to Structures E12, E13, P43 and Park Village Road*	Del Mar Mesa and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserves	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment D and located within structure pads and work areas
Peñasquitos Equestrian and Hiking Trail (North Segment)	Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment D
Trans County Regional Trail	Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment D
SDG&E Access Road *From Carmel Mountain Road to Structures E16, E17, P47, and P48*	Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment D and located in structure work areas
Carmel Mountain Road Connection; and SDG&E Access Road *From Carmel Mountain Road to Structures E18 and P49*	Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment D and located in structure work areas

Trail Description	Open Space Preserve or Park Location	Location of Trail in Relation to the Proposed Project
Shaw Valley Trail Connections (East and West Segments); and SDG&E Access Road *From Carmel Mountain Road to Structures E21, P52, and R59*	Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment D and located in structure pad, work areas, and a stringing site
Carmel Mountain Preserve Connection	Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	Spanned by overhead alignment in Segment D and located in a structure work area and stringing site
Encina Hub		
Trail from The Crossings Drive to Faraday Avenue and Agua Hedionda Lagoon; and SDG&E Access Road	City of Carlsbad Open Space	Located within a line reconfiguration and laydown work area at Encina Hub

Note:

[1] Structure locations are shown in Appendix A: Detailed Route Maps.

Sources: City of Carlsbad 2013 and 2014; RECON Environmental, Inc. 2014; City of San Diego 2005, 2008b, 2012a, and 2012b; County of San Diego 2014b; Van Dell and Associates, Inc. 1998; SDG&E 2014b

The temporary closure of multiple trail segments over the 12-month construction period would substantially disrupt public recreational activities, which would be a significant impact. SDG&E has proposed APMs REC-1, PS-1, PS-2, PS-3, and PS-4 as part of the Proposed Project to reduce disruptions to recreational activities from temporary trail closures by requiring detours and alternative pedestrian or bicycle paths where feasible and advanced public notification of the closure. These APMs reduce the extent and duration of trail closures during pole installation, but do not address the potential for extended closures of trails during overhead stringing of the transmission line. Extended closure of trails during overhead conductor installation would be a significant impact.

Mitigation Measure Recreation-4 would require SDG&E to have a flag person positioned at locations where the trail passes under overhead wire stringing activities to keep the trail open to recreational users while ensuring safe access. With implementation of Mitigation Measure Recreation-4, it is anticipated that no trails would need to be closed during overhead wire stringing operations, and during such operations, all trails that are not located within or immediately adjacent to a work area or access road will remain open to the public. Impacts from disruption of recreational activities as a result of temporary trail closures would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Construction of the underground transmission line within Segment B would result in temporary closures of the bike lane on the southern side of Carmel Valley Road between Camino Del Sur and Segment C. The underground transmission line and work area are located within the bike lane and portions of the lane would be closed for several months. The temporary bike lane closure on Carmel Valley Road would substantially disrupt recreational

activities, which would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-7 requires that SDG&E provide safe detours where bike lanes are closed and that SDG&E post advance notification of the closure and detours. Recreational activities would not be substantially disrupted with the use of appropriate detours. Therefore, impacts to recreational activities from bike lane closures would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operations and Maintenance

Transmission Line Segments A, C, and D

Operations and maintenance of the overhead transmission line would be similar to existing operations in Segments A, C, and D. The proposed tubular steel poles (TSPs) would not block access to any trails. Two new poles are proposed within Black Mountain Ranch Community Park. One new pole would be located along the margin of a ball field and adjacent to an existing wood pole, which would be removed. The second wood pole would be located within a landscaped area at the north end of the park next to a parking lot. The presence of the overhead transmission lines and power poles would not substantially disrupt recreational access or cause physical deterioration of recreational facilities because the new steel poles would either be located outside of recreational areas or would replace an existing pole within the facility so that there would be no net loss of recreational area. Facility inspections and routine maintenance would continue to occur annually within Segments A, C, and D. The new transmission line and steel poles are not expected to increase the frequency of maintenance and the maintenance frequency may decrease maintenance due to the replacement of wood poles with new steel poles in Segments A and D. Therefore, impacts to recreational resources from operation and maintenance of the overhead transmission lines would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Transmission Line Segment B

Operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line in Segment B would require annual inspection of the vaults located within the roadway. The vaults between Camino Del Sur and Segment C are located within the bike lane and inspection of these vaults would require temporary closure of the bike lane for safety of bicyclists and SDG&E workers. The annual inspections would take less than one day at each vault structure, resulting in closure of the bike lane for up to 3 days each year. The temporary closure of the bike lane at the vault structures would not substantially impact recreational access due to the very short duration of bicycle lane closure and the limited area where the bike lane would be closed (less than 100-foot length at each vault). Impacts to recreation from operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line would therefore be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Encina Hub

Operation and maintenance activities at Encina Hub would be the same as those currently conducted. The Proposed Project would not result in greater vehicle traffic on the SDG&E access road where a public trail is located; therefore, there would be no impact to the public trail.

Substations

There are no recreational facilities in or adjacent to the Sycamore Canyon or Peñasquitos Substations. Operation and maintenance activities within the substations would not impact recreational activities.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-3, Recreation-4, and Traffic-7 (Refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Mitigation Measure Recreation-3: Maintain Access to Recreational Facilities. SDG&E shall coordinate the temporary closure of any public baseball or soccer fields and parking spaces with the City of San Diego and authorized park officer at least 90 days prior to construction within a park to avoid peak use of the facilities. SDG&E shall maintain a safe pedestrian access path between the parking lot and baseball fields during construction.

Mitigation Measure Recreation-4. Flag Person at Trail Crossings. To avoid trail closures during overhead wire stringing, SDG&E shall position a flag person (similar to traffic controllers) at each trail crossing location to direct trail users when it is safe to pass.

Significance after mitigation: Significant and unavoidable.

Impact Recreation-4: Would the Proposed Project substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource? (*Significant and unavoidable*)

Construction

Construction of the Proposed Project would result in noise and aesthetic impacts from temporary disturbance by construction equipment that would have an impact on the recreational value of public recreational facilities near construction areas. Construction noise, views of construction equipment, and fugitive dust would impact the recreational value of recreational areas adjacent to active construction areas.

Impacts from construction noise would be greater for passive and noise sensitive recreational activities (e.g., bird watching, hiking, horseback riding, and golf) than for active recreational activities (e.g., baseball and softball) because passive recreational activities are generally dependent on low ambient noise levels. Noise and aesthetic impacts would also be greater at Black Mountain Ranch Community Park where an overhead line and underground line would be constructed and construction of overhead and underground facilities in the park could last over a month. Construction would be dispersed across the Proposed Project area and noise impacts to trails and parks would generally last a few days during pole installation and a few weeks during overhead construction in any one area. Helicopters would be traveling along the overhead transmission corridor for up to 10 months during construction for delivery of materials. The noise, views of construction activities, and dust generated from construction would temporarily have a significant impact on recreational value causing recreationists to avoid trails and parks adjacent to active construction. SDG&E would implement several APMs

as part of the Proposed Project to reduce impacts. APM AIR-1 would minimize fugitive dust through regular watering of exposed soils. APMs AES-2 and AES-5 would reduce aesthetic impacts on recreational areas through restoration of temporarily disturbed areas and implementation of measures to reduce glare, and APMs NOISE-1, NOISE-4, and NOISE-5 would reduce construction noise through restricting generator and helicopter use and following requirements for blasting in a City of San Diego noise variance and SDG&E's blasting guidelines. Impacts would remain significant after implementation of these APMs because the restoration of temporarily disturbed areas may not be successful and construction noise levels would remain substantial in proximity to the equipment. Mitigation Measures Noise-2 and Biology-6 would be implemented to further reduce noise and aesthetic impacts to recreation from construction. Mitigation Measures Noise-2 requires the use of noise suppressing techniques and Mitigation Measures Biology-6 specifies methods for restoration of temporarily disturbed areas following construction. APMs and mitigation measures would reduce impacts during construction; however, a significant and unavoidable impact to the value of existing recreational facilities adjacent to work areas would remain due to the increase in noise near passive recreational areas (i.e., open space preserves).

Operation and Maintenance

Transmission Line Segments A, C, and D

Proposed Project structures including TSPs, conductors, marker balls, and lighting would be visible from recreational areas over the operational life of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would result in visual impacts along Segments A, C, and D (refer to visual simulations from KOPs #1 through 15 in Section 4.2: Aesthetics).

Parks. Segment A of the Proposed Project includes new conductors over Sycamore Canyon Park, replacement of a wood structure in Black Mountain Ranch Community Park with a new TSP, and installation of a cable pole at the back end of the park near open space areas. The new overhead conductors within Sycamore Canyon Park would not substantially reduce the value of the park because there are existing 230- kV and 138-kV conductors within the park and the new transmission line conductor would not alter the recreational use or substantially alter the aesthetics of the facility. The new cable pole within Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would contrast with the existing recreational and open space environment and would be larger and incompatible in form to the existing electrical infrastructure adjacent to the cable pole (refer to Figure 4.2-19 in Section 4.2: Aesthetics).

SDG&E would implement APM AES-3 as part of the Proposed Project. APM AES-3 requires that the final design of the eastern and western cable poles incorporate features to minimize visual impacts such as landscaping installed outside of cable pole perimeter chain-link fencing. Even with implementation of this APM, the visual effects of the new cable poles would remain significant. Mitigation Measure Aesthetics-3 requires SDG&E to implement a facilities color treatment plan to minimize the contrast of the new cable pole. Mitigation Measure Aesthetics-4 requires SDG&E to provide a cable pole landscape design to CPUC for review and approval to minimize the visual impact. While the APM and mitigation measure would reduce the impact from the base of the pole, it is infeasible to completely screen the pole from view because it

would be 163 feet tall. The impact from the cable pole on the recreational value of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would remain significant and unavoidable.

Trails. The Proposed Project conductor and new TSPs would be visible from trails within Black Mountain Ranch Open Space Preserve, Del Mar Mesa Preserve, and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. SDG&E's existing transmission and power lines are visible from trails within these open space areas. The additional Proposed Project TSPs, conductor, marker balls, and lighting would be visible from trails within these open space areas. The Proposed Project features would be similar to the existing overhead infrastructure that are visible from trails; however, the new structures would be larger and more intrusive than the structures proposed for removal. KOPs #3 #6, #7, #9, #10, #11, #12, #14, and #15 (refer to Figures 4.2-9, 4.2-15, 4.2-17, 4.2-21, 4.2-23, 4.2-25, 4.2-27, 4.2-31, and 4.2-33 in Section 4.2: Aesthetics) provide a representative view of the Proposed Project features from open space trails. The Proposed Project would introduce industrial elements to the open space recreational landscape. The impact on the recreational value as a result of the aesthetic impact ranges from low and less than significant to moderately high and significant. The impact on the recreational value of open space trails would be significant where the impact to visual quality at the trails is moderately high. Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-2 and Aesthetics-3 would minimize visual intrusion and contrast of new structures through screening of the retaining walls and implementation of a facilities color treatment plan. While these mitigation measures would reduce the visual impact, the Proposed Project would still result in a moderately high impact to visual quality from several trails, which would result in a significant and unavoidable impact on the recreational value of the trails.

Corona Noise. Corona noise would be generated throughout the operational phase of the new overhead transmission line on Segments A, C, and D. Refer to Section 4.8: Noise for further information on corona noise. The addition of the proposed transmission line would increase ambient noise levels overhead and in proximity to parks, preserves, open space, and trails. The increased noise would have a significant impact to the recreational value of passive recreational areas.

Mitigation Measure Noise-4 requires the installation of corona rings on the conductors to reduce corona noise at support structures. Mitigation Measure Noise-5 requires SDG&E to respond to and investigate third-party corona noise complaints and to implement feasible and appropriate repairs such as repair of damaged hardware or conductors. Even with Mitigation Measures Noise-4 and Noise-5 the corona noise would decrease the recreational value of adjacent trails because corona noise would persist. Therefore, the impact on recreational value from corona noise would be significant and unavoidable.

Maintenance Activities. Inspection and maintenance activities within Segments A, C, and D would be similar in intensity, frequency and duration to the existing inspection and maintenance of SDG&E infrastructure in these areas. Inspections would occur annually in conjunction with the inspection of other overhead transmission lines within the SDG&E ROW. Old wood poles within Segments A and D would be replaced with new TSPs and there would be no additional structures to maintain in the SDG&E ROW. There would be no impact on the

value of any recreational resource from operation and maintenance of the facility because there would be no change in the intensity, frequency or duration of inspection and maintenance activities. No mitigation is required.

Transmission Line Segment B

The underground transmission line within Segment B would not be visible from any recreational areas because the transmission line would be buried. Maintenance activities on the underground transmission line would be infrequent and short in duration. While maintenance of the underground line may result in brief closure (less than 1 day per vault per year) of the bicycle lane on Carmel Valley Road, maintenance would not decrease the recreational value of the bicycle lane. Impacts on recreational values from operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Substations, Encina Hub, and Mission—San Luis Rey Phase Transposition

The Proposed Project involves minimal changes to infrastructure within the substations, Encina Hub, and at Mission—San Luis Rey phase transposition work areas. The new racks within the Sycamore Canyon and Peñasquitos Substations would occur within the substation yard and would not be visibly perceptible to nearby recreationists because they would blend with the existing infrastructure. The relocated conductors at Encina Hub and Mission—San Luis Rey North and South would not be visibly different from the existing structures and electrical infrastructure in these areas. These minimal changes would not be perceptible to recreational users and would not affect the value of any recreational resource. There would be no impact to recreational values during operation and maintenance.

Mitigation Measures: Aesthetics-2, Aesthetics-3, and Aesthetics-4 (refer to Section 4.2: Aesthetics); Biology-6 (refer to Section 4.1: Biology); and Noise-2, Noise-4, and Noise-5 (refer to Section 4.8: Noise)

4.10.8 Alternative 1: Eastern Cable Pole at Carmel Valley Road (Avoids Cable Pole in Black Mountain Ranch Community Park)

Alternative 1 would involve installation of a new cable pole immediately south of and adjoining Carmel Valley Road within existing SDG&E ROW, transitioning the Segment A overhead transmission line directly into the proposed Carmel Valley Road Segment B underground alignment. Alternative 1 would avoid installation of a cable pole and underground duct bank within the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

4.10.8.1 Alternative 1 Environmental Setting

The environmental setting for Alternative 1 would be the same as the Proposed Project. Recreational resources described in Section 4.10.2 for the Proposed Project would apply to Alternative 1.

4.10.8.2 Alternative 1 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.10-6 summarizes the impacts to recreation from Alternative 1.

Table 4.10-6 Summary of Alternative 1 Impacts on Recreation

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Recreation-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated	Construction	Significant	Significant APM PS-1 APM PS-5	Less than significant MM Recreation-1 MM Traffic-3
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Recreation-2: Include public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of public recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Recreation-3: Substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-1 APM PS-2 APM PS-3 APM PS-4	Less than significant MM Recreation-3 MM Traffic-7
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Recreation-4: Substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource	Construction	Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---

Alternative 1 would have no impact on one CEQA significance criterion for recreation: Impact Recreation-2, as indicated in Table 4.10-6 above. Alternative 1 would not include the construction or expansion of a public recreational facility.

Impact Recreation-1: Would Alternative 1 increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

As with the Proposed Project, Alternative 1 would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. Therefore, Alternative 1 would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The physical deterioration of recreational facilities that may result from construction, operation, and maintenance of Alternative 1 is discussed below.

Construction

Parks

Alternative 1 would reduce the duration of work in the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park because no underground construction (i.e., duct bank and vault construction) would occur within the park or driveway. Alternative 1 would require a stringing site in the park within the SDG&E ROW where two baseball fields and approximately half of the available parking areas are located (refer to Appendix E, Figure E-1). Temporary construction activities within the park and on the two eastern baseball fields could cause physical deterioration of the park from use of ground-disturbing equipment and driving heavy stinging equipment on the field. Under this alternative, conductor stringing would occur within the park and underground construction would be moved south of the park. Potential physical deterioration of the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would be a significant impact.

Implementation of APMs PS-1 (temporary access) and PS-5 (recreational facility repair) would reduce impacts. Similar to the Proposed Project, a significant impact from physical deterioration would remain after implementation of APMs PS-1 and PS-5 if the park restoration did not match pre-construction conditions. Mitigation Measure Recreation-1 would reduce physical deterioration of the park by documenting the pre- and post-construction conditions in the park. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Trails

Alternative 1 would not impact any trails because no trails would be located within the location of the Alternative 1 cable pole or work areas; Alternative 1 is located adjacent to a roadway and removed from the trails in Black Mountain Open Space Preserve.

Bikeways

Alternative 1 would have the potential to damage bike lanes along Carmel Valley Road near the Alternative 1 cable pole location, which would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-3 would be implemented to reduce physical deterioration of bike lanes by requiring post-construction road repair. Impacts to bike lanes would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operations and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of Alternative 1 would not increase use of any recreational facilities because reliable electricity and improved deliverability of renewable energy would not induce population growth. Inspection and maintenance activities would continue to be conducted annually in conjunction with inspections and maintenance for the existing transmission infrastructure in SDG&E's ROW. The inspection and maintenance activities would not cause physical deterioration of any recreational facility due to the short duration and low intensity of maintenance activities on an annual basis. There would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-1 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-3 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-3: Would Alternative 1 substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Parks

Alternative 1 eliminates the Proposed Project construction of a cable pole and underground duct bank within Black Mountain Ranch Community Park; however, a stringing site would be positioned on the two eastern baseball fields and the north parking lot in the park. Under Alternative 1, the closure of parking spaces in the parking lot would be 12 days. Wire stringing in the park would result in the same closure periods for the eastern baseball fields as the Proposed Project.

The Black Mountain Ranch Community Park sports fields are highly utilized throughout the year. Alternative 1 construction would substantially disrupt recreational activities because the sports fields would not be accessible to the public during overhead stringing, which would be a significant impact. Implementation of APMs REC-1 (coordination with parks and preserves, and buffer between active work areas and trails), PS-2 (notice of construction), PS-3 (coordination with recreational facilities), and PS-4 (signage) would reduce impacts from temporary park closures. Even with APMs, the impact from closures would be significant if the park were closed during active recreational use periods. Mitigation Measure Recreation-3 would avoid temporary closure of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park by requiring safe access to the baseball fields around the stringing area. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Installation of the cable pole immediately south of Carmel Valley Road would result in closures of the bike path along Carmel Valley Road in the immediate vicinity of the cable pole during pole installation and grading. The area near the cable pole would be closed for a couple weeks, which would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-7 would reduce impacts by requiring closure notifications and the establishment of detours around construction. Impacts from bike lane closure would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Inspection and maintenance of the Alternative 1 cable pole would not disrupt activities in a public recreational area because the cable pole would be located outside of recreational areas and would not block access to any public recreational area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-3 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-7 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-4: Would Alternative 1 substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource? (*Less than significant; no mitigation required*)

Construction

Construction of Alternative 1 would reduce impacts to recreational value compared to the Proposed Project. Recreationalists at Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would not experience the noise or visual effects from construction of the cable pole or underground transmission line because neither would be constructed within the park. Temporary construction use of the park for conductor stringing would not substantially affect the public experience at the park because conductor stringing would not occur for more than a couple of weeks and park users of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park typically engage in active recreation and would not be focused on activities outside of their sport. Alternative 1 would not permanently substantially reduce the recreational value of a recreational resource or deter the use of recreational resources. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Operation and Maintenance

The cable pole would not affect the value of recreational areas because it would not conflict with recreational activities at Black Mountain Ranch Community Park or other adjacent recreational uses (e.g., bicycling, trail use). The cable pole would also be partially screened from view due by topography and would appear compatible with other electrical infrastructure in the area when viewed from the park. The aesthetic impact on recreational value at the park would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Maintenance activities for the cable pole would be the same in frequency, intensity, and duration as existing inspection and maintenance of SDG&E infrastructure in the area. There would be no impact on the value of any recreational resource because maintenance activities would not differ from existing conditions.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

4.10.9 Alternatives 2a and 2b: Eastern Cable Pole at Pole P40 and Underground Alignment through City Open Space or City Water Utility Service Road (Avoids Cable Pole in Black Mountain Ranch Community Park)

Alternative 2 would involve installation of a new cable pole in the same location for both Alternatives 2a and 2b, approximately 300 feet south of Carmel Valley Road within existing SDG&E ROW, transitioning the Segment A overhead transmission line into the proposed Carmel Valley Road Segment B underground alignment via one of two underground alignment options. Alternative 2a would locate the underground duct bank west of SDG&E ROW through City of San Diego open space and into Carmel Valley Road. Alternative 2b would locate the underground duct bank east of SDG&E ROW through a City of San Diego water utility service road and into Carmel Valley Road. Both Alternative 2a and 2b would avoid installation of a cable pole and underground duct bank within the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

4.10.9.1 Alternative 2 Environmental Setting

The environmental setting for Alternative 2 would be the same as the Proposed Project. Recreational resources described in Section 4.10.2 for the Proposed Project would apply to Alternative 2.

4.10.9.2 Alternative 2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.10-7 summarizes the impacts on recreation from Alternative 2.

Table 4.10-7 Summary of Alternative 2 Impacts on Recreation

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Recreation-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated	Construction	Significant	Significant APM PS-1 APM PS-5	Less than significant MM Recreation-1 MM Traffic-3
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Recreation-2: Include public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of public recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Recreation-3: Substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-1 APM PS-2 APM PS-3 APM PS-4	Less than significant MM Recreation-3 MM Traffic-7
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Recreation-4: Substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource	Construction	Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	Significant	Significant APM AES-3	Significant and unavoidable MM Aeshetics-3 MM Aesthetics-4

Alternative 2 would have no impact on one CEQA significance criterion for recreation: Impact Recreation-2, as indicated in Table 4.10-7 above. Alternative 2 would not include the construction or expansion of a public recreational facility.

Impact Recreation-1: Would Alternative 2 increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

As with the Proposed Project, Alternative 2 would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. Therefore, Alternative 2 would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The physical deterioration of recreational facilities that may result from construction, operation, and maintenance of Alternative 2 is discussed below.

Construction

Parks

Alternative 2 would reduce the duration of work in the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park because no underground construction (i.e., duct bank and vault construction) would occur within the park or driveway. Alternative 2 would require a stringing site in the park within the SDG&E ROW where two baseball fields and approximately half of the available parking areas are located (refer to Appendix E, Figures E-2A and E-2B). Temporary construction activities within the park and on the two eastern baseball fields could cause physical deterioration of the park from use of ground-disturbing equipment and driving heavy stinging equipment on the field. Under this alternative, conductor stringing would occur within the park and underground construction would be moved south of the park. Potential physical deterioration of the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would be a significant impact.

Implementation of APMs PS-1 (temporary access) and PS-5 (recreational facility repair) would reduce impacts. Similar to the Proposed Project, a significant impact from physical deterioration would remain after implementation of APMs PS-1 and PS-5 if the park restoration did not match pre-construction conditions. Mitigation Measure Recreation-1 would reduce physical deterioration of the park by documenting the pre- and post-construction conditions in the park. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Trails

Alternative 2 would not impact any trails because no trails would be located within Alternative 2 work areas or at the Alternative 2 cable pole.

Bikeways

Alternative 2 would have the potential to damage bike lanes along Carmel Valley Road where the underground transmission line would connect with the road, which would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-3 would be implemented to reduce physical deterioration of bike lanes by requiring post-construction road repair. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operations and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of Alternative 2 would not increase use of any recreational facilities because reliable electricity and improved deliverability of renewable energy would not induce population growth. Inspection and maintenance activities would continue to be conducted

annually in conjunction with inspections and maintenance for the existing transmission infrastructure in SDG&E's ROW. The Alternative 2 inspection and maintenance activities would not cause physical deterioration of any recreational facility due to the short duration and low intensity of maintenance activities on an annual basis. There would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-1 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-3 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-3: Would Alternative 2 substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Parks

Alternative 2 eliminates the Proposed Project construction of a cable pole and underground duct bank within Black Mountain Ranch Community Park; however, a stringing site would be positioned on the two eastern baseball fields and the north parking lot in the park. Under Alternative 2, the closure of parking spaces in the parking lot would be 12 days. Wire stringing in the park would result in the same closure periods for the eastern baseball fields as the Proposed Project.

The Black Mountain Ranch Community Park sports fields are highly utilized throughout the year. Construction of Alternative 2 would substantially disrupt recreational activities because the sports fields would not be accessible to the public during overhead stringing, which would be a significant impact. Implementation of APMs REC-1 (coordination with parks and preserves, and buffer between active work areas and trails), PS-2 (notice of construction), PS-3 (coordination with recreational facilities), and PS-4 (signage) would reduce impacts from temporary park closures. Even with APMs, the impact from closures would be significant if the parks were closed during active recreational use periods. Mitigation Measure Recreation-3 would avoid temporary closures of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park by requiring safe access to the baseball fields around the stringing area. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Installation of the underground transmission line connection south of Carmel Valley Road would result in closures of the bike path along Carmel Valley Road in the immediate vicinity of the duct bank, which would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-7 would reduce impacts by requiring closure notifications and the establishment of detours around construction. Impacts from bike lane closures would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Cable Pole

Inspection and maintenance of the Alternative 2 cable pole would not disrupt activities in a public recreational area because the cable pole would be located outside of recreational areas

and would not block access to any public recreational area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Underground Transmission Line

Operation and maintenance of the Alternative 2 underground transmission line connection would be similar to Proposed Project Segment B. A couple of the vaults between the cable pole and Proposed Project Segment B would be located on Carmel Valley Road within a bike lane, and inspection of these vaults would require temporary closure of the bike lane for safety of bicyclists and SDG&E workers. The annual inspections would take less than one day at each vault structure, resulting in closure of the bike lane for up to 3 days each year. The temporary closure of the bike lane at the vault structures would not substantially impact recreational access due to the very short duration of bicycle lane closure and the limited area where the bike lane would be closed (less than 100 feet in length at each vault). Impacts to recreation from operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line would therefore be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-3 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-7 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-4: Would Alternative 2 substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource? (*Significant and unavoidable*)

Construction

Construction of Alternative 2 would reduce impacts to the recreational value of a public recreational resource compared to the Proposed Project. Recreationalists at Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would not experience the noise or visual effects from construction of the cable pole or underground transmission line because neither would be constructed within the park. Temporary use of the park during conductor stringing would not substantially affect the experience of users at the park because conductor stringing would not occur for more than a couple of weeks and users typically engage in active recreation and would not be focused on activities outside of their sport. Thus, Alternative 2 would not permanently or substantially reduce the recreational value of a recreational resource or deter the use of recreational resources. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Operation and Maintenance

Cable Pole

The cable pole would be situated on a hill slope in direct view from Black Mountain Ranch Community Park and other open space trails in Black Mountain Ranch Open Space. As discussed in Section 4.2: Aesthetics, the cable pole would contrast substantially with the surrounding open space environment, which would result in a significant impact to visual quality. This impact on visual quality would result in a significant impact on the recreational value of adjacent trails in open space. The impact on Black Mountain Ranch Community Park

would be less than significant because the active recreational use at the park would decrease viewer sensitivity to the cable pole. Implementation of APM AES-3 (landscaping for cable poles) would reduce the impact of the cable pole. Even with implementation of this APM, the visual effects of the new cable poles would remain significant. Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-3 and Aesthetics-4 would further reduce the impact through implementation of a facilities color treatment plan and screening of the cable pole. While the APM and mitigation measure would reduce the impact from the base of the pole, it is infeasible to completely screen the pole from view. The impact from the cable pole on the recreational value of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park and trails in the adjacent open space area would remain significant and unavoidable.

Maintenance activities for the cable pole would be the same in frequency, intensity, and duration as existing inspection and maintenance of SDG&E infrastructure in the area. There would be no impact on the value of any recreational resource because maintenance activities would not differ from existing conditions.

Underground Transmission Line

Operation and maintenance of the Alternative 2 underground transmission line connection would be similar to Proposed Project Segment B. A couple of the vaults between the cable pole and Proposed Project Segment B would be located on Carmel Valley Road within a bike lane, and inspection of these vaults would require temporary closure of the bike lane for safety of bicyclists and SDG&E workers. The annual inspections would take less than one day at each vault structure, resulting in closure of the bike lane for up to 3 days each year. The temporary closure of the bike lane at the vault structures would not substantially impact recreational access due to the very short duration of bicycle lane closure and the limited area where the bike lane would be closed (less than 100 feet in length at each vault). Impacts to recreational values from operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line would therefore be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Aesthetics-3 and Aesthetics-4 (refer to Section 4.2: Aesthetics)

Significance after mitigation: Significant and unavoidable.

4.10.10 Alternative 3: Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve – Mercy Road Underground (Avoids Overhead in Northern Half of Segment A, Underground in Segment B, and Overhead in Segment C)

Alternative 3 would include installing an underground alignment starting at a new cable pole where the existing SDG&E ROW crosses Ivy Hill Road and ending at a new cable pole approximately 550 feet west of the Peñasquitos Junction (i.e., where Proposed Project Segments C and D meet). The underground alignment would follow Scripps Poway Parkway, Mercy Road, Black Mountain Road, and finally Park Village Road. Alternative 3 would bypass the northern half of Proposed Project Segment A and all of Proposed Project Segments B and C. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

4.10.10.1 Alternative 3 Environmental Setting

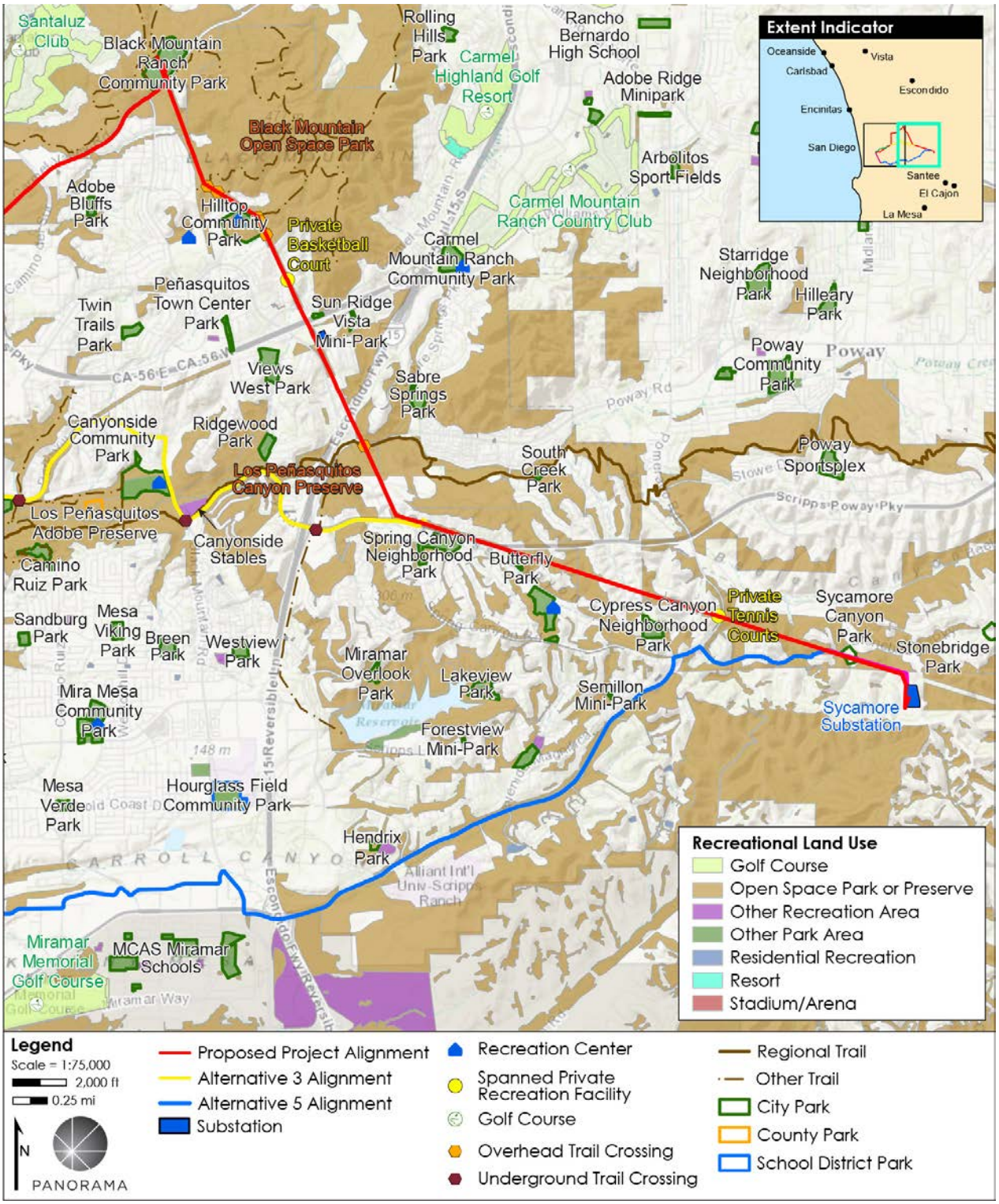
Recreational facilities in the vicinity of Alternative 3 are shown on Figure 4.10-5 and 4.10-6. City parks within 1,000 feet of the underground alignment are listed in Table 4.10-8. Scripps Poway Parkway, Mercy Road, Black Mountain Road, and Park Village Road include Class II bike lanes (refer to Figure 4.7-14 in Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic).

Table 4.10-8 Active-use City Parks within 1,000 feet of Alternative 3

Name and Location	Facilities	Location in relation to Proposed Project
Ridgewood Park *La Tortola at Paseo Montril, San Diego*	• Tennis Courts • Picnic Tables • Play Areas • Open Space	Approximately 800 feet north of underground transmission line
Canyonside Community Park *12350 Black Mountain Road, San Diego*	• Ball Fields • Parking • Picnic Tables • Play Areas • Tennis Courts • Community Center	Approximately 175 feet west of underground transmission line
Peñasquitos Creek Park *Camino Del Sur at Park Village Road, San Diego*	• Tennis Courts • Picnic Tables • Play Areas • Open Space	Approximately 70 feet south of underground transmission line

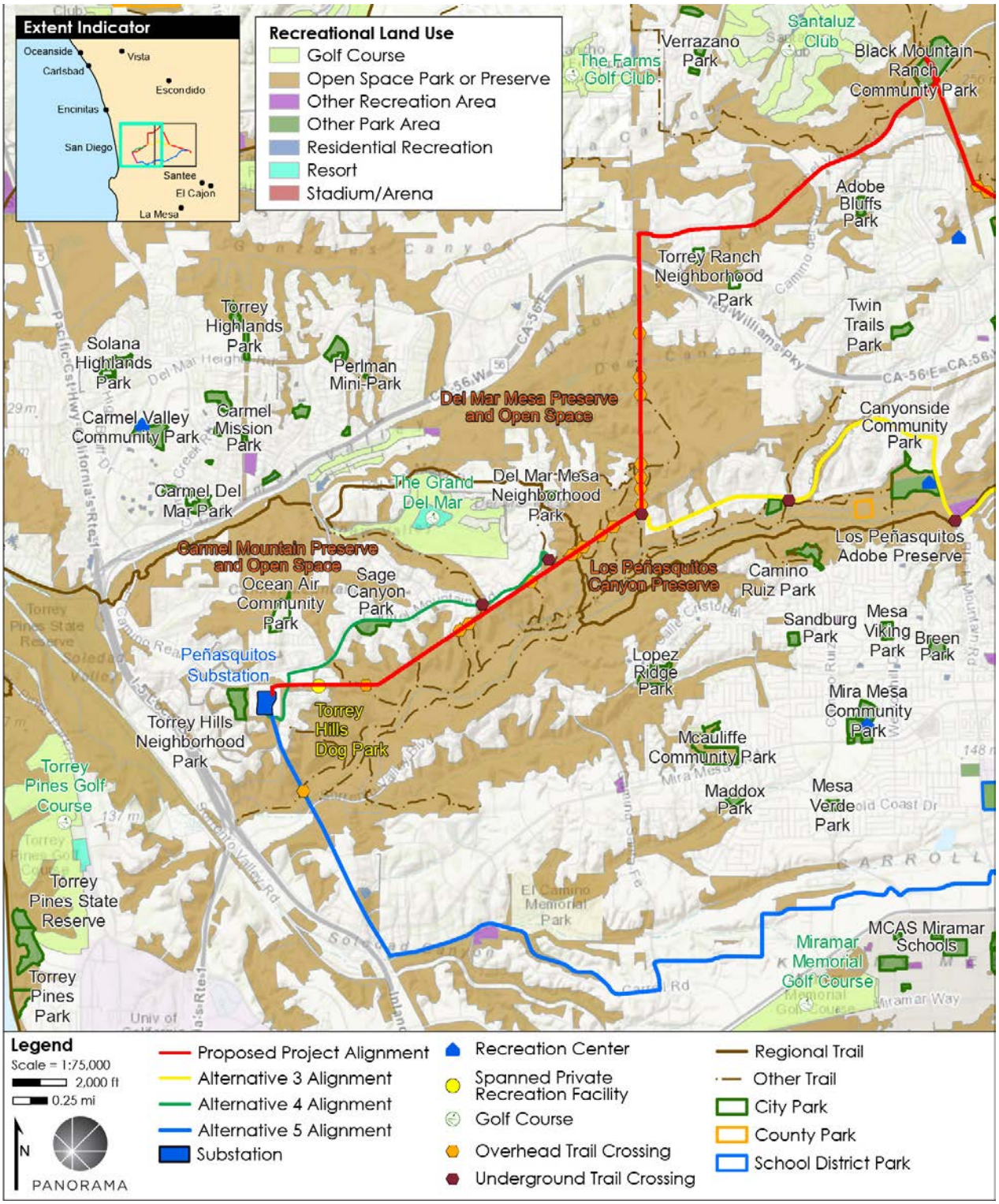
Sources: City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, and 2014b, and County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011

Figure 4.10-5 Recreational Areas in the Vicinity of Project Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 (Map 1 of 2)



Sources: City of Poway 1991, City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2014b, County of San Diego 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011, SANDAG 2014, USDA 2010, Esri 2015, and SDG&E 2014a and 2014b

Figure 4.10-6 Recreational Areas in the Vicinity of Project Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 (Map 2 of 2)



Sources: City of Poway 1991, City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2014b, County of San Diego 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011, SANDAG 2014, USDA 2010, Esri 2015, and SDG&E 2014a and 2014b

4.10.10.2 Alternative 3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.10-9 summarizes the impacts to recreation from Alternative 3.

Table 4.10-9 Summary of Alternative 3 Impacts on Recreation

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Recreation-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated	Construction	Significant	Significant APM PS-5	Less than significant MM Recreation-1 MM Traffic-3
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Recreation-2: Include public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of public recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-2	Less than significant MM Recreation-2
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Recreation-3: Substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-1 APM PS-2 APM PS-3 APM PS-4	Less than significant MM Recreation-4 MM Traffic-7
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Recreation-4: Substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource	Construction	Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	Significant	Significant APM AES-3	Significant and unavoidable MM Aesthetics-2 MM Aesthetics-3 MM Aesthetics-4

Impact Recreation-1: Would Alternative 3 increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Similar to the Proposed Project, Alternative 3 would not induce population growth and therefore would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The physical deterioration of recreational facilities that may result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line is discussed below.

Construction

Parks

Alternative 3 would avoid installation of new poles and underground transmission line within parks. There would be no impact from physical deterioration of parks.

Trails

Alternative 3 would avoid impacts to trails within Black Mountain Ranch Open Space Preserve and Segment C of the Proposed Project; however, underground construction with this alternative where the underground transmission line would transition to overhead within Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve would result in impacts to Del Mar Mesa Trail at the end of Park Village Road near the junction of Segments C and D (see Figures 4.10-5 and 4.10-6) . The physical deterioration of trails from ground-disturbing activities would be a significant impact. Implementation of APM PS-5 (recreational facility repair) would reduce impacts to trails. However, a significant impact could occur if the pre-construction condition was not adequately documented and resulted in inadequate restoration of the trail condition. Mitigation Measure Recreation-1 would minimize the physical deterioration of trails by requiring a Pre-Project Parks and Trails Conditions Report and restoration of site conditions to the CPUC's satisfaction. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Construction of the underground transmission line within Scripps-Poway Parkway, Mercy Road, Black Mountain Road, and Park Village Road could damage the bike lane on these roads from duct bank construction and use by construction vehicles and heavy equipment. The physical deterioration of these bike lanes would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-3 would avoid permanent physical deterioration of bike lanes by requiring post-construction road repairs. Therefore, impacts from physical deterioration of bike lanes would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operations and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of Alternative 3 would not increase use of any recreational facilities. Inspection and maintenance activities would not cause physical deterioration of any recreational facility due to the short duration and low intensity of maintenance activities on an annual basis. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-1 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-3 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-2: Would Alternative 3 include public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of public recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Alternative 3 does not include or require 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, as required by APM REC-2 (temporary trail detours). Trail detours could result in the establishment of new trails and an expanded trail network which would have an adverse physical effect if they were located in an area with significant cultural resources or biological resources. This would result in a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Recreation-2 would reduce significant impacts by requiring use of existing trails and access roads and avoiding construction of new trails. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance would not involve construction or require the expansion of recreation facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-2 (refer to Section 4.10.7)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-3: Would Alternative 3 substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Parks

Construction of Alternative 3 would install one cable pole within a trail in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, which would require temporary closure of a trail junction; however, the remainder of the Preserve would remain open during construction. Impacts to the trail are discussed below. Alternative 3 would not substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area because the disruption would be temporary and only occur at one location within a large Preserve. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Trails

Construction of Alternative 3 would involve construction access, pole installation, and overhead stringing onto the cable pole within and near a trail junction that includes the multi-use Del Mar Mesa Trail in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (shown in Figure 4.5-6). The trail junction would be temporarily closed or redirected during construction consistent with APM REC-1 (coordination with parks and preserves, and buffer between active work areas and trails). The trail closure would be expected to last for less than a week at the cable pole while the pole is installed; however, an extended trail closure could occur if the trail were closed during overhead conductor installation due to safety concerns.

The temporary closure of the trail would substantially disrupt public recreational activities because construction activities would close access to the trail junction and prevent use of one of the three trails that connects Del Mar Mesa Preserve and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, which would be a significant impact. Implementation of APMs REC-1 (coordination with parks and preserves, and buffer between active work areas and trails), PS-2 (notice of construction), PS-3 (coordination with recreational facilities), and PS-4 (signage) would reduce the extent and duration of trail closures during pole installation; however, these APMs do not address the potential for extended closures of trails during overhead stringing of the transmission line onto the cable pole. Extended closure of the trail and trail junction during overhead conductor installation would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Recreation-4 would keep the trail open to the public during construction by requiring a flag person at trail crossings to facilitate continued trail access. Impacts from disruption of recreational activities as a result of temporary trail closures would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Construction of the underground transmission line within Scripps-Poway Parkway, Mercy Road, Black Mountain Road, and Park Village Road would result in temporary closures of the bike lane on these roads. The underground transmission line and work areas are located within the bike lane, and portions of the bike lane would be closed for several months. The temporary closure of the bike lane on Scripps-Poway Parkway, Mercy Road, Black Mountain Road, and Park Village Road would substantially disrupt recreational activities, which would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-7 would minimize impacts to bicycle travel on these roads by requiring closure notifications and detours. Impacts from bike lane closures would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Cable Poles

Operations and maintenance of the cable poles on either end of Alternative 3 would be similar to the Proposed Project. The presence of the cable poles would not substantially disrupt recreational access or cause physical deterioration of recreational facilities. There would be no impact.

Underground Transmission Line

Operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line in Scripps-Poway Parkway, Mercy Road, Black Mountain Road, and Park Village Road would require annual inspection of the vaults located within the roadway. Inspection of the vaults would require temporary closure of the bike lane in these roads for safety of bicyclists and SDG&E workers. The annual inspections would take less than one day at each vault structure, resulting in closure of small segments of the bike lanes around the vaults for up to 3 weeks each year. The temporary closure of the bike lane at the vault structures would not substantially impact recreational access due to the very short duration of bicycle lane closure and the limited area where the bike lane would be closed (less than 100 feet in length at each vault). Impacts to recreation from operation and

maintenance of the underground transmission line would therefore be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-4 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-7 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-4: Would Alternative 3 substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource? (*Significant and unavoidable*)

Construction

Ridgewood, Canyonside Community, and Peñasquitos Creek Parks are located near the Alternative 3 underground transmission line alignment. Construction of the duct bank would not substantially change the recreational value of the parks because the new transmission line would not cause a substantial visual or audible change that would deter recreational use of the parks. The parks are used primarily for active recreation (i.e., sports games) where the focus is on the activity rather than the surrounding landscape, and construction would be screened by the presence of trees at Ridgewood and Canyonside Community Parks. Construction of a new cable pole and underground transmission connection would not deter recreational use of trails in the Preserve because construction activities would be limited to a single trail crossing within the Preserve involving construction for a few days and the underground transmission line would not interfere with use of the trail with appropriate detours. Impacts to the recreational value of recreational resources from construction of Alternative 3 would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Operation and Maintenance

The cable pole in Los Peñasquitos Canyon would impact visual quality from adjacent trails and the trail kiosk at the end of Park Village Road. The impact to visual quality and associated impact to recreational value of the adjacent trails would be significant. APM AES-3 (landscaping for cable poles) would reduce the visual impact on the trail; however, the impact on the recreational value of the trail would remain significant because the cable pole would be in full view of the trail. Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-2, Aesthetics-3, and Aesthetics-4 would further reduce impacts through implementation of a facilities color treatment plan and screening of the retaining wall and cable pole. It would be infeasible to screen the pole from view at nearby trails and the impact from the cable pole on the recreational value of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would remain significant and unavoidable.

Inspection and maintenance activities of the cable poles would be similar to existing maintenance activities. Trail users in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve are accustomed to views of transmission lines and structures because there are existing lines in the Proposed Project Segment D corridor within SDG&E's ROW. There would be no impact on the value of any recreational resource from operation and maintenance of the cable poles because there would be no change in the intensity, frequency, or duration of inspection and maintenance activities.

Inspection and maintenance of the vaults along the underground transmission line would be similar to maintenance activities for Proposed Project Segment B. The annual inspections would take less than one day at each vault structure, which would not substantially reduce the recreational value of any recreational resource. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Aesthetics-2, Aeshetics-3, and Aesthetics-4 (refer to Section 4.2: Aesthetics)

Significance after mitigation: Significant and unavoidable.

4.10.11 Alternative 4: Segment D 69-kV Partial Underground Alignment (Reduces New TSPs in Segment D)

Alternative 4 would include the installation of a double 69-kV underground alignment starting at two new cable poles (P48AA and P48BB) in Proposed Project Segment D near existing lattice tower E17. The underground alignment would follow Carmel Mountain Road and East Ocean Air Drive, ending at the Peñasquitos Substation. Within Proposed Project Segment D, an existing 69-kV line would be removed from the existing steel lattice towers, and a second 69-kV power line on existing H-frame structures would be de-energized and left in place. Construction within Proposed Project Segment D would be reduced under Alternative 4. The 230-kV transmission line would be installed on the existing steel lattice towers similar to the Proposed Project; however, the H-frame structures would not be removed, and no new TSPs would be installed between lattice tower E17 and the Peñasquitos Substation. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

4.10.11.1 Alternative 4 Environmental Setting

Alternative 4 would have the potential to affect Sage Canyon Park, located at 5252 Harvest Run Drive in San Diego, approximately 25 feet south of the underground transmission line within Carmel Mountain Road. Sage Canyon Park has a play structure, basketball courts, baseball fields, and a beach volley ball court.

4.10.11.2 Alternative 4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.10-10 summarizes the impacts to recreation from Alternative 4.

Table 4.10-10 Summary of Alternative 4 Impacts on Recreation

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Recreation-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public	Construction	Significant	Significant APM PS-5	Less than significant MM Recreation-1 MM Traffic-3

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Recreation-2: Include public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of public recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-2	Less than significant MM Recreation-2
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Recreation-3: Substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-1 APM PS-2 APM PS-3 APM PS-4	Less than significant MM Recreation-4 MM Traffic-7
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Recreation-4: Substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource	Construction	Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	Significant	Significant APM AES-3	Significant and unavoidable MM Aesthetics-3 MM Aesthetics-4

Impact Recreation-1: Would Alternative 4 increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Similar to the Proposed Project, Alternative 4 would not induce population growth and therefore would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The physical deterioration of recreational facilities that may result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line is discussed below.

Construction

Parks

Alternative 4 would not involve construction within parks. There would be no impact from physical deterioration of parks.

Trails

Alternative 4 could impact an SDG&E access road used by recreationalists between Carmel Mountain Road and cable poles P48AA and P48BB and a Shaw Valley Trail Connections at

Carmel Mountain Road east of Timber Brook Lane (see Figures 4.10-5 and 4.10-6). Physical deterioration of trails would be limited to surface disturbance from construction vehicles and equipment. The physical deterioration of trails from ground-disturbing activities would be a significant impact. Implementation of APM PS-5 (recreational facility repair) would reduce impacts to trails. However, a significant impact could occur if the pre-construction condition was not adequately documented and resulted in inadequate restoration of the trail condition. Mitigation Measure Recreation-1 would minimize the physical deterioration of trails by requiring a Pre-Project Parks and Trails Conditions Report and restoration of site conditions to the CPUC's satisfaction. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Construction of the underground alignment within Carmel Mountain Road and East Ocean Air Drive could damage bike lanes on these roads. The physical deterioration of bike lanes would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-3 would avoid permanent physical deterioration of bike lanes by requiring post-construction road repair. Impacts from physical deterioration of bike lanes would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operations and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of Alternative 4 would not increase use of any recreational facilities. Inspection and maintenance activities would not cause physical deterioration of any recreational facility due to the short duration and low intensity of maintenance activities on an annual basis. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-1 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-3 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-2: Would Alternative 4 include public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of public recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Alternative 4 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, as required by APM REC-2 (temporary trail detours). Trail detours could result in the establishment of new trails and an expanded trail network which would have an adverse physical effect if they were located in an area with significant cultural resources or biological resources. This would result in a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Recreation-2 would reduce significant impacts by requiring use of existing trails and access roads for trail detours and avoiding construction of new trails. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance would not involve construction or require the expansion of recreation facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-2 (refer to Section 4.10.7)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-3: Would Alternative 4 substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Parks

Construction of Alternative 4 would install two cable poles within a trail in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, which would require temporary closure of the trail; however, the remainder of the Preserve would remain open during construction. Impacts to the trail are discussed below. Alternative 4 would not substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area because the disruption would be temporary and only occur at one location within a large Preserve. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Trails

Alternative 4 could impact an SDG&E access road used by recreationalists between Carmel Mountain Road and cable poles P48AA and P48BB and a Shaw Valley Trail Connections at Carmel Mountain Road east of Timber Brook Lane. Trails located within and adjacent to Alternative 4 work areas are shown on Figure 4.10-6 and described in Table 4.10-5. Trails located in work areas or along access roads would be temporarily closed during construction. Extended trail closures could occur if trails were closed during overhead conductor installation due to safety concerns. The temporary closure of local trails segments would substantially disrupt public recreational activities within Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, which would be a significant impact.

Implementation of APMs REC-1 (coordination with parks and preserves, and buffer between active work areas and trails), PS-2 (notice of construction), PS-3 (coordination with recreational facilities), and PS-4 (signage) would reduce the extent and duration of trail closures during pole installation; however, these APMs do not address the potential for extended closures of trails during overhead stringing of the transmission line. Extended closure of trails during overhead conductor installation would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Recreation-4 would keep trails open to the public during construction by requiring a flag person at trail crossings to facilitate continued trail access. Impacts from disruption of recreational activities as a result of temporary trail closures would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Construction of the underground alignment within Carmel Mountain Road and East Ocean Air Drive would result in temporary closures of bike lanes on these roads. The underground transmission line and power lines are located within bike lanes, and portions of the bike lanes would be closed for several months. The temporary closure of bike lanes would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-7 would reduce impacts to recreational activity from bike lane closures by requiring closure notifications and establishing detours. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Cable Poles

The presence of the Alternative 4 cable poles would not substantially disrupt recreational access or cause physical deterioration of recreational facilities. There would be no impact.

Operations and maintenance of the cable poles would be similar to the Proposed Project. Inspection and maintenance activities would not increase in frequency, intensity, or duration compared to activities for existing transmission and power lines and structures within SDG&E's ROW. Therefore, impacts to recreational resources from operation and maintenance of the cable poles would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Underground Transmission Line

Operation and maintenance of the underground alignment within Carmel Mountain Road and East Ocean Air Drive would require annual inspection of the vaults located within the roadways. Inspection of the vaults would require temporary closure of bike lanes in the immediate vicinity of each vault for safety of bicyclists and SDG&E workers. The annual inspections would take less than one day annually at each vault structure, resulting in closure of portions of the bike lane for less than 2 weeks each year. The temporary closure of bike lanes at vault structures would not substantially impact recreational access due to the very short duration of bicycle lane closure and the limited area where the bike lane would be closed (less than 100 feet in length at each vault). Impacts to recreation from operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-4 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-7 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-4: Would Alternative 4 substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource? (*Significant and unavoidable*)

Construction

Sage Canyon Park is located near the Alternative 4 underground transmission line alignment. Construction of the duct bank would not substantially change the recreational value of the park because the new transmission line would not cause a substantial change that would deter recreation use of the park. Recreational users would not be subject to substantial visual impacts from construction because construction would move along the road and would be partially obscured by trees that line the park. While construction would cause a temporary significant increase in ambient noise levels, the park is primarily used for active recreation (i.e., sports games) where the focus is on the activity rather than the surrounding atmosphere. Construction of the underground transmission line would not reduce the recreational value of the park such that it would deter recreational use of the park. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Operation and Maintenance

The cable poles in Los Peñasquitos Canyon would impact visual quality from adjacent trails in the open space area south of the cable poles. The impact to visual quality and associated impact to recreational value of the adjacent trails would be significant. APM AES-3 (landscaping for cable poles) would reduce the visual impact on the trails; however, the impact on the recreational value of the trails would remain significant because the cable poles would be in full view of nearby trails and the surrounding canyon. Mitigation Measures Aesthetics-3 and Aesthetics-4 would further reduce impacts through implementation of a facilities color treatment plan and screening of the cable poles. It is infeasible to screen the poles from view at nearby trails and the impact from the cable poles on the recreational value of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park would remain significant and unavoidable.

Inspection and maintenance activities of the cable poles would be similar to existing maintenance activities. Trail users in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve are accustomed to views of transmission lines and structures because there are existing lines in the Proposed Project Segment D corridor within SDG&E's ROW. There would be no impact on the value of any recreational resource from operation and maintenance of the cable poles because there would be no change in the intensity, frequency, or duration of inspection and maintenance activities.

Inspection and maintenance of the vaults along the underground power lines would be similar to maintenance activities for Proposed Project Segment B. The annual inspections would take less than one day at each vault structure, which would not substantially reduce the recreational value of any recreational resource. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Aesthetics-3 and Aesthetics-4 (refer to Section 4.2: Aesthetics)

Significance after mitigation: Significant and unavoidable.

4.10.12 Alternative 5: Pomerado Road to Miramar Area North Combination Underground/Overhead (Avoids All Proposed Project Segments)

Alternative 5 would include underground installation of the transmission line with the exception of the east and west ends where the transmission line would be installed in an overhead within existing SDG&E ROWs. Under this alternative, the alignment would exit the Sycamore Substation at MCAS Miramar an overhead line and travel westerly within an existing SDG&E ROW toward Stonebridge Parkway. The transmission line would transition to underground beneath Stonebridge Parkway in the vicinity of Greenstone Court, then continue underground on Pomerado Road, Miramar Road, Kearny Villa Road, Black Mountain Road, Activity Road, Camino Ruiz, Miralani Drive, Arjons Drive, Trade Place, Camino Santa Fe, Carroll Road/Carroll Canyon Road and Scranton Road. The transmission line would temporarily transition to an overhead alignment via two new cable poles and two new interset poles, where it would cross I-15. At the western end of the underground portion, the line would transition back to overhead structures located within an existing SDG&E ROW heading northward into the Peñasquitos Substation. Alternative 5 would avoid construction within the

Proposed Project alignment with the exception of approximately 3,400 feet of existing SDG&E ROW in Segment A connecting to the Sycamore Canyon Substation. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

4.10.12.1 Alternative 5 Environmental Setting

City parks within 1,000 feet of Alternative 5 are described in Table 4.10-11. The parks and trails located along the Alternative 5 alignment are shown on Figures 4.10-5 and 4.10-6. The overhead section of Alternative 5 between Carroll Canyon Road and Peñasquitos Substation would cross Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Table 4.10-11 Active-use City Parks within 1,000 feet of Alternative 5

Name and Location	Facilities	Location in relation to Proposed Project
Hendrix Park *Aviary Drive at Caminito Memosac, San Diego*	• Walking Trails • Open Space	Approximately 720 feet north of underground transmission line
Semillon Mini-Park *12066 Semillon Boulevard, San Diego*	• Play Area	Approximately 770 feet north of underground transmission line

Sources: City of San Diego 2009a, 2009b, and 2014b, and County of San Diego and SANDAG 2011

4.10.12.2 Alternative 5 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.10-12 summarizes the impacts to recreation from Alternative 5.

Table 4.10-12 Summary of Alternative 5 Impacts on Recreation

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Recreation-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated	Construction	Significant	Significant	Less than significant MM Traffic-3
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Recreation-2: Include public recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of public recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Recreation-3: Substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area	Construction	Significant	Significant APM REC-1 APM PS-2 APM PS-3 APM PS-4	Less than significant MM Recreation-3 MM Recreation-4 MM Traffic-7
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Recreation-4: Substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource	Construction	Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---

Alternative 5 would have no impact on one CEQA significance criterion for recreation: Impact Recreation-2, as indicated in Table 4.10-12 above. Alternative 5 would not include the construction or expansion of a public recreational facility.

Impact Recreation-1: Would Alternative 5 increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other public recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Similar to the Proposed Project, Alternative 5 would not induce population growth and therefore would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The physical deterioration of recreational facilities that may result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line is discussed below.

Construction

Parks

Alternative 5 would not involve installation of new structures or underground transmission line within any parks. There would be no impact.

Trails

No trails are located along the underground alignment. The western overhead transmission line would cross over a trail located along an SDG&E access road within Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve on the north side of Peñasquitos Creek (see Figure 4.10-6). Stringing conductor over the trail would not result in physical deterioration of the trail. There would be no impact.

Bikeways

Construction of the underground transmission line on Stonebridge Parkway, Pomerado Road, and the series of roads within which Alternative 5 would be installed could damage bike lanes on those roads. The physical deterioration of these bike lanes would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-3 would avoid permanent physical deterioration of bike lanes by

requiring post-construction road repair. Therefore, impacts from physical deterioration of bike lanes would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operations and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of Alternative 5 would not increase use of any recreational facilities. Inspection and maintenance activities would not cause physical deterioration of any recreational facility due to the short duration and low intensity of maintenance activities on an annual basis. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Traffic-3 (refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-3: Would Alternative 5 substantially disrupt activities in a public recreational area? (*Less than significant with mitigation*)

Construction

Parks

Alternative 5 would involve removal of existing conductor and installation of new conductor above Sycamore Canyon Park. The temporary closure of Sycamore Canyon Park would have a significant impact on recreational activities. Closure of the park would be the same as addressed for the Proposed Project in Table 4.10-4 (approximately two days for existing conductor removal and two six-day periods for new conductor installation). Implementation of APMs REC-1 (coordination with parks and preserves, and buffer between active work areas and trails), PS-2 (notice of construction), PS-3 (coordination with recreational facilities), and PS-4 (signage) would reduce impacts from temporary park closures. However, the impact would remain significant if the park would be closed during active recreational use periods. Mitigation Measure Recreation-3 requires SDG&E to coordinate with the City of San Diego to avoid closure during active use periods and provide safe access to the park. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Trails

Construction of Alternative 5 would involve construction access and overhead stringing within and near a multi-use trail in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (refer to Figure 4.10-6). Temporary trail closure could occur during overhead conductor installation due to safety concerns, which could substantially disrupt recreational activities because the trail connects to other trails and recreational areas within Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Overhead stringing with this alternative would occur from approximately September to October in 2016. Closure of the trail would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Recreation-4 would keep the trail open to the public during conductor installation by requiring a flag person to maintain trail access. Impacts from disruption of recreational activities would be less than significant with mitigation.

Bikeways

Construction of the underground transmission line within Stonebridge Parkway, Pomerado Road, and the series of roads within which Alternative 5 would be installed would result in temporary closures of the bike lanes on those roads. The underground transmission line and work areas are located within the bike lanes, and portions of the bike lanes would be closed for several months. Temporary closure of the bike lanes would substantially disrupt recreational activities, which would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Traffic-7 would reduce impacts to recreational activity from bike lane closures by requiring closure notifications and establishing detours. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

Overhead Transmission Line

Operation and maintenance of the overhead transmission line would be similar to the Proposed Project. The presence of the overhead transmission line and power poles would not substantially disrupt recreational access. Therefore, impacts to recreational resources from operation and maintenance of the overhead transmission line would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Underground Transmission Line

Operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line would require annual inspection of the vaults located within the roadways. Inspection of the vaults would require temporary closure of the bike lanes in Stonebridge Parkway, Pomerado Road, and the series of roads within which Alternative 5 would be installed for safety of bicyclists and SDG&E workers. The annual inspections would take less than one day at each vault structure, resulting in closure of the bike lanes for up to 3 weeks each year. The temporary closure of the bike lane at the vault structures would not substantially impact recreational access due to the very short duration of bicycle lane closure and the limited area where the bike lane would be closed (less than 100 feet in length at each vault). Impacts to recreation from operation and maintenance of the underground transmission line would therefore be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: Recreation-3 and Recreation-4 (refer to Section 4.10.7) and Traffic-7 (Refer to Section 4.7: Transportation and Traffic)

Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.

Impact Recreation-4: Would Alternative 5 substantially reduce the recreational value of a public recreational resource? (*Less than significant; no mitigation required*)

Construction

Construction of Alternative 5 would result in minor temporary noise and aesthetic impacts near Sycamore Canyon Park and the trail in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve that would be spanned by Alternative 5. Impacts from construction noise and equipment on the recreational

value of existing facilities would be less than significant because construction would be temporary (a few days to a few weeks). No mitigation is required.

Operation and Maintenance

The Alternative 5 overhead transmission line would be visible from Sycamore Canyon Park; however, new overhead conductors above the park would not substantially change its recreational value because there are existing 230-kV and 138-kV conductors within the park and the new transmission line would not cause a substantial visual or audible (i.e., corona noise) change that would deter recreational use of the park. Additionally, the park is primarily used for active recreation (i.e., sports games) where the focus is on the activity rather than the surrounding landscape. The additional conductors over a trail in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve would not change the value and use of the recreational trail in Los Peñasquitos Canyon because there are a number of existing overhead conductors in this area and trail users are accustomed to views of transmission lines. Addition of the 230-kV transmission line would therefore not substantially change the recreational user experience because the additional conductors would be similar to existing features in the Preserve. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

There would be no impact on the value of any recreational resource from operation and maintenance of the Alternative 5 transmission line because there would be no change in the intensity, frequency, or duration of inspection and maintenance activities.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

4.10.13 No Project Alternative

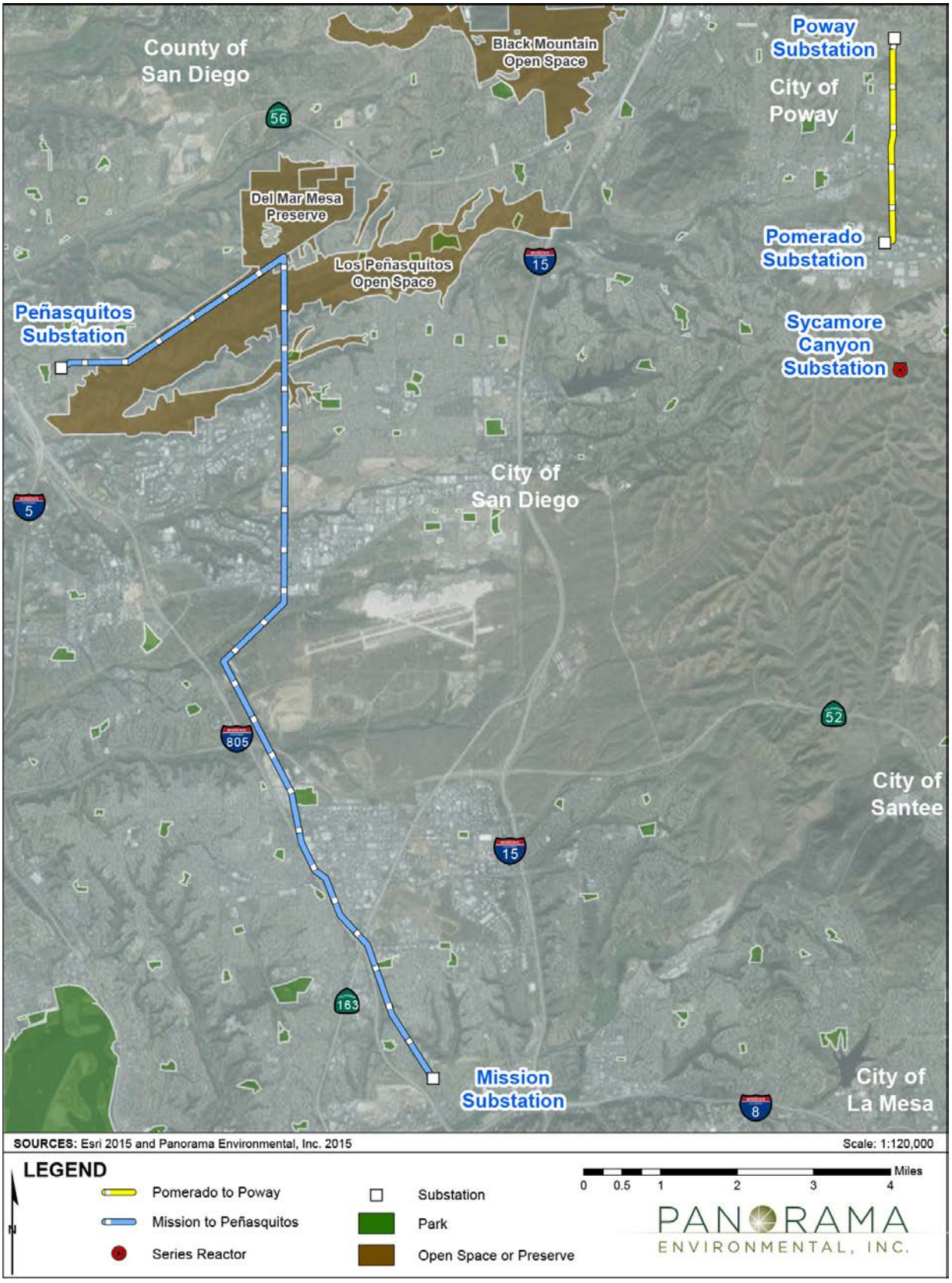
The No Project Alternative would include construction of the CAISO approved Mission—Peñasquitos 230-kV transmission line and Second Poway—Pomerado 69-kV power line. The No Project Alternative would also involve installation of a series reactor at Sycamore Canyon Substation. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives. Parks and preserves in the No Project Alternative area are shown on Figure 4.10-7.

The No Project Alternative would have a lesser impact on recreational facilities than the Proposed Project. While impacts to parks would be comparable, the Proposed Project would involve more construction within preserves and would require temporary closures of more trails and bikeways.

4.10.13.1 Mission—Peñasquitos 230-kV Transmission Line

Pole installation and conductor stringing would impede access to parks, trails, and bikeways during temporary road closures, and construction activities could interfere with public enjoyment of parks. The Mission—Peñasquitos 230-kV transmission line would span or be located very near to three parks and one preserve, including Hickman Fields, Lopez Ridge Park, Cabrillo Heights Park, and Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. One structure is located within Hickman Fields; pole replacement would likely require temporary closure of park, which would significantly impact use of its recreational facilities and could result in physical

Figure 4.10-7 Recreational Areas in the Vicinity of the No Project Alternative



deterioration of the park. Impacts within Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve along the Proposed Project Segment D corridor, including impeded access to trails and physical deterioration of trails, would be similar to those described for the Proposed Project because construction activities would be similar. Bikeways would also be impacted during temporary road closures necessary for pole replacements and conductor stringing. The impact from new poles and transmission line in Los Peñasquitos Canyon would have a significant and unavoidable impact on recreational value of nearby trails, similar to Proposed Project Segment D.

4.10.13.2 Second Poway—Pomerado 69-kV Power Line

The Poway – Pomerado power line would not affect any recreational areas because construction would not occur in any recreational facilities.

4.10.13.3 Series Reactor at Sycamore Canyon Substation

Installation of a series reactor at Sycamore Canyon Substation would not impact recreational resources because the upgrades would be conducted in previously disturbed areas and would not involve deterioration of any recreational facilities.

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