

3.2.5 Recreation

Recreational opportunities within the County of San Diego (County) are provided by local and regional parks, designated open space areas, and a wide variety of recreational facilities. Bureau of Land Management and Cleveland National Forest lands in eastern San Diego County also provide opportunities for recreation. The County Department of Parks and Recreation aids in the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for both residents and visitors through a comprehensive program of parkland acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreation facilities, including local and regional parks, fishing lakes, community centers, over 300 miles of regional and community trails, special use facilities, and open space preserves. Covering more than 44,000 acres, County parks and recreational facilities are maintained by County staff, volunteers, and service contracts (County of San Diego 2010). A significant impact would occur if the proposed project increases the use of parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur, or if the proposed project requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that would have an adverse effect on the environment.

3.2.5.1 Analysis of Project Effects

Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities

The development of small wind turbines and Meteorological Testing (MET) facilities would not induce the development of residential uses, including but not limited to a residential subdivision, mobile home park, or construction of a single-family residence, which would in turn increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities in the vicinity, or require the construction of additional facilities. Additionally, the project does not propose any physical or regulatory changes that would remove a restriction to or encourage population growth in an area including, but not limited to, the following: new or extended infrastructure or public facilities; new commercial or industrial facilities; large-scale residential development; accelerated conversion of homes to commercial or multifamily use; regulatory changes including General Plan amendments encouraging population growth, specific plan amendments, zone reclassifications, or sewer or water annexations; or Local Agency Formation Commission annexation actions. The proposed project would not increase population, thereby increasing the use of parks or other recreational facilities or requiring the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impacts to recreational facilities would result.

The proposed project would allow small wind turbines and MET facilities in the unincorporated portions of the County over which the County has land use jurisdiction, subject to specified standards and limitations. Although the uses supported by the wind turbines or MET facilities may expand, residential uses will continue to be allowed in conjunction with the expansion. These

turbines would supplement residential use. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase residential land uses, thereby increasing the use of parks or other recreational facilities or requiring the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. **No impacts** to recreational facilities would result from the development of small wind turbines or MET facilities.

Large Turbine(s) and MET Facilities

The proposed project amends certain provisions of the County's Zoning Ordinance related to large turbine(s). These updates are necessary to address advancements in technology that have obviated many of the current provisions. The proposed amendments related to large wind turbines consist of updated definitions and requirements related to setbacks, noise, height, and locations where large turbines are permissible. Similar to small wind turbines and MET facilities, future large wind turbine projects would not induce the development of residential uses that would in turn increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities in the vicinity, or require the construction of additional facilities. **No impacts** to recreational facilities would result from the development of large wind turbines.

3.2.5.2 Cumulative Impact Analysis

Cumulative impacts may result from an increase in the use of parks or other recreational facilities, or from the need for construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities. The geographic scope for this cumulative analysis is the San Diego region, which encompasses the entire County, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, as well as surrounding counties, and tribal and public agency lands. Some cumulative projects, such as the General Plan Update and build-out of general plans for adjacent jurisdictions, would have the potential to increase the demand for recreational facilities, which could result in deterioration of existing facilities. However, funding from new development such as in-lieu fees for parks or donation of parkland pursuant to the Quimby Act, which requires recreational facilities for new subdivisions, may offset impacts to recreational facilities. State grants and County bond sources are also available to fund park and recreational facilities in urban areas, and funding for maintenance of those facilities would be provided through property assessments and taxes.

However, cumulative projects that undergo environmental review may still have the potential to result in significant and unavoidable impacts that could combine to form a significant cumulative impact from the removal or degradation of recreational facilities in the region. For example, the West-Wide Energy Corridor Project, included in Table 1-4d, proposes development on recreational lands that would potentially degrade environmental resources. In the case of the West-Wide Energy Corridor Project, impacts would occur to resources in the surrounding park and regional trails, such as the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, as well as to air quality,

aesthetics, and noise. Therefore, projects in the region would have the potential to result in cumulatively considerable impacts to recreational facilities.

As described in Section 3.2.5.1, the proposed project would not induce population growth or the development of residential uses that would in turn increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities in the vicinity, or require construction of additional facilities. As a result, the proposed project would **not contribute to a cumulative impact** relative to recreational facilities.

3.2.5.3 Mitigation Measures

The proposed project will not result in any significant impacts to recreational facilities; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3.2.5.4 Conclusion

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant direct or cumulative impacts associated with recreational facilities. The proposed project would not induce population growth or the development of residential uses that would in turn increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities in the vicinity, or require the construction of additional facilities.

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