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SECTION 4.16 - PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

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4.16.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes existing parks and recreational facilities within the Project area and vicinity, and evaluates potential impacts to those facilities that would result from implementation of the proposed Project (Alternative 2), a "No Action/No Project" alternative, and five Project alternatives (Alternatives 3-7). This section evaluates whether the proposed Project and alternatives would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities to the extent that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated, and whether the Project site includes recreational facilities or requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have a substantial adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.16.1.1 Relationship of Project to Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR

This section (**Section 4.16**) represents a stand-alone assessment of the potential significant impacts to parks associated with the development facilitated by the proposed Project and alternatives; however, the previously certified Newhall Ranch environmental documentation provides important information and analysis pertinent to this EIS/EIR. The Project components would require federal and state permitting, consultation, and agreements that are needed to facilitate development of the approved land uses within the Specific Plan site and that would establish spineflower preserves within the Project area, also facilitating development in the Specific Plan, VCC, and a portion of the Entrada planning area. Due to this relationship, the Newhall Ranch environmental documentation, findings, and mitigation, as they relate to parks, are summarized below to provide context for the proposed Project and alternatives.

Section 4.20 of the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) identified and analyzed the existing conditions, potential impacts, and mitigation measures associated with parks, recreation, and trails for the Specific Plan area. In addition, Section 5.0 of the Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) identified and analyzed the potential impacts to parks, recreation, and trails associated with construction and operation of the approved WRP, which would treat the wastewater generated by the Specific Plan. The Newhall Ranch mitigation program was adopted by Los Angeles County in findings and in revised Mitigation Monitoring Plans for the Specific Plan and WRP.

The Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) determined that build-out of the original Specific Plan would result in an on-site population of up to 68,524 residents, and include land for community and neighborhood parks, the High Country SMA/SEA 20, River Corridor SMA/SEA 23, an 18-hole golf course, a lake, and Open Areas throughout the Specific Plan (*i.e.*, undeveloped open areas, prominent ridges, bluffs, slopes, canyons, creekbeds, and major utility easements). In addition, the Specific Plan included a hierarchy of community, local, and other trails connecting to regional trails, and incorporated improvements to community and neighborhood parks.

Mitigation Measure SP-4.20-1 was incorporated into the Specific Plan, which resulted in a decrease in on-site population to 59,707, and included revised acreages of parks, trails, Open Area, the High Country SMA/SEA 20, and the River Corridor SMA/SEA 23. In addition, the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) recommended adoption of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-2 and SP-4.20-3, and Mitigation Measure SP-5.0-68, to address impacts to parks, recreation, and trails resulting from implementation of the Specific Plan and the WRP, respectively. Because implementation of the Specific Plan would exceed the local park requirements based on the County ordinance and Quimby Act standards (discussed in detail

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in **Subsection 4.16.3.1.3**, below), the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) concluded that the Specific Plan would not result in significant impacts to parks, recreation, or trails, and would beneficially impact the region. Although no significant impacts were identified, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors found that the incorporation of applicable mitigation measures would ensure that any potential significant impacts to parks, recreation, and trails caused by implementation of the Specific Plan would remain less than significant.

Subsequently, the Newhall Ranch Draft Additional Analysis (April 2001) and the Newhall Ranch Revised Additional Analysis (May 2003) were prepared to address specific issues, including impacts to the spineflower. Revisions were made to the Specific Plan (May 2003) in order to accommodate the Specific Plan's spineflower mitigation program. Despite revisions to the Specific Plan, impacts to parks, recreation, and trails remained less than significant.

Nonetheless, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR recommended implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 to ensure compliance with all plan and regulatory requirements.¹ The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR also recommended implementation of Mitigation Measure SP-5.0-68 for the Newhall Ranch WRP. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors found that adoption of the recommended measures would ensure compliance with all plan and regulatory requirements. The Newhall Ranch mitigation program was adopted by Los Angeles County in findings and in the revised Mitigation Monitoring Plans for the Specific Plan and WRP.

Table 4.16-1 summarizes the Specific Plan and WRP impacts on parks, recreation, and trails, the applicable mitigation measures, and the significance findings after the mitigation is implemented.

Impact Description	Mitigation Measures	Finding After Mitigation
<p>Specific Plan Impacts to Parks, Recreation, and Trails - The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan includes land for community and neighborhood parks for local residents, as well as 3,949.9 acres of High Country Specific Management Area and 813 acres of River Corridor Special Management Area for open area use. The Specific Plan is in compliance with County and Quimby Act parkland standards, and would not result in significant impacts to local parks and recreation facilities. The cost to maintain and operate the park and recreation facilities is covered by increased revenue accrued to the Parks Department and the County general fund generated by Newhall Ranch.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP-4.20-1 (Specific Plan development requirements for parks, Open Area, High Country, River Corridor, <i>etc.</i>); • SP-4.20-2 (prior to the construction of the trail system, the County's Department of Parks and Recreation must finalize the trail alignment), and • SP-4.20-3 (trail construction must be in accordance with the County's standards). 	<p>Beneficial impact.</p>

¹ Reference to the mitigation measures included in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR are preceded by "SP" in this EIS/EIR to distinguish them from other mitigation measures discussed herein.

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**Table 4.16-1
Impacts to Parks, Recreation, and Trails Caused by Implementation of the Specific Plan and WRP**

Impact Description	Mitigation Measures	Finding After Mitigation
Implementation of the Specific Plan, with its proposed Open Area, local parkland, and trail network would beneficially impact the region.		
Specific Plan Cumulative Impacts to Parks, Recreation, and Trails - Compliance with the County ordinance and Quimby Act by all cumulative development projects will ensure that impacts are not significant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further mitigation required. 	Not significant.
WRP Impacts to Parks, Recreation, and Trails - The WRP would have no impact on park and recreation facilities within Los Angeles County because it would not generate a resident population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP-5.0-68 (a fence shall be constructed along the southern perimeter of the WRP site to prevent access to the WRP from the Regional River Trail). 	Not significant.

Source: Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999); Newhall Ranch Revised Additional Analysis (May 2003).

4.16.1.2 Relationship of Proposed Project to VCC and Entrada Planning Areas

4.16.1.2.1 VCC Planning Area

The SCP component of the proposed Project, if approved, would facilitate development in the VCC planning area. The VCC is reliant on the SCP and associated take authorizations, and would not be developed without the take authorizations due to grading constraints. The VCC planning area is the remaining undeveloped portion of the VCC commercial/ industrial complex currently under development by the applicant. The VCC was the subject of an EIR certified by Los Angeles County in April 1990 (SCH No. 87-123005). The applicant has recently submitted to Los Angeles County the last tentative parcel map (TPM No. 18108) needed to complete build-out of the remaining undeveloped portion of the VCC planning area. The County will require preparation of an EIR in conjunction with the parcel map and related project approvals; however, the County has not yet issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the EIR or released the EIR. The VCC EIR (April 1990) did not analyze impacts to parks, recreation, and trails because there was no substantial evidence that these resources would be impacted from implementation of the VCC project.

4.16.1.2.2 Entrada Planning Area

The applicant is seeking approval from Los Angeles County for planned residential and non-residential development within the Entrada planning area. The SCP component of the proposed Project would designate an area within Entrada as a spineflower preserve. If approved, the SCP component would include take authorization of spineflower populations in Entrada that are located outside of the designated spineflower preserve area. Thus, the planned residential and nonresidential development within portions of the Entrada planning area is reliant on the SCP and associated take authorizations, and those portions would not be developed without the take authorizations. The applicant has submitted to Los Angeles

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County Entrada development applications, which cover the portion of the Entrada planning area facilitated by the SCP component of the proposed Project. However, as of this writing, the County has not yet issued a NOP of an EIR or released an EIR for Entrada. As a result, there is no underlying local environmental documentation for the Entrada planning area at this time.

4.16.2 METHODOLOGY

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation was contacted to determine the number and acreage of parks located within the Project region. The demand for parklands that would be facilitated by the proposed Project and the alternatives was then estimated using the Estimated Quimby Act Parkland Dedications Requirements. The amount of parkland and recreational entities that would be developed as part of the Specific Plan also was considered. If Project-related public service mitigation measures/conditions of approval have been previously adopted, those requirements were considered to be existing requirements of the proposed Project.

4.16.3 REGULATORY SETTING

The dedication and preservation of parks and recreational resources is mandated by federal, state, and local regulations, described below.

4.16.3.1 Federal

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. NEPA and the associated Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines require that federal agencies consider the effects of their regulations, policies, and programs on the environment, and avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental impacts to the extent practicable. (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500.1 et seq.) Recreational resources are considered to be part of the environment, and impacts to these resources are within the scope of the NEPA analysis presented in this EIS/EIR. The Corps, as the NEPA lead agency, is responsible for administering this requirement.

4.16.3.1.2 State

California Environmental Quality Act. The State CEQA Guidelines section 15064 requires that a lead agency prepare an EIR if there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment. A project will significantly impact the environment if: (1) it would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities to the extent that substantial physical deterioration would occur or be accelerated, or (2) the project includes recreational facilities or would require the construction or expansion of facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. CDFG, as the CEQA lead agency, is responsible for administering these requirements.

4.16.3.1.3 Local

Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. As discussed in **Section 2.0**, Project Description, of this EIS/EIR, the approved Specific Plan provides the local regulatory framework for development within the Specific Plan site. With the adoption of Los Angeles County General Plan Amendment No. 94-087-(5) on May 27, 2003, the Specific Plan was found to be consistent with the policies of the Los Angeles County General Plan and Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan.

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Quimby Act. Government Code section 66477, commonly referred to as the "Quimby Act," allows local jurisdictions to require, as a condition of approval for residential development projects, the dedication of land (or payment of a fee in lieu of dedication) for park or recreational purposes at a rate not greater than three or five acres per 1,000 persons, depending on the amount of existing community park area. In the Valencia/Newhall Park Planning Area (No. 35), which includes the Project area, Los Angeles County Code section 21.24.340 requires dedication of recreational land at a rate of three acres per 1,000 persons as a condition of residential subdivision approval. The ordinance does not require the dedication of parkland as a condition of approval for commercial and industrial developments.

4.16.4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

This section describes the existing recreational resources, including parks, trails, and other recreational facilities, in the vicinity of the Project area. There are several existing and proposed parks in the vicinity of the Project area. Such facilities include parks maintained by Los Angeles County, the City of Santa Clarita, Ventura County, the State of California, and the federal government. There is an extensive existing and proposed trail system in the Santa Clarita Valley area, which includes three regional trails and two local trails. There also is a developed paseo system (pedestrian-only walkways) interspersed throughout the community of Valencia.

4.16.4.1 Local and Regional Parks

County Parks. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation provides local parks and recreation facilities for northwestern Los Angeles County residents living in unincorporated areas and regional parks for all area residents. Parks are organized within Planning Areas, and classified as neighborhood, community, or regional facilities. Countywide, there is a shortage of local parkland, according to the Department of Parks and Recreation. Park Planning Area No. 35, which includes the Project area, is currently deficient by approximately 247 acres of local (*i.e.*, neighborhood or community) parkland (Larry Hensley, April 2005). Park Planning Area No. 35 includes most of the Santa Clarita Valley, from Sand Canyon on the east to the Los Angeles County/Ventura County line on the west, and from the Angeles National Forest on the north to the crest of the Santa Susana Mountains on the south. Communities within this area include Castaic, Hasley Canyon, Val Verde, Valencia, Newhall, Saugus, and Canyon Country.

Los Angeles County maintains eight parks, totaling 1,233 acres, within the vicinity of the Project area, in addition to the 8,700-acre Castaic Lake State and County Recreation Area. The majority of these facilities are developed and contain amenities, such as children's play areas, multipurpose fields, recreation/activity buildings, sand volleyball courts, picnic tables, *etc.* After certification of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR, the Department of Parks and Recreation acquired or is proposing to acquire additional parklands in the Project vicinity. An updated listing of existing and proposed parks and recreation facilities in the Project area is provided in **Table 4.16-2**. The locations of these parks and recreation facilities are shown on **Figure 4.16-1**.

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**Table 4.16-2
Existing and Planned County Parks and Recreation Facilities in Portions of Park Planning Area No. 35**

County Facilities	Acreage (Combined Park & OS)	Location	Condition
1 Hasley Canyon County Park	5.38	28700 West Quincy St.	Developed
2 Del Valle Park	5.0	28201 W. Sloan Cyn Rd.	Developed
3 William S. Hart Regional County Park	110.0	24151 San Fernando Rd.	Developed
4 Stevenson Ranch Community Park	16.0	1 mile w/o I-5 and Pico Canyon Rd.	Developed
5 Castaic Sports Complex Community Regional Park	50.0	31320 North Castaic Rd.	Developed
6 Val Verde Community Regional Park	57.58	30300 W. Arlington St.	Developed
7 Placerita Canyon Park (State)	341.1	19152 Placerita Cyn Rd.	Developed
8 David March Park	13.0	28310 North Via Joyce Drive.	Developed
9 Northbridge Park	8.63	27400 N. Grandview Dr.	Developed
10 Ed Davis/Towsley Canyon Park (State)	145.0	24255 The Old Rd.	Developed
11 Santa Clarita Woodlands State Park	4,000	Santa Susana Mountains Santa Clarita	Developed
12 Vasquez Rocks County Park	745.0	Agua Dulce	Developed
13 Castaic Lake State and County Recreation Area ¹	8,700	32132 Ridge Route Rd.	Developed
14 Chesebrough Park	5.48	Sunset Hills Dr./McBean Parkway	Developed
15 Copper Hill Park	4.40	21380 Copper Hill Drive	Proposed
16 North Lake Park	5.0	Castaic/Val Verde	Proposed
17 North Park	4.87	Summer Hill Lane and McBean Parkway, Santa Clarita	Proposed
18 Pacific Crest	4.0	Castaic/Val Verde	Under Construction
19 Pico Canyon Park	18.0	25606 Pico Canyon Road, Valencia	Developed
20 Richard Rioux Memorial County Park	15.46	Stevenson Ranch	Developed
21 Landmark Community Park	9.6	Newhall Valencia PPA	Proposed
22 West Creek Park	16.86	Saugus PPA	Proposed
23 Whites Canyon Park	8.50	Canyon Country	Proposed
24 Jake Kuredjian	5.02	26265 Pico Canyon Rd.	Developed
25 Wickham Canyon Park	6.5	Not available	Proposed
26 Pacific Crest	6.89	Not available	New
27 Vasquez Rocks Addition	150	Agua Dulce	New
28 Hasley Canyon Equestrian Center	TBD	28700 Quincy St.	Developed
29 Meadow Peak	270	Not available	Proposed
30 Skyline Ranch	TBD	Not available	Proposed
31 Spring Canyon	317.10	Not available	Proposed
32 Sterling Gateway	7.10	Not available	Proposed
33 Tick Canyon	34	Not available	Proposed
34 Westridge	230	Not available	Proposed
Total	15,315.47		

Notes:

¹ State-owned park, maintained and operated by the County of Los Angeles.

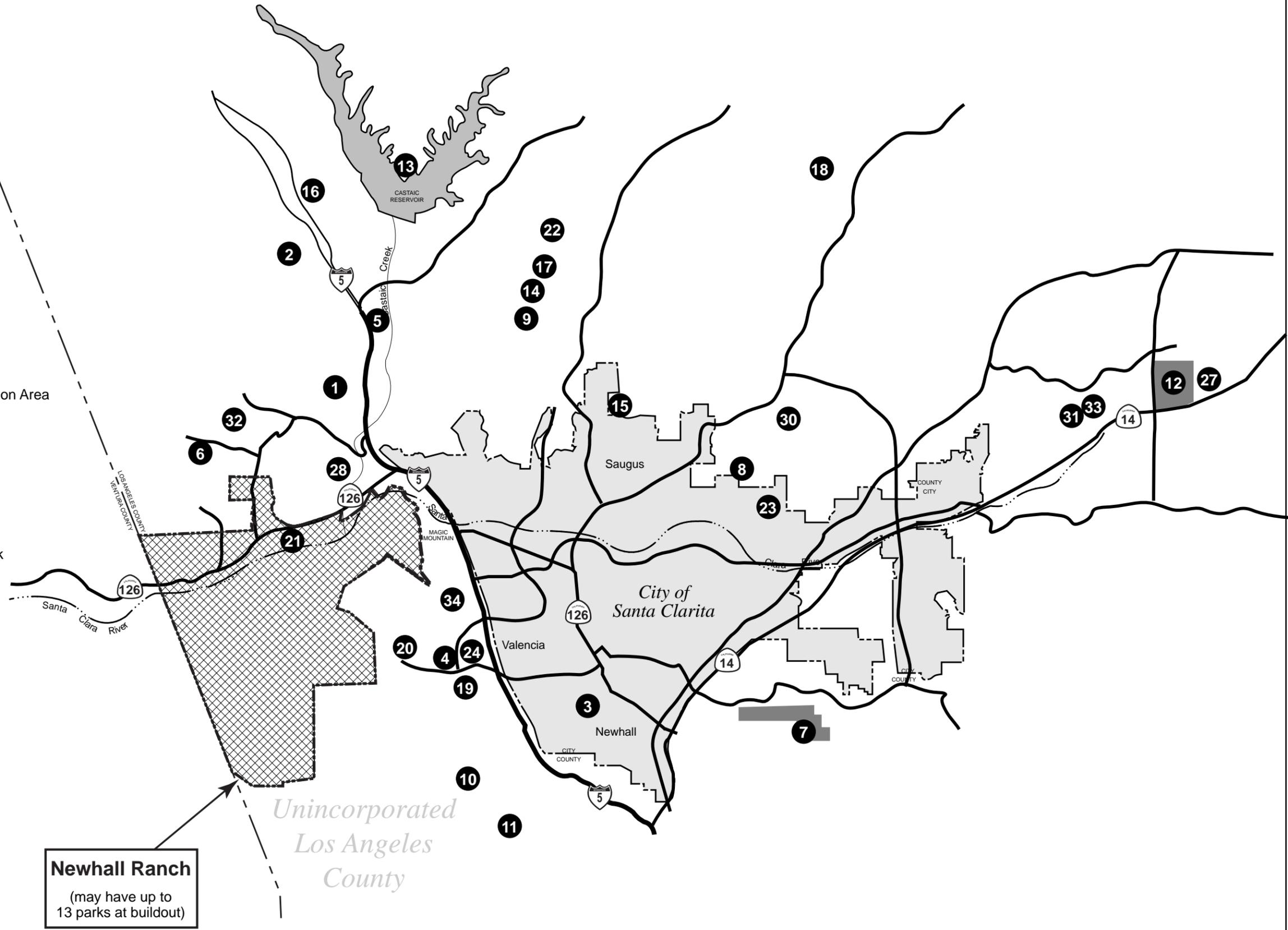
Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2007.

Legend:

 Project Site

 Park Location

- 1 Hasley Canyon County Park
- 2 Del Valle Park
- 3 William S. Hart Park
- 4 Stevenson Ranch Community Park
- 5 Castaic Sports Complex
- 6 Val Verde Community Regional Park
- 7 Placerita Canyon State Park
- 8 David March Park
- 9 Northbridge Park
- 10 Towsley Canyon Park
- 11 Santa Clarita Woodlands State Park
- 12 Vasquez Rocks County Park
- 13 Castaic Lake State and County Recreation Area
- 14 Chesebrough Park
- 15 Copper Hill Park
- 16 North Lake Park
- 17 North Park
- 18 Pacific Crest
- 19 Pico Canyon Park
- 20 Dr. Richard Rioux Memorial County Park
- 21 Landmark Community Park
- 22 Westcreek Park
- 23 Whites Canyon Park
- 24 Jake Kurdijian Park
- 25 Wickham Canyon Park (Not Available)
- 26 Pacific Crest (Not Available)
- 27 Vasquez Rocks Addition
- 28 Hasley Canyon Equestrian Center
- 29 Meadow Peak (Not Available)
- 30 Skyline Ranch
- 31 Spring Canyon
- 32 Sterling Gateway
- 33 Tick Canyon
- 34 Westridge



SOURCE: Santa Clarita General Plan, Impact Sciences, Inc. – December 2007

FIGURE 4.16-1

Existing and Proposed County Parks

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Notable county parks include the approximately 58-acre Val Verde Community Regional Park located just north of the Project area, the 8,700-acre Castaic Lake State and County Recreation Area, and the 50-acre Castaic Lake Sports Complex.

City of Santa Clarita Parks. The City of Santa Clarita has 21 parks totaling approximately 224 acres. **Table 4.16-3** provides a listing of city parks, including those added after certification of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR. The City of Santa Clarita Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department also operates the 20-acre Santa Clarita Sports Complex, which has a 38-acre expansion planned. Also within the City of Santa Clarita are three golf courses: one public (Vista Valencia Golf Course) and two private (Valencia Country Club and Friendly Valley Country Club).

Table 4.16-3
Existing and Proposed City of Santa Clarita Parks

Facility	Acreage	Location	Condition
1 Valencia Heritage Park	17	24155 Newhall Ranch Road	Developed
2 North Oaks Park	2	24824 N. Camp Plenty Rd.	Developed
3 Almendra Park	4	23420 Alta Madera Dr.	Developed
4 Valencia Meadows Park	6	25671 Fedala Rd.	Developed
5 Pamplico Drive Park	7	22444 Pamplico Dr.	Developed
6 Oak Spring Canyon Park	6	23920 Oak Spring Cyn. Rd.	Developed
7 Old Orchard Park	5	25023 Avenida Rotella	Developed
8 Valencia Glen Park	7	23750 Via Gavola	Developed
9 Begonias Lane Park	4	14911 Begonias Lane	Developed
10 Creekview Park	5	22200 Park Street	Developed
11 Santa Clarita Park	7	27285 Seco Canyon Rd.	Developed
12 H.M. Newhall Memorial Park	14	24923 Newhall Ave.	Developed
13 Canyon Country Park	19	17615 Soledad Canyon Rd.	Developed
14 Santa Clarita Sports Complex	22	20850, 70, 80 Centre Pointe Pkwy	Developed
15 Bouquet Canyon Park	11	28127 Wellston Dr.	Developed
16 Central Park	108	27150 Bouquet Canyon Rd.	80 acres developed 28 acres for future expansion
17 Discovery Park	25	27150 Canyon View Dr.	Undeveloped
18 Lost Canyon Park	41	Lost Cyn Rd.	Undeveloped
19 Rivendale Park	60	24255 The Old Rd.	Undeveloped
20 Bridgeport Park	16	23520 Bridgeport Lane	Developed
21 Oak Park	3	Newhall Ranch Road at Bayview Lane	Developed
22 Veterans Historic Plaza	1	24275 N. Walnut Ave.	Developed
23 Keystone Development Park	5	Saugus	Undeveloped
24 Circle J. Ranch	5	22651 Via Princessa	Developed
25 Todd Longshore Park	32	21851 Whites Canyon Rd.	5 acres developed, 27 acres planned
26 River Village Park	27	Saugus	Undeveloped
27 Golden Valley Ranch Park	3	Newhall	Undeveloped
28 Santa Clarita Sports Complex	38	Saugus	Undeveloped
29 Chevron Pioneer Oil Refinery Site	5	Newhall	Undeveloped
30 Mint Canyon Park	58	Canyon Country	Undeveloped
31 Norland Avenue	58	Canyon Country	Undeveloped
Total Park Acreage	621		

Source: City of Santa Clarita, 2007.

4.16.4.2 State Facilities

Towsley Canyon Park. This park is located just west of the Calgrove Boulevard/I-5 intersection in the Santa Susana Mountains, approximately three to four miles southeast of the Project area. The 145-acre park is owned by the State of California Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The facilities at this park include hiking trails, mountain bike trails in designated areas, picnicking and barbecue areas, a visitor/nature center, and restroom facilities with a drinking fountain.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Rim of the Valley Corridor/Trail. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Rim of the Valley Corridor includes land in the mountains surrounding the San Fernando, Simi, Conejo, and La Crescenta Valleys. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is a state agency created in 1980 under the auspices of the Resources Agency. It was initially established to preserve land and provide opportunities for recreation in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Rim of the Valley Corridor. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is primarily responsible for funding the acquisition of land with statewide and regional significance.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor consists of an overlay on private property, and the proposal currently envisions approximately 200 miles of trails. To date, 10 miles of trails have been acquired in the Santa Susana Mountains in addition to the 47-mile Backbone Trail located in the Santa Monica Mountains. The mountains within the Rim of the Valley Corridor include the San Rafael and Simi Hills and the Verdugo, San Gabriel, and Santa Susana Mountains. The portion of the proposed Project located to the south of Potrero Canyon is included in the Rim of the Valley Corridor Plan, but the proposed trail does not cross the Project area.

Santa Clarita Woodlands State Park. This is a proposed park located west of the Antelope Valley Freeway SR-14/I-5 interchange, approximately three to four miles southeast of the Project area. As proposed, the 3,000-plus-acre park would contain hiking and camping facilities. The creation of this park involved a land transaction that included Chevron and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as the primary participants. The transaction included the donation of 851 acres of land historically owned by Chevron, with the acquisition of another 2,184 acres by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

4.16.4.3 Federal Recreation Areas

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) is located approximately 12 miles southwest of the Project area, encompassing approximately 344 square miles, and is approximately 46 miles in east-west length and eight to ten miles in north-south length. The SMMNRA is under the federal jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Department of the Interior. Within the SMMNRA, the NPS owns a total of 8,400 acres in fee and an additional 17 acres in easements.

Angeles and Los Padres National Forests. The Angeles and Los Padres National Forests are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As part of the USFS Multiple Use Management Strategy, various recreation facilities are provided, including hiking, equestrian and off-road vehicle trails, camping areas, and reservoirs.

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The Angeles National Forest covers 693,000 acres of land area in the San Gabriel Mountains, constituting approximately one-quarter of the land located within Los Angeles County. The Angeles National Forest is supervised in districts. The Project area is located near two districts: the Saugus District, located approximately eight miles to the north, and the Tujunga District, located approximately ten miles to the east. The Angeles National Forest offers a wide range of camping and picnicking facilities, subject to user fees. In addition, there are hundreds of miles of trails, some of which are located near the Project area (see discussion on trails below). There are four reservoirs in the forest, including Castaic and Pyramid Lakes (five miles northeast and 18 miles north of the Project area, respectively), that provide active and passive recreational opportunities. The reservoirs charge entrance fees, as well as boat launching, boat rental, and overnight camping fees.

The Los Padres National Forest is located primarily in the northern section of Ventura County. However, a portion of the Los Padres National Forest crosses the Los Angeles County/Ventura County line, eight miles north of SR-126 and the proposed Project. There are 57 dispersed trail camps, 19 developed family campgrounds, and one developed group campground within the Los Padres National Forest. There are many miles of recreation roads utilized by visitors as scenic drives and by off-highway vehicles. The Los Padres National Forest has inventoried 373.7 miles of trails, including 17.7 miles of the Piedra Blanca National Recreation Trail, which begins at Reyes Creek Campground and ends at Lion Campground (Ventura County General Plan, May 1988). Other special areas found in the Los Padres National Forest include the approximately 9,500-acre Dick Smith Wilderness and the 53,000-acre Sespe Condor Sanctuary, both located in Ventura County.

4.16.4.4 Other Facilities

Lake Piru is located at 4708 Piru Canyon Road, just west of the Los Angeles County/Ventura County line, approximately five miles north of the unincorporated Ventura County community of Piru, and approximately five miles northwest of the Project area. The lake is owned and operated by the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) and measures approximately four miles-by-one mile. The northern portion of this lake is located within the Los Padres National Forest. Public recreational opportunities include passive and active water sports, 238 campsites with comfort stations, laundry facilities, and picnic areas. An entrance fee is required, as well as other fees for boat launching, rental, and camping.

4.16.4.5 Existing Area Trails

As illustrated in **Figure 4.16-2**, Los Angeles County Trails (Existing and Proposed), the region surrounding the Project area is served by an existing and proposed trail system, including both county and regional trails.

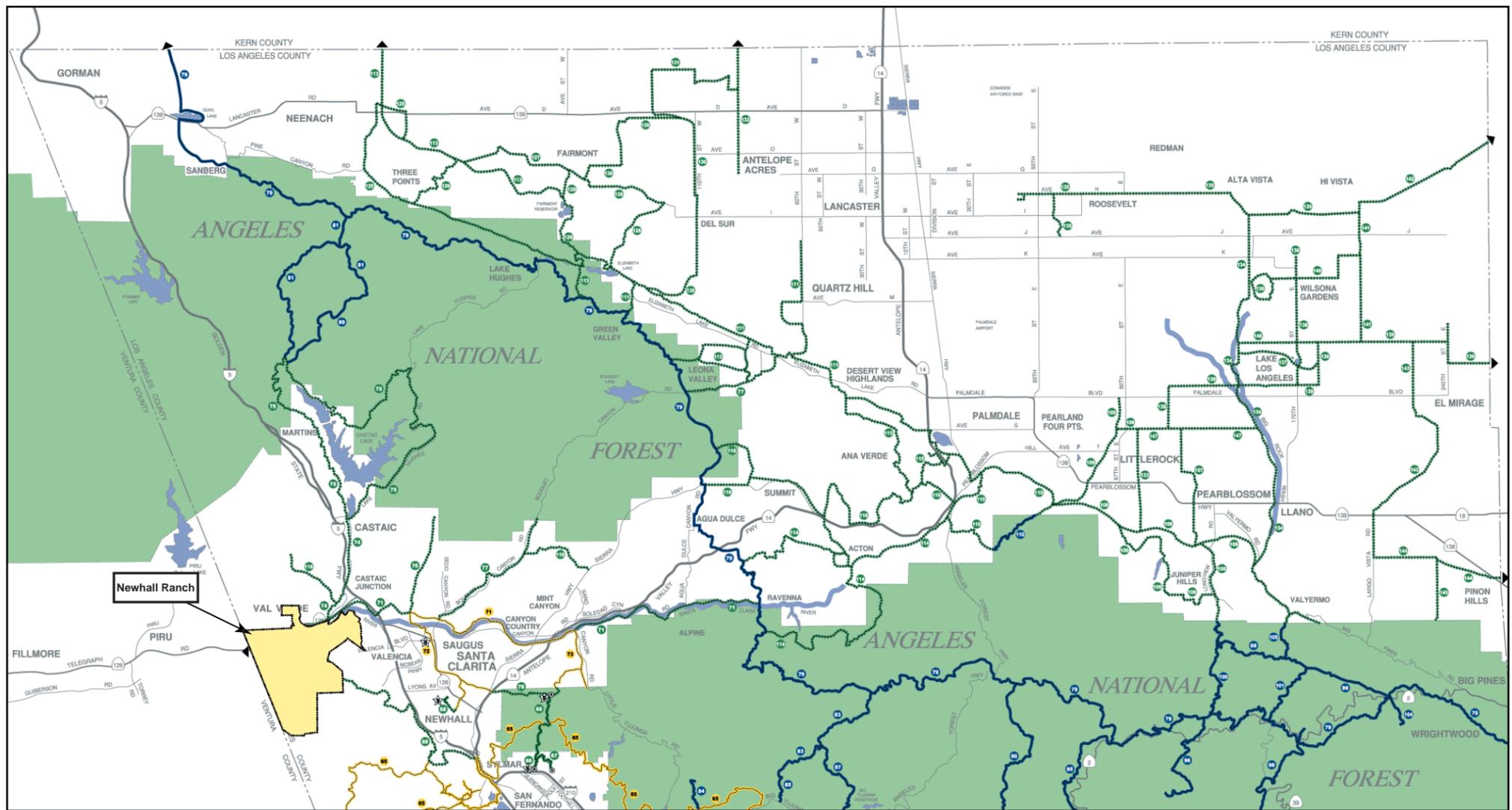
Los Angeles County Trails. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation plans and maintains an extensive system of riding and hiking trails. Following is a summary of the elements of this system located in the general vicinity of the Santa Clarita Valley. Existing trails are discussed in terms of location, trail length, difficulty (as rated by the Department of Parks and Recreation), and other characteristics. Trails that are planned, but not developed, are discussed in terms of general location or alignment, approximate length, anticipated difficulty, and proposed ancillary uses. Specific trails discussed in this section are shown in **Figure 4.16-2**, and are summarized in **Table 4.16-4**. The illustrated alignments of proposed trails are general.

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**Table 4.16-4
Existing and Proposed County Trails**

Trail Name	Length (miles)	Rating	Condition
Los Pinetos Trail	7.0	Difficult	Developed
Wilson Canyon Channel Trail	2.0	Moderately Difficult	Developed
William S. Hart Park Trail	2.5	Moderately Difficult	Developed
Gavin Canyon Trail	8.0	Difficult	Proposed
Santa Clara River Trail	30.0	Moderately Difficult	Partially Built
Pico Canyon Trail	9.0	Difficult	Proposed
Hasley Canyon Trail	3.4	Moderately Difficult	Partially Built
Castaic Creek Trail	5.0	Not Difficult	Proposed
Mint Canyon Trail	3.7	Moderately Difficult	Proposed

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2007



TRAIL NUMBER	TRAIL LENGTH	TRAIL RATING: ND - Not Difficult, MD - Moderately Difficult, D - Difficult	TRAIL NAME
1	10.0	ND	Los Angeles River Trail
2	16.0	ND	Los Angeles River Trail Extension
3	2.0	ND	Palos Verdes Trail
4	8.5	ND	Dominguez Channel Trail
5	15.0	ND	Rio Hondo River Trail
6	6.0	ND	Santa Anita Wash Trail
7	2.0	ND	Santa Anita Wash Trail Extension
8	24.0	ND	San Gabriel River Trail
9	3.5	MD	Van Tassel Trail
10	2.0	ND	San Jose Creek Trail
11	28.0	MD	Schabarum Trail
12	2.0	MD	7th Avenue Trail
13	1.3	ND	Whittier Connector Trail
14	9.0	D	Schabarum Extension Trail
15	3.0	D	Schabarum Extension Connector Trail
16	2.0	D	Schabarum Extension Connector Trail
17	2.0	ND	Rowland Heights Connector Trail
18	3.0	MD	Rowland Heights Loop Trail
19	3.0	MD	Walnut Creek Park Trail
20	10.0	MD	Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park Trail
21	9.0	ND	Marshall Canyon Trail
22	2.0	MD	Marshall Canyon Extension Trail
23	1.0	ND	Hastings Debris Basin Trail
24	7.0	D	Allard's Crest Trail
25	1.0	D	Easton Canyon Park Trail
26	2.0	MD	Chaney/Sunset Ridge Trail
27	3.0	ND	Devil's Gate-Arroyo Seco Trail
28	3.0	ND	Flint Wash Trail
29	2.3	ND	Goulet Canyon Trail
30	1.0	ND	Horse Lane
31	4.0	D	La Canada Open Space Trail
32	1.0	MD	La Canada Open Space Extension
33	6.0	MD	San Gabriel River Trail to Mount Baldy
34	7.0	D	Three Park Trail
35	5.0	D	Trancas Canyon Trail
36	20.0	D	Zuma Ridge Trail
37	5.0	D	Zuma Ridge to Westlake Trail

TRAIL NUMBER	TRAIL LENGTH	TRAIL RATING: ND - Not Difficult, MD - Moderately Difficult, D - Difficult	TRAIL NAME
38	2.0	MD	Zuma Ridge/Reagan Connector Trail
39	2.0	MD	Peter Strauss Ranch Loop and Connector Trail
40	6.0	D	Solstice Canyon Trail
41	3.5	D	Mesa Peak Trail
42	5.0	D	Saddle Peak Trail
43	17.0	D	Calabasas Cold Creek Trail
44	4.0	D	Topanga-Henry Ridge Trail to Calabasas
45	4.0	D	Topanga-Henry Ridge Trail to Serrania Park
46	12.0	D	Topanga-Henry Ridge Trail
47	6.3	D	Tuna Canyon Trail
48	1.3	D	Topanga-Henry Ridge Trail to Santa Maria Canyon Trail
49	3.6	D	Stokes Ridge Trail to Calabasas Trail
50	6	D	Cold Creek And Stokes Ridge Connector Trail
51	5.5	D	Santa Maria Canyon Trail
52	1.5	MD	Santa Maria Canyon Loop Trail
53	3.3	D	Camp Slauson Connector Trail
54	4.5	MD	Valley Circle Scenic Corridor Trail
55	4.0	ND	Las Virgenes Trail
56	1.0	MD	Escondido Falls Trail
57	3.0	D	Slant High Trail
58	1.3	D	Corral Canyon Trail
59	26.0	D	Coastal Slope Trail
60	2.3	D	Ramirez Canyon Connector Trail
61	1.0	D	Paradise Cove Trail
62	4.0	D	Malibu Creek Trail
63	6.0	ND	Point Dume Connector Trail
64	30.0	D	State Backbone Trail
65	200.0	D	Rim of the Valley Trail
66	7.0	D	Los Pinos Trail
67	2.0	MD	Wilson Canyon Channel Trail
68	2.5	MD	William S. Hart Park Trail
69	6.0	D	Gavin Canyon Trail
70	2.0	ND	Pico Canyon Trail
71	30.0	MD	Santa Clara River Trail
72	5.0	ND	South Fork Trail
73	4.0	MD	Sand Canyon Trail
74	5.0	ND	Castaic Creek Trail

TRAIL NUMBER	TRAIL LENGTH	TRAIL RATING: ND - Not Difficult, MD - Moderately Difficult, D - Difficult	TRAIL NAME
75	2.0	D	Castaic Lake Trail
76	4.0	MD	Cliffie Stone Trail
77	7.0	D	Bouquet Canyon Trail
78	6.0	MD	Placerita Creek Trail
79	160.0	D	Pacific Crest National Trail
80	6.0	MD	Fish Canyon Trail
81	5.0	MD	Bear Canyon Trail
82	1.0	MD	Gillette Mine Trail
83	9.0	D	Indian Ben to Deer Spring Trail
84	4.0	MD	Oak Springs Trail
85	6.0	D	Trail Canyon Trail
86	5.0	MD	Stone Canyon Trail
87	5.0	D	Condor Peak Trail
88	28.0	D	Gabrielino National Recreation Trail
89	6.0	D	Santa Anita Canyon Trail to Gabrielino Trail
90	20.0	MD	Shoshone Trace Trail
91	9.0	D	Mount Wilson Toll Road
92	7.0	D	Henninger Flats to Shoshone Trace Trail
93	3.5	MD	El Prieto Trail to Sunset Ridge
94	7.5	D	Mount Wilson Trail
95	15.5	D	Silver Moccasin Trail
96	21.0	D	Fish Canyon to Mount Waterman Trail
97	8.0	D	West Fork North Trail
98	14.0	MD	Bear Creek Trail
99	3.5	ND	Manzanita Trail
100	5.0	D	Burkhart Trail
101	5.0	MD	Islip to South Fork Trail
102	2.5	MD	Dawson Peak to Pine Mountain Ridge Trail
103	14.0	D	Mount Baldy Station to Mount San Antonio Trail
104	16.0	D	East Fork to Mine Gulch Trail
105	1.0	D	Devil's Punchbowl Nature Trail
106	6.5	ND	Juniper Hills Trail
107	2.0	ND	Pearblossom Connector Trail
108	10.3	ND	Pearblossom Loop Trail
109	3.0	ND	Little Rock Connector Trail
110	15.0	D	Palmdale Hills Trail
111	16.0	MD	North Side Trail

TRAIL NUMBER	TRAIL LENGTH	TRAIL RATING: ND - Not Difficult, MD - Moderately Difficult, D - Difficult	TRAIL NAME
112	12.5	D	Leona Valley Loop Trail
113	8.0	ND	California Riding and Hiking Trail
114	22.0	MD	Acton Community Trail
115	6.5	ND	Northside Connector Trail
116	17.3	MD	Vasquez Loop Trail
117	2.5	MD	Santa Susana Pass Trail
118	3.4	MD	Hasley Canyon Trail
119	3.7	MD	Mint Canyon Trail
120	5	ND	Soka Trail
121	7	MD	Malibu Connector Trail
122	3	MD	Chumash Indian Trail
123	7	ND	Izumi Connector Trail
124	3.0	MD	Colby Dalton Trail
125	17.0	ND	Three Points Trail
126	3.8	ND	Danielson Trail
127	6.4	ND	Ripley Trail
128	4.8	ND	Munz Trail
129	1.4	ND	Fairmont Connector Trail
130	21.6	ND	California Poppy Trail
131	11.1	ND	Little Buttes Trail
132	6.0	ND	Kern Connector Trail
133	12.5	ND	Little Rock Community Trail
134	18.0	ND	Big Rock Creek Trail
135	17.2	ND	Lancaster Connector Trail
136	3.5	ND	Plute Butte Loop Trail
137	4.3	ND	Lovejoy Buttes Trail
138	6.2	ND	Lake Los Angeles Community Trail
139	20.7	ND	San Bernardino Connector Trail
140	5.1	ND	Saddle Back Butte Trail
141	6.5	ND	Butte Valley Connector Trail
142	7.0	ND	Las Vegas Trail
143	12.1	ND	Three Sisters Trail
144	6.1	ND	Fort Tejon Extension Trail
145	2.6	ND	Mescal Creek Trail
146	4.0	ND	Avenue O Connector Trail
147	6.5	ND	Avenue S Connector Trail



SOURCE: County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation - 2001

FIGURE 4.16-2

Los Angeles County Trails (Existing and Proposed)

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Los Pinetos Trail (Developed). Los Pinetos Trail is an equestrian trail with camping facilities available by reservation. The trail follows a flood control channel through seven miles of natural area, including Placerita Canyon State Park. The trail is intended to link the city of Santa Clarita trail system to the proposed Rim of the Valley Trail *via* the proposed Placerita Canyon Trail.

Wilson Canyon Channel Trail (Developed). Wilson Canyon Channel Trail provides two miles of moderately difficult hiking in the Angeles National Forest and provides views of the San Fernando Valley and Placerita Canyon. This trail is a link to the proposed Rim of the Valley Trail *via* the Los Pinetos Trail.

William S. Hart Park Trail (Developed). This 2.5-mile nature trail winds through the park past the William S. Hart Museum and designated points of interest, and provides views of the Santa Clarita Valley. Separate access is provided for equestrian use.

Gavin Canyon Trail (Proposed). The rugged eight-mile Gavin Canyon connector would link the existing Rim of the Valley Trail segment along I-5 with the proposed Pico Canyon Trail (see below) to the Santa Clara River Trail.

Santa Clara River Trail (Partially Built). The Santa Clara River Trail is proposed along the Santa Clara River from the Los Angeles County/Ventura County line on the west, linking to the Pacific Crest National Trail in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley over a distance of 30 miles. The trail would traverse the Project area. The majority of this trail, between I-5 and SR-14, is located within the city of Santa Clarita. The trail is part of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan for integrated trails (Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, December 1990). The Santa Clara River Trail would link the Pacific Crest National Trail with the proposed trail network in the northwestern county area and would be open to hiking and equestrian use. The trail is part of the Santa Clara River Corridor effort planned by the State Coastal Conservancy along the length of the river through Ventura County to the Pacific Ocean.

Pico Canyon Trail (Proposed). Pico Canyon Trail is proposed to be roughly nine miles in length beginning at the intersection of Potrero Canyon and the Santa Clara River just east of the Los Angeles County/Ventura county line within the Specific Plan area. The trail generally is proposed to run easterly, following Potrero Canyon, connecting to Pico Canyon, and ending at the mouth of the canyon just west of I-5. At this juncture, the trail would connect to another county-proposed trail (Gavin Canyon Trail) that would connect to the proposed Rim of the Valley Trail.

Hasley Canyon Trail (Partially Built). Hasley Canyon Trail is proposed to follow Hasley Canyon for 3.4 miles in a westerly direction from Castaic Creek. A portion of this trail runs through and is adjacent to the VCC and is partially built.

Castaic Creek Trail (Proposed). Castaic Creek Trail is proposed to link with the Santa Clara River Trail at the intersection of Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River. The trail is proposed to follow Castaic Creek north for five miles to the Castaic Lake and County Recreation Area, ultimately intersecting with the other proposed county trails located further north.

Mint Canyon Trail (Proposed). This 3.7-mile trail runs through Vasquez Canyon and links the Mint Canyon Equestrian Trail to the Bouquet Canyon Equestrian Trail.

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Pacific Crest National Trail (Developed). A segment of the Pacific Crest National Trail extends for 160 miles through the Angeles National Forest, providing views of the Antelope Valley, varied terrain, vegetation and wilderness, and the San Gabriel Mountains. Campgrounds, picnic areas, and staging areas are available along the trail. In all, the Pacific Crest National Trail traverses 2,600 miles from Canada to Mexico (USDA, Forest Service, July 1988). The trail was established under the National Trails System Act of 1968 and is part of the National System of Recreation and Scenic Trails. Only foot and equestrian travel is permitted on the trail; motorized vehicles and mountain bicycles are prohibited. Local connector trails include Fish Canyon Trail, Bear Canyon Trail, and Gillette Mine Trail. All of these trails are located within the Angeles National Forest land and are north of Castaic Lake. The proposed county Castaic Lake Trail would connect to these trails.

Rim of the Valley Trail (Partially Built). The Rim of the Valley Trail is proposed to be 200 miles in length and is located within the aforementioned Rim of the Valley Corridor. The trail, as proposed, is located on both public and private land. Much of the trail has not been constructed and remains as a proposed trail. At the time of this writing, only ten miles had been acquired in the Santa Susana Mountains, in addition to the 47-mile Backbone Trail located in the Santa Monica Mountains. The portion of the trail nearest the Project area is located approximately 2.5 miles to the southeast at the Oat Mountain lookout.

4.16.5 IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The significance criteria listed below are derived from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Corps has agreed to use the CEQA criteria presented below for purposes of this EIS/EIR, although significance conclusions are not expressly required under NEPA. The Corps also has applied additional federal requirements as appropriate in this EIS/EIR. For purposes of this EIS/EIR, impacts would be significant if implementation of the proposed Project or its alternatives would:

1. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities to the extent that substantial physical deterioration would occur or be accelerated; or
2. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.16.6 IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES

Currently, there are no parks within the Project area. Two regional trails are planned to traverse the Specific Plan site: the Pico Canyon Trail (crossing through Potrero Canyon) and the Santa Clara River Trail (following the Santa Clara River Corridor). The applicant's proposed Project (Alternative 2) would construct five nature viewing platforms (approximately 8,500 linear feet of elevated trail decking) to be located in or adjacent to the Santa Clara River corridor. Viewing platforms are proposed to be from three feet to six feet wide to meet ADA requirements for public trails (an average of four feet was used for the impact analysis).

Build-out of the Specific Plan is projected to occur over approximately 20 years depending on market and economic conditions. The adopted Specific Plan designates land for community and neighborhood parks for local residents, as well as extensive open space areas for public use. Community, local, and other trails

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connecting to regional trails also are planned as part of the Specific Plan build-out, and are shown on the Specific Plan Master Trails Plan (**Figure 2.0-10**). Parks and recreational amenities would be developed as described in Section 2.8.4 of the Specific Plan and pursuant to the Quimby Act and Los Angeles County Code section 21.24.340, in the Recreation and Open Area Plan and Master Trails Plan. Costs of park and recreation facility maintenance and operation would be covered by the increased revenue accrued by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Los Angeles County General Fund as a result of funds generated by the build-out under the Specific Plan. **Tables 4.16-5** and **4.16-6** include calculations of the estimated Quimby Act parkland dedication requirements and estimated Quimby Act dedication credits, respectively, and have been updated since certification of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR.

The planned Specific Plan parks and recreation uses are depicted in **Figure 2.0-7** Specific Plan Land Use Land Use Plan, and include the following:

- Neighborhood Parks;
- Community Parks;
- Trail Network;
- Golf Course;
- Community Lake;
- Open Area (including some of the Community Parks);
- High Country Special Management Area (SMA); and
- River Corridor SMA.

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**Table 4.16-5
Estimated Specific Plan Quimby Act Parkland Dedication Requirements**

Residential Land Use	Units Approved ¹	Average Household Size ²	Assessment Factor ³	Obligation In Acres
Estate	423	3.23	0.003	4
Low	671	3.23	0.003	7
Low Medium	6,000	3.23	0.003	58
Medium	7,371	3.23	0.003	71
High/Mixed Use	6,420	2.29	0.003	44
Estate/Low Density Second Units	1,094	2.0	0.003	7
Totals	21,979	--	--	191

Notes:

¹ Pursuant to Los Angeles County Code section 21.24.340, the parkland obligation is based on population (as derived by multiplying total approved number of dwelling units by average household size), multiplied by an assessment factor. Average household size differs according to Park Planning Area and housing product type (*e.g.*, detached versus attached single family residence, *etc.*).

² Estimate assumptions: 100 percent detached single-family residences for Estate, Low, Low Medium, and Medium Density Residential; High Density and Mixed Use are combined and build-out is assumed to be 100 percent attached residential; full build-out of second units allowed under Estate and Low Density Residential. Per Los Angeles County Code section 21.24.340, Planning Area No. 35, Average Household Size is 3.23 persons for detached single-family residences. Estimate uses highest of several Average Household Size categories in Planning Area No. 35 for attached single-family residences (2.29). Pursuant to the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR (2003), the allowed second dwelling unit household size assumed to be 2.0.

³ Acre per capita (equivalent to three acres per 1,000 population) per Quimby Act and Los Angeles County standards.

Source: Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR (May 2003) and Los Angeles County Code section 21.24.340, as amended January 2006.

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**Table 4.16-6
Estimated Specific Plan Quimby Act Parkland Dedication Credits**

Description/Category	Land			Improvements			Total Acre
	Acres	Credit %	Quimby Acres	Cost/Sq. Ft.	Improvement Cost	Acre Equiv. ₃	
Parks							
Neighborhood Parks	50	100%	50	2.5	5,445,000	45	95
Community Parks							
Active Area	58	100%	58	2.5	6,316,200	52	110
Passive Area	123	50%	62				62
Lake	15	100%	15				15
Subtotal	246		185		11,761,200	97	282
Trails							
Regional River Trail	16	100%	16				16
Community Trails	39	100%	39	2.50	4,247,100	35	74
Local Trails (in Open Area)	13	(Acreage included below)		1.00	566,280	5	5
Unimproved (High Country) ³	13	(Acreage included below)		1.00	561,792	5	5
Subtotal	81		55		5,375,172	45	100
Major Open Area							
Golf Course ²	180	0%	0			0	0
High Country ¹	4,205	50%	2,093			0	2,103
River Corridor ¹	975	10%	98			0	98
Community Open Area (excl. Oak Valley Community Park) ²	869	10%	87			0	87
Subtotal	6,029		2,278			0	2,287
Totals							
				Total Credit Provided			2,669
				Quimby Act Requirements			174
				Excess			2,495

Notes:

¹ Pursuant to County Ordinance, greater credit (than 10 percent) may be granted to parkland that has exceptional visual, biotic, or other natural resources up to 100 percent.

² Improvement costs have not been included to portray a worst-case scenario. County ordinance allows credit for improvements.

³ The Acreage Equivalent column is calculated by dividing the improvement cost by the improvement fee (county in-lieu fee) of \$122,000 per acre of parkland.

Source: Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, Parks Program (May 2003).

Implementation of the proposed RMDP and SCP project components would indirectly result in future residents at the Specific Plan and Entrada planning areas. As discussed above, the Specific Plan includes the construction of parklands and recreational facilities in excess of park requirements. In addition, Los Angeles County would require compliance with park requirements for the Entrada planning area as part of the environmental review and permitting process for that site.

4.16.6.1 Impacts of Alternative 1 (No Action/No Project)

4.16.6.1.1 Direct Impacts

RMDP Direct Impacts. Under Alternative 1, none of the RMDP-proposed infrastructure on the Specific Plan site would be implemented, and no change to the existing parks facilities would occur. Alternative 1 would not impact parks, recreation, or trails within the Project area, as described above in **Subsection 4.16.3**. Therefore, no impact would occur related to Significance Criteria 1 or 2.

SCP Direct Impacts. Under Alternative 1, the SCP would not be adopted and development on the Specific Plan, VCC, and portions of the Entrada planning area would not be facilitated. Alternative 1 would not result in an increased demand for parks or have direct impacts to the physical environment as a result of expanded and/or new park facilities. Therefore, no impacts related to Significance Criteria 1 or 2 would occur.

4.16.6.1.2 Indirect Impacts

RMDP Indirect Impacts. Under Alternative 1, none of the RMDP-proposed infrastructure required to implement the previously approved Specific Plan would be developed. Therefore, there would be no changes to the existing demand for parks, and no impacts would occur to the physical environment as a result of expanded and/or new park facilities. As a result, no impacts related to Significance Criteria 1 or 2 would occur.

SCP Indirect Impacts. Under Alternative 1, the SCP would not be adopted and development on the Specific Plan, VCC, and portions of the Entrada planning area would not be facilitated. Therefore, there would be no changes to the existing demand for parks on the Project area and no impacts to the physical environment would occur as a result of expanded and/or new park facilities. As a result, no impacts related to Significance Criteria 1 or 2 would occur.

4.16.6.1.3 Secondary Impacts

RMDP Secondary Impacts. Under Alternative 1, none of the RMDP-proposed infrastructure required to implement the previously approved Specific Plan would be developed. Therefore, there would be no changes to the existing demand for parks, and no secondary impacts would occur to the physical environment as a result of expanded and/or new park facilities. As a result, no impacts related to Significance Criteria 1 or 2 would occur.

SCP Secondary Impacts. Under Alternative 1, the SCP would not be adopted and development on the Specific Plan, VCC, and portions of the Entrada planning area would not be facilitated. Therefore, no impact to existing parks and recreational facilities would occur and no secondary impacts would occur as

a result of the construction or expansion of new park and recreational facilities. As a result, no impacts related to Significance Criteria 1 or 2 would occur.

4.16.6.2 Impacts of Alternative 2 (Proposed Project)

4.16.6.2.1 Direct Impacts

RMDP Direct Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP would not result in an increase in population in the Project area. During construction activities, construction workers may use existing parks and recreational facilities in the area during their leisure time and before and after working hours. However, the use of the parks would be temporary. Given the above, the proposed RMDP would result in a less-than-significant impact to existing parks and recreational facilities in the area under Significance Criterion 1.

Implementation of RMDP trail facilities (nature viewing platforms and trail crossings) would result in direct physical affects on the environment. Alternative 2 proposes to construct five nature viewing platforms (approximately 8,500 linear feet of elevated trail decking) that would be located in or adjacent to the Santa Clara River corridor and approximately 20 trail crossings in or adjacent to the Santa Clara River and its drainages within the RMDP study area. Many of the trail crossings are unimproved within the channel bed. The elevated viewing platforms are to be from three feet to six feet wide (an average of four feet was used for the impact analysis), and will be elevated above the ground from six inches to six feet. In total, up to 0.3 acres of CDFG jurisdiction area, and 0.2 acres of existing agricultural, disturbed or other upland area, would be permanently impacted by construction of the proposed viewing platforms and trail crossings. The evaluation of project-related geomorphology impacts (**Section 4.2**) indicates that the Alternative 2 viewing platform piers also could result in localized scour impacts. Without mitigation, impacts resulting from the loss of CDFG jurisdiction area and localized scouring caused by flood flows would result in a significant impact to the environment. These impacts would be reduced to less than significant through incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-16, which establish standards for the restoration of riparian habitat. Proposed mitigation in **Section 4.5**, Biological Resources, provides location requirements for the Alternative 2 viewing platforms that would minimize potential scour impacts. This mitigation would reduce the impact of the RMDP trail and viewing platform facilities to a less-than-significant level under Significance Criterion 2. (As discussed below, nature viewing platforms are not proposed under Alternative 3-7.)

SCP Direct Impacts. The proposed SCP would designate approximately 167.6 acres of privately-owned land as spineflower preserves within the Specific Plan and Entrada planning area. These preserves would include approximately 64 acres of existing conservation easements on the Specific Plan site. Implementation of the SCP would not directly increase the population of the SCP area, and thus would not increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities in the area. Additionally, implementing the SCP would not result in the construction or expansion of parks or recreational facilities. Therefore, implementation of the SCP would have no direct impacts to the physical environment as a result of increased use of existing parks in the area, or expanded or new parks or recreational facilities under Significance Criteria 1 or 2.

4.16.6.2.2 Indirect Impacts

RMDP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP component of the proposed Project would facilitate build-out of the approved Specific Plan development, resulting in implementation of the Specific Plan Recreation and Open Area Plan. The Plan includes Mobility Objectives, Parks, Recreation and Open Area Objectives, and Resource Conservation Objectives. These objectives would be implemented through various components of the Open Area Plan, including a Land Use Plan, Mobility Plan, and Master Trails Plan. The specific parks, recreation, and trails elements are listed below:

- The reservation of parkland space, including:
 - Ten public neighborhood parks totaling 52 acres;
 - Three public community parks totaling approximately 61 acres; and
 - An approximately 24-acre lake.
- An 18-hole golf course (public or private) (approximately 172 acres); and
- A total of 10,200 acres of public open space including:
 - 4,205 acres of High Country SMA;
 - 977 acre Santa Clara River Corridor SMA; and
 - A 36.7-acre Visitor Serving area at the primary entrance to the High Country SMA.

The parks and recreation uses described above are identified by overlay land use designations within the adopted Specific Plan and are depicted in **Figure 2.0-7**, Specific Plan Land Use Plan.

Additionally, the proposed RMDP would facilitate the construction of other recreational facilities located in jurisdictional areas, including stream crossings for trails and five nature viewing platforms. Viewing platforms would be used for recreational purposes by trail users and would contribute recreational value to the area.

A complete analysis of the impacts associated with Specific Plan build-out on existing parks and recreation, as well as impacts to the existing environment is presented in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR. The proposed Specific Plan parks and recreational facilities would substantially exceed the County of Los Angeles and Quimby Act parkland requirement of 174 acres by 2,495 acres. This increase in parks and recreational facilities would provide more than adequate parkland for the future land uses on site under the current regulatory requirements. Given that adequate parkland will be provided on site, it is not expected that existing parks and recreational facilities in the area would experience physical deterioration with Project implementation. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant under Significance Criterion 1. Construction-related impacts associated with development of parks and recreational facilities would occur in conjunction with the development of other previously approved Specific Plan land uses and are reflected in construction-related impacts analyzed in the Newhall Ranch

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Specific Plan Program EIR and elsewhere in this EIS/EIR (e.g., air quality and noise impacts). Implementation of the RMDP and build-out of the Specific Plan would not result in new or previously unidentified impacts related to parks and recreation facilities. Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68, previously identified in the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999), are still adequate to ensure that project-related impacts to parks and recreation facilities will not be significant, and no new mitigation measures are required. Therefore, impacts under Significance Criterion 2 are considered less than significant.

SCP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the proposed SCP would indirectly facilitate previously approved urban developments within the Specific Plan site, and within portions of the VCC and Entrada planning areas. Potential impacts of the Specific Plan development on park facilities are discussed in **Subsection 4.16.6.2.1**, above.

Implementation of the SCP would facilitate the development of approximately 1,725 residential dwelling units and approximately 450,000 sf of commercial development in the Entrada planning area. As presently proposed, one park and several recreation facilities would be provided on the Entrada project site. Additionally, in conjunction with environmental review and approval process for the entire Entrada project, Los Angeles County would require the Entrada project to comply with the park requirements standards, such as providing parkland for the increased residential population. It is anticipated that compliance with applicable park requirements would reduce potential impacts to park facilities of the entire Entrada project to a less-than-significant level under Significance Criterion 1. Construction-related impacts associated with development of parks and recreational facilities do not represent a substantial portion of general construction impacts associated with build-out of the Entrada planning area, which impacts are also analyzed elsewhere in this EIS/EIR. Therefore, impacts under Significance Criterion 2 are considered less than significant.

The SCP would facilitate the development of additional commercial and industrial development in the VCC planning area. These uses are not expected to substantially increase the demand for park and recreation facilities in the Project area because the proposed commercial and industrial uses do not generate a permanent on-site population that relies upon recreational facilities. However, Los Angeles County may require appropriate mitigation if subsequent review of the VCC project tract map determines that additional development in the VCC would contribute to significant park and recreation facility impacts.

4.16.6.2.3 Secondary Impacts

RMDP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP-component of the proposed Project would result in increased population in the Project area, which increases the demand for parks and recreational facilities. As described in **Subsection 4.16.6.2.2**, the proposed Project would indirectly facilitate build-out of the Specific Plan, resulting in new parks and recreational facilities on the Specific Plan site. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreational facilities also is described above in **Subsection 4.16.6.2.1**. As discussed, build-out of the Specific Plan would provide adequate parks for the future land uses on site under the current regulatory requirements, and implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant. Given that adequate parkland will be provided on-site, it is not expected that existing off-site parks and recreational facilities would experience significant physical deterioration with Project implementation, or

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that the construction of new park facilities is needed to serve the future residents of the Specific Plan site. Therefore, under Significance Criterion 1 and 2, secondary impacts are considered less than significant.

SCP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of the proposed SCP would facilitate new urban development on the Specific Plan site and on the VCC and Entrada planning areas. This new development would result in an increased demand for parks and recreational facilities in the Project vicinity. As discussed above, build-out of the Specific Plan and VCC developments, and a portion of the Entrada project site would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of the proposed Project under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off-site would not be required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur under Significance Criterion 2.

In conclusion, direct impacts to park and recreation facilities resulting from the implementation of the RMDP and SCP components of the proposed Project would be short-term and negligible. Indirect and secondary impacts resulting from facilitated development in the Specific Plan and the VCC and Entrada planning areas would not be significant because recreation facilities provided on or in the vicinity of those project sites would more than exceed their demand and regulatory requirements, and implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant. The commercial and industrial uses provided by the build-out of the VCC project are not expected to substantially increase the demand for recreation facility use. Therefore, the combined effects of Project-related direct, indirect, and secondary impacts would not result in significant impacts to park, recreation, and trail facilities.

4.16.6.3 Impacts of Alternative 3 (Elimination of Planned Potrero Bridge and Additional Spineflower Preserves)

4.16.6.3.1 Direct Impacts

RMDP Direct Impacts. Implementation of RMDP infrastructure under Alternative 3 would not directly result in permanent residents in the Project area. During construction activities, construction workers may use existing parks and recreation facilities in the area during their leisure time and before and after working hours. However, the use of the parks would be temporary. Given the above, the proposed RMDP would result in less-than-significant impacts to existing parks and recreation facilities in the area under Significance Criterion 1. Under Alternative 3, no nature viewing platforms would be constructed; and, therefore, no impacts would occur relative to Significance Criterion 2 for the recreational viewing platforms.

SCP Direct Impacts. The SCP component of Alternative 3 would designate 221.8 acres of privately-owned land as spineflower preserves, representing a 54-acre increase compared to the proposed Project. Implementation of the SCP under Alternative 3 would not directly increase the population within the SCP planning areas, and thus would not increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities in the area. Additionally, the SCP would not result in the construction or expansion of parks or recreational facilities. Therefore, no direct impact would occur with this alternative under Significance Criteria 1 or 2.

4.16.6.3.2 Indirect Impacts

RMDP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 3 would facilitate partial build-out of the approved Specific Plan development. When compared to the proposed Project, Alternative 3 slightly reduces the extent of facilities that could be permitted within jurisdictional areas because of reduced areas for bank stabilization, drainages converted to buried storm drains, and grade control structures. In addition, the proposed Santa Clara River Bridge crossing at Potrero Canyon would not be built under this alternative. However, implementation of Alternative 3 would result in approximately 61 acres of community parks, 52 acres of neighborhood parks, a 172-acre golf course, and a 24-acre community lake. The acreage for the High Country SMA would remain the same as that under the proposed Project at 4,205 acres, the River Corridor SMA would also remain the same as the proposed Project at 977 acres, and the Open Space would increase by 263 acres. The total number of residential units in the Specific Plan area would be 20,433 compared to 20,885 with the proposed Project.

Given that adequate parkland will be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, it is not expected that existing parks and recreational facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 3 under Significance Criterion 1. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant. Construction-related impacts associated with development of parks and recreational facilities would occur in conjunction with the development of other previously approved Specific Plan land uses and would be similar to construction-related impacts analyzed in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR and elsewhere in this EIS/EIR (*e.g.*, air quality and noise impacts). Implementation of the RMDP and build-out of the Specific Plan would not result in new or previously unidentified impacts related to parks and recreation services. Mitigation measures previously identified in the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) (Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68) are still adequate to ensure that project-related impacts to park and recreation facilities would not be significant, and no new mitigation measures are required. Therefore, impacts under Significance Criterion 2 are considered less than significant.

SCP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the SCP component of Alternative 3 would facilitate previously-approved urban development projects on the Specific Plan site, and on portions of the VCC and Entrada planning areas. Alternative 3 would result in less Specific Plan-related development and a 600 dwelling unit reduction in residential units within the Entrada planning area as compared to the proposed Project (Alternative 2). Impacts to parks, recreation, and trails associated with future development on the Specific Plan, VCC, and Entrada planning areas are evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**, above. As discussed, build-out of the Specific Plan, VCC, and Entrada planning areas would have less-than-significant impacts to existing parks and recreation facilities and would not substantially contribute to construction-related impacts. Therefore, implementation of the SCP would result in a less-than-significant indirect impact under Significance Criteria 1 and 2.

4.16.6.3.3 Secondary Impacts

RMDP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 3 would result in an increased demand for parks and recreation facilities with build-out of the Specific Plan. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreation facilities is evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**, above. Build-out of the Specific Plan development would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, it

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is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 3 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, given that adequate parkland would be provided on site, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off-site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur with construction and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities off-site under Significance Criterion 2.

SCP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 3 would facilitate new urban developments on the Specific Plan site, and on the VCC and Entrada planning areas. This new development would increase the demand for parks and recreational facilities in the Project vicinity. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreational facilities related to the development of the SCP is evaluated above in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**. As discussed above, build-out of the Specific Plan and VCC developments, and a portion of the Entrada planning area would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 3 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off-site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur under Significance Criterion 2.

In conclusion, direct impacts to park and recreation facilities resulting from implementation of the Alternative 3 RMDP and SCP would be short-term and negligible. Indirect and secondary impacts resulting from facilitated development in the Specific Plan and the VCC and Entrada planning areas would not be significant because recreation facilities provided on or in the vicinity of those project sites would more than exceed their demand and regulatory requirements. The commercial and industrial uses provided by the buildout of the VCC project are not expected to substantially increase the demand for recreation facility use. Therefore, the combined effects of Project-related direct, indirect, and secondary impacts would not result in significant impacts to park, recreation, and trail facilities.

4.16.6.4 Impacts of Alternative 4 (Elimination of Planned Potrero Bridge and Addition of VCC Spineflower Preserve)

4.16.6.4.1 Direct Impacts

RMDP Direct Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP infrastructure under Alternative 4 would not directly result in permanent residents in the Project area. During construction activities, construction workers may use existing parks and recreation facilities in the area during their leisure time and before and after working hours. However, the use of the parks would be temporary. Given the above, the proposed RMDP would result in less-than-significant impacts to existing parks and recreation facilities in the area, as well as no direct impact associated with the construction of parks and recreation facilities under Significance Criterion 1. Under Alternative 4, no nature viewing platforms would be constructed; and, therefore, no impacts would occur relative to Significance Criterion 2 for the recreational viewing platforms.

SCP Direct Impacts. The SCP component of Alternative 4 would designate approximately 259.9 acres of privately-owned land as spineflower preserves, representing a 92-acre increase compared to the proposed Project (Alternative 2). Under this alternative, a spineflower preserve would be established in the VCC planning area. Implementation of the SCP under Alternative 4 would not directly increase the

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population within the SCP planning areas, and thus would not increase the use of existing parks and recreation facilities in the area under Significance Criterion 1. Additionally, the SCP would not result in the construction or expansion of parks or recreation facilities. Therefore, no direct impact would occur with this alternative under Significance Criterion 2.

4.16.6.4.2 Indirect Impacts

RMDP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP component of Alternative 4 would facilitate partial build-out of the approved Specific Plan development. As with the proposed Project, 61 acres of community parks, 52 acres of neighborhood parks, a 172-acre golf course, and a 24-acre community lake would be constructed with this alternative as well. Under this alternative, the acreage for the High Country SMA would remain the same as that under the proposed Project at 4,205 acres, the River Corridor SMA would also remain the same as the proposed Project at 977 acres, and the Open Space would increase by 251 acres. Additionally, the total number of residential units in the Specific Plan area would be 20,721 compared to 20,885 with the proposed Project. Given that adequate parkland will be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 4 under Significance Criterion 1. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant. Construction-related impacts associated with development of parks and recreational facilities would be similar to construction impacts analyzed in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR and elsewhere in this EIS/EIR (*e.g.*, air quality and noise impacts). Implementation of the RMDP and build-out of the Specific Plan under Alternative 4 would not result in new or previously unidentified impacts related to parks and recreation services. Mitigation measures previously identified in the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) (Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68) are still adequate to ensure that project-related impacts to park and recreation facilities will not be significant, and no new mitigation measures are required. Therefore, impacts under Significance Criterion 2 are considered less than significant.

SCP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the SCP component of Alternative 4 would facilitate previously-approved urban development projects on the Specific Plan site, and on a portion of the Entrada planning area. The establishment of a spineflower preserve on VCC under this alternative would preclude build-out of the VCC project. Alternative 4 would result in less Specific Plan-related development and a 600-unit reduction in residential units within the Entrada planning area as compared to the proposed Project (Alternative 2). Impacts to parks, recreation, and trails associated with future development on the Specific Plan and Entrada planning areas are evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2** above. As discussed, build-out of the Specific Plan and VCC planning areas would have less-than-significant impacts to existing parks and recreation facilities and would not substantially contribute to construction-related impacts. Therefore, implementation of the SCP would result in a less-than-significant indirect impact under Significance Criteria 1 and 2.

4.16.6.4.3 Secondary Impacts

RMDP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 4 would result in an increased demand for parks and recreation facilities with build-out of the Specific Plan. Build-out of the Specific Plan development would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is

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not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 4 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, given that adequate parkland would be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur with construction and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities off site under Significance Criterion 2.

SCP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 4 would facilitate new urban developments on the Specific Plan site and in the Entrada planning area. This new development would increase the demand for parks and recreation facilities in the Project vicinity. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreation facilities is evaluated in above in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**. As discussed above, build-out of the Specific Plan and Entrada developments would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 4 under Significance Criteria 1. Furthermore, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur under Significance Criterion 2.

In conclusion, direct impacts to park and recreation facilities resulting from implementation of the Alternative 4 RMDP and SCP would be short-term and negligible. Indirect and secondary impacts resulting from facilitated development in the Specific Plan and Entrada planning areas would not be significant because recreation facilities provided on those project sites would more than exceed their demand and regulatory requirements. Therefore, the combined effects of Project-related direct, indirect, and secondary impacts would not result in significant impacts to park, recreation, and trail facilities.

4.16.6.5 Impacts of Alternative 5 (Widen Tributary Drainages and Addition of VCC Spineflower Preserve)

4.16.6.5.1 Direct Impacts

RMDP Direct Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP infrastructure under Alternative 5 would not directly result in permanent residents in the Project area. During construction activities, construction workers may use existing parks and recreation facilities in the area during their leisure time and before and after working hours. However, the use of the parks would be temporary. Given the above, implementation of Alternative 5 would result in a less-than-significant impact to existing parks and recreation facilities in the area, as well as no direct impact associated with the construction of parks and recreation facilities under Significance Criterion 1. Under Alternative 5, no nature viewing platforms would be constructed; and, therefore, no impacts would occur relative to Significance Criterion 2 for the recreational viewing platforms.

SCP Direct Impacts. The SCP component of Alternative 5 would designate approximately 338.6 acres of privately-owned land as spineflower preserves, representing an approximately 171-acre increase compared to the proposed Project. Under this alternative, a spineflower preserve would be established in the VCC planning area. Implementation of the SCP under Alternative 5 would not directly increase the population within the SCP areas, and thus would not increase the use of existing parks and recreation

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facilities in the area. Additionally, the SCP would not result in the construction or expansion of parks or recreation facilities. Therefore, no direct impact would occur with this alternative under Significance Criterion 1 or 2.

4.16.6.5.2 Indirect Impacts

RMDP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP component of Alternative 5 would facilitate partial build-out of the approved Specific Plan development. Under this alternative, the acreage for the High Country SMA would remain the same as that under the proposed Project at 4,205 acres, the River Corridor SMA would also remain the same as the proposed Project at 977 acres, and the Open Space would increase by 338 acres. As with the proposed Project, 61 acres of community parks, 52 acres of neighborhood parks, a 172-acre golf course, and a 24-acre community lake would be constructed with this alternative as well. Additionally, the total number of residential units in the Specific Plan area would be 20,196 compared to 20,885 with the proposed Project. Given that adequate parkland will be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 5. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant under Significance Criterion 1. Construction-related impacts associated with development of parks and recreation facilities would be similar to construction impacts analyzed in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR and elsewhere in this EIS/EIR (e.g., air quality and noise impacts). Implementation of the RMDP and build-out of the Specific Plan under Alternative 5 would not result in new or previously unidentified impacts related to parks and recreation services. Mitigation measures previously identified in the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) (Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68) are still adequate to ensure that project-related impacts to park and recreation facilities would not be significant, and no new mitigation measures are required. Therefore, impacts under Significance Criterion 2 are considered less than significant.

SCP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the SCP component of Alternative 5 would facilitate previously-approved urban development projects on the Specific Plan site, and on a portion of the Entrada planning area. The establishment of a spineflower preserve on VCC under this alternative would preclude build-out of the VCC project. Alternative 5 would result in less Specific Plan-related development and a 766-unit reduction in residential dwelling units on the Entrada planning area as compared to the proposed Project (Alternative 2). Impacts to parks, recreation, and trails associated with future development on the Specific Plan and Entrada planning areas are evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2.2**, above. As discussed, build-out of the Specific Plan and VCC planning areas would have less-than-significant impacts to existing parks and recreation facilities and would not substantially contribute to construction-related impacts. Therefore, implementation of the SCP would result in a less-than-significant indirect impact under Significance Criteria 1 and 2.

4.16.6.5.3 Secondary Impacts

RMDP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 5 would result in an increased demand for parks and recreation facilities with build-out of the Specific Plan. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreational facilities is evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**, above. Build-out of the Specific Plan development would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is

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not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 5 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, given that adequate parkland would be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur with construction and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities off site under Significance Criterion 2.

SCP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of the proposed SCP would facilitate new urban development on the Specific Plan site and in the Entrada planning areas. This new development would increase the demand for parks and recreation facilities in the Project vicinity. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreational facilities related to the development of the SCP is evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**, above. As discussed above, build-out of the Specific Plan and Entrada developments would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 5 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur under Significance Criterion 2.

In conclusion, direct impacts to park and recreation facilities resulting from implementation of the Alternative 5 RMDP and SCP would be short-term and negligible. Indirect and secondary impacts resulting from facilitated development in the Specific Plan and Entrada planning areas would not be significant because recreation facilities provided on those project sites would more than exceed their demand and regulatory requirements. Therefore, the combined effects of Project-related direct, indirect, and secondary impacts would not result in significant impacts to park, recreation, and trail facilities.

4.16.6.6 Impacts of Alternative 6 (Elimination of Planned Commerce Center Drive Bridge and Maximum Spineflower Expansion/Connectivity)

4.16.6.6.1 Direct Impacts

RMDP Direct Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP infrastructure under Alternative 6 would not directly result in permanent residents in the Project area. During construction activities, construction workers may use existing parks and recreation facilities in the area during their leisure time and before and after working hours. However, the use of the parks would be temporary. Given the above, implementation of Alternative 6 would result in less-than-significant impacts to existing parks and recreation facilities in the area as well as no direct impacts associated with the construction of parks and recreation facilities under Significance Criterion 1. Under Alternative 6, no nature viewing platforms would be constructed; and, therefore, no impacts would occur relative to Significance Criterion 2 for the recreational viewing platforms.

SCP Direct Impacts. The SCP component of Alternative 6 would designate approximately 891.2 acres of privately-owned land as spineflower preserves, representing an approximately 724-acre increase compared to the proposed Project. Under this alternative, a spineflower preserve would be established in the VCC planning area. Implementation of the SCP under Alternative 6 would not directly increase the population within the SCP areas, and thus would not increase the use of existing parks and recreation

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facilities in the area. Additionally, the SCP would not result in the construction or expansion of parks or recreation facilities. Therefore, no direct impacts would occur with this alternative under Significance Criterion 1 or 2.

4.16.6.2 Indirect Impacts

RMDP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP component of Alternative 6 would facilitate partial build-out of the approved Specific Plan development. Similar to the proposed Project, 61 acres of community parks, 52 acres of neighborhood parks, a 172-acre golf course, and a 24-acre community lake would be facilitated by this alternative. Under this alternative, the acreage for the High Country SMA would remain the same as that under the proposed Project at 4,205 acres, the River Corridor SMA would also remain the same as the proposed Project at 977 acres, and the Open Space would increase by 556 acres. Additionally, the total number of residential units in the Specific Plan area would be 19,787 compared to 20,885 with the proposed Project. Given that adequate parkland will be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 6 under Significance Criterion 1. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant. Construction-related impacts associated with development of parks and recreation facilities would be similar to construction impacts analyzed in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR and elsewhere in this EIS/EIR (e.g., air quality and noise impacts). Implementation of the Alternative 6 RMDP and build-out of the Specific Plan would not result in new or previously unidentified impacts related to parks and recreation services. Mitigation measures previously identified in the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) (Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68) are still adequate to ensure that project-related impacts to parks and recreation facilities will not be significant, and no new mitigation measures are required. Therefore, impacts under Significance Criterion 2 are considered less than significant.

SCP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the SCP component of Alternative 6 would facilitate previously-approved urban development projects on the Specific Plan site, and on a portion of the Entrada planning area. The establishment of a spineflower preserve on VCC under this alternative would preclude build-out of the VCC project. Alternative 6 would result in less Specific Plan-related development and a 1,300 unit reduction in residential units in the Entrada planning area as compared to the proposed Project (Alternative 2). Impacts to parks, recreation, and trails associated with future development on the Specific Plan and Entrada planning areas are evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**, above. As discussed, build-out of the Specific Plan and VCC planning areas would have less-than-significant impacts to existing parks and recreation facilities and would not substantially contribute to construction-related impacts. Therefore, implementation of the SCP would result in a less-than-significant indirect impact under Significance Criteria 1 and 2.

4.16.6.3 Secondary Impacts

RMDP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 6 would result in an increased demand for parks and recreation facilities with build-out of the Specific Plan. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreation facilities is evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**, above. Build-out of the Specific Plan development would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is

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not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 6 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, given that adequate parkland would be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur with construction and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities off site under Significance Criterion 2.

SCP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 6 would facilitate new urban developments on the Specific Plan site and in the Entrada planning area. This new development would increase the demand for parks and recreation facilities in the Project vicinity. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreation facilities related to the development of the SCP is evaluated above in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**. As discussed above, build-out of the Specific Plan and Entrada developments would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 6 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur under Significance Criterion 2.

In conclusion, direct impacts to park and recreation facilities resulting from implementation of the Alternative 6 RMDP and SCP would be short-term and negligible. Indirect and secondary impacts resulting from facilitated development in the Specific Plan and Entrada planning areas would not be significant because recreation facilities provided on those project sites would more than exceed their demand and regulatory requirements. Therefore, the combined effects of Project-related direct, indirect, and secondary impacts would not result in significant impacts to park, recreation, and trail facilities.

4.16.6.7 Impacts of Alternative 7 (Avoidance of 100-Year Floodplain, Elimination of Two Planned Bridges, and Avoidance of Spineflower)

4.16.6.7.1 Direct Impacts

RMDP Direct Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP infrastructure under Alternative 7 would not directly result in permanent residents in the Project area. During construction activities, construction workers may use existing parks and recreation facilities in the area during their leisure time and before and after working hours. However, the use of the parks would be temporary. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact to existing parks and/or recreation facilities would occur and no impact to the existing environment would occur with the construction or expansion of parks and/or recreation facilities under Significance Criterion 1. Under Alternative 7, no nature viewing platforms would be constructed; and, therefore, no impacts would occur relative to Significance Criterion 2 for the recreational viewing platforms.

SCP Direct Impacts. The SCP component of Alternative 7 would designate approximately 660.6 acres of privately-owned land as spineflower preserves, representing an approximately 493-acre increase compared to the proposed Project. Under this alternative, a spineflower preserve would be established in the VCC planning area. Implementation of the SCP under Alternative 7 would not increase the population within the SCP areas, and thus would not directly increase the use of existing parks and

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recreation facilities in the area. Additionally, the SCP would not result in the construction or expansion of parks or recreation facilities. Therefore, no direct impact would occur with this alternative under Significance Criterion 1 or 2.

4.16.6.7.2 Indirect Impacts

RMDP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the RMDP component of Alternative 7 would facilitate partial build-out of the approved Specific Plan development. Similar to the proposed Project, 61 acres of community parks, 52 acres of neighborhood parks, a 172-acre golf course, and a 24-acre community lake would be facilitated by Alternative 7. Under this alternative, the acreage for the High Country SMA would remain the same as that under the proposed Project at 4,205 acres, the River Corridor SMA would also remain the same as the proposed Project at 977 acres, and the Open Space would increase by 1,246 acres. Additionally, the total number of residential units in the Specific Plan area would be 16,471 compared to 20,885 with the proposed Project. Given that adequate parkland will be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 7 under Significance Criterion 1. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant. Construction-related impacts associated with development of parks and recreation facilities would be similar to construction impacts analyzed in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR and elsewhere in this EIS/EIR (e.g., air quality and noise impacts). Implementation of the Alternative 7 RMDP and build-out of the Specific Plan would not result in new or previously unidentified impacts related to parks and recreation services. Mitigation measures previously identified in the Newhall Ranch Revised Draft EIR (March 1999) (Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68) are still adequate to ensure that project-related impacts to park and recreation facilities would not be significant, and no new mitigation measures are required. Therefore, impacts under Significance Criterion 2 are considered less than significant.

SCP Indirect Impacts. Implementation of the SCP component of Alternative 7 would facilitate previously-approved urban development projects on the Specific Plan site, and on a portion of the Entrada planning area. The establishment of a spineflower preserve on VCC under this alternative would preclude build-out of the VCC project. Alternative 7 would result in less Specific Plan-related development and an 873-unit reduction in residential dwelling units in the Entrada planning area (along with a 399,000 sf reduction in commercial square footage on the Entrada site) as compared to the proposed Project (Alternative 2). Impacts to parks, recreation, and trails associated with future development on the Specific Plan and Entrada planning area are evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2.2**, above. As discussed, build-out of the Specific Plan and VCC planning areas would have less-than-significant impacts to existing parks and recreation facilities and would not substantially contribute to construction-related impacts. Therefore, implementation of the SCP would result in a less-than-significant indirect impact under Significance Criteria 1 and 2.

4.16.6.7.3 Secondary Impacts

RMDP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 7 would result in an increased demand for parks and recreation facilities with build-out of the Specific Plan. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreational facilities is evaluated in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**, above. As discussed above, build-out of

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the Specific Plan development would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 7 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, given that adequate parkland would be provided on site and that implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 and SP-5.0-68 would ensure that the impacts remain less than significant, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur with construction and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities off site under Significance Criterion 2.

SCP Secondary Impacts. Implementation of Alternative 7 would facilitate new urban development on the Specific Plan site and in the Entrada planning area. This new development would increase the demand for parks and recreation facilities in the Project vicinity. The potential impact to off-site parks and recreation facilities related to the development of the SCP is evaluated above in **Subsection 4.16.6.2**. Build-out of the Specific Plan and Entrada developments would not result in adverse impacts to off-site parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, it is not expected that existing parks and recreation facilities in the area would experience substantial physical deterioration with implementation of Alternative 7 under Significance Criterion 1. Furthermore, expansion and construction of new parks and recreation facilities off site is not required, and thus, no impact to the physical environment would occur under Significance Criterion 2.

In conclusion, direct impacts to park and recreation facilities resulting from the implementation of the Alternative 7 RMDP and SCP would be short-term and negligible. Indirect and secondary impacts resulting from facilitated development in the Specific Plan and Entrada planning areas would not be significant because recreation facilities provided on those project sites would more than exceed their demand and regulatory requirements. Therefore, the combined effects of Project-related direct, indirect, and secondary impacts would not result in significant impacts to park, recreation, and trail facilities.

4.16.7 MITIGATION MEASURES

Significant direct impacts from the proposed RMDP identified for Criterion 2 would be mitigated in accordance with requirements of **Section 4.5**, Biological Resources, and **Section 4.6**, Jurisdictional Waters and Streams, of this EIS/EIR. No additional mitigation measures are proposed to reduce those impacts. Although no significant impacts were identified under Criterion 1, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR recommended implementation of Mitigation Measures SP-4.20-1 through SP-4.20-3 to ensure compliance with all plan and regulatory requirements. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR also recommended implementation of Mitigation Measure SP 5.0-68 for the Newhall Ranch WRP. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors found that adoption of the recommended measures would ensure compliance with all plan and regulatory requirements. The Newhall Ranch mitigation program was adopted by Los Angeles County in findings and in the revised Mitigation Monitoring Plans for the Specific Plan and WRP.

4.16.7.1 Mitigation Measures Already Required by the Adopted Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR

Although no significant impacts were identified, the County of Los Angeles previously adopted mitigation measures to ensure that impacts to parks, recreation, and trails within the Specific Plan area as

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part of its adoption of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan and WRP remain less than significant. These measures are specified in the previously certified Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Program EIR and the adopted Mitigation Monitoring Plans for the Specific Plan and WRP (May 2003), and are summarized above in **Table 4.16-1**. In addition, these mitigation measures are set forth in full below, and preceded by "SP," which stands for Specific Plan.

SP-4.20-1 Development of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan will provide the following acreages of parks and Open Area:

- Ten public Neighborhood Parks totaling 55 acres;
- Open Areas totaling 1,106 acres of which 186 acres are Community Parks,
- High Country Special Management Area of 4,214 acres,
- River Corridor Special Management Area of 819 acres,
- a 15-acre Lake,
- an 18-hole Golf Course, and
 - a trail system consisting of:
 - Regional River Trail,
 - Community Trails, and
 - Unimproved Trails.

SP-4.20-2 Prior to the construction of the proposed trail system, the project applicant shall finalize the alignment of trails with the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

SP-4.20-3 Trail construction shall be in accordance with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation trail system standards.

Water Reclamation Plant

SP-5.0-68 A fence shall be constructed along the southern perimeter of the WRP site to prevent access to the WRP from the Regional River Trail.

4.16.7.2 Mitigation Measures Relating to the Adopted VCC EIR

The previously certified VCC EIR (April 1990) did not address impacts to parks, recreation, and trails because there was no substantial evidence that these resources would be impacted due to implementation of the VCC project. Therefore, no mitigation measures related to parks, recreation, and trails were adopted in conjunction with certification of the VCC EIR. However, as noted in **Subsection 4.16.1.2.1**, above, additional environmental review will be conducted by Los Angeles County with respect to the

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VCC planning area, because the project applicant recently submitted the last tentative parcel map for build-out of the VCC planning area. Additional mitigation measures may be adopted by Los Angeles County if build-out of the VCC project area were to result in significant impacts to parks, recreation, and trails within the VCC planning area.

4.16.7.3 Mitigation Measures Relating to the Entrada Planning Area

The County of Los Angeles has not yet prepared or released a draft EIR for the proposed development within the portion of the Entrada planning area that would be facilitated by approval of the SCP component of the proposed Project. As a result, there are no previously adopted mitigation measures for the Entrada planning area. However, the adoption and implementation of mitigation measures similar to those previously adopted for the Specific Plan area would ensure that potential impacts to parks, recreation, and trails within the Entrada planning area are reduced to the extent feasible.

4.16.7.4 Additional Mitigation Measures Proposed by this EIS/EIR

The proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to parks, recreation, or trails, and implementation of the previously adopted mitigation measures, and mitigation measures required in **Section 4.5**, Biological Resources, and **Section 4.6**, Jurisdictional Waters and Streams, of this EIS/EIR would ensure that impacts remain less than significant. Therefore, no additional mitigation measures are recommended or required.

4.16.8 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE FINDINGS

Using the significance criteria previously identified in **Subsection 4.16.5**, it has been determined that the proposed Project and alternatives would not result in significant impacts to parks and recreation resources. **Table 4.16-7** presents a summary of the significance criteria relating to each of the Project alternatives, and the reduced level of impact that would be achieved for each alternative by applying the above mitigation measures.

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**Table 4.16-7
Summary of Significant Parks, Recreation, and Trails Impacts - Pre- and Post-Mitigation**

Significance Criteria	Applicable Mitigation Measures	Planning Area	Impacts of Alternatives - Pre/Post-Mitigation ¹						
			Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Alt 7
Project would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities to the extent that substantial physical deterioration would occur or be accelerated.	None Required.	NRSP	NI/NI	NI/BI	NI/BI	NI/BI	NI/BI	NI/BI	NI/BI
		VCC	NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI
		Entrada	NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI
Project includes recreational facilities or would require the construction or expansion of facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.	None Required.	NRSP	NI	SI/M	SI/M	SI/M	SI/M	SI/M	SI/M
		VCC	NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI
		Entrada	NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI	NI/NI

Notes:

¹ Impact analysis assumes mitigation already required as part of NRSP.

SI/M = Significant impact, but mitigated to less-than-significant level

NI = No impact, and no mitigation required

BI = Beneficial impact

4.16.9 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Neither the proposed Project nor the alternatives would result in significant unavoidable impacts to parks, recreation, or trails. Impacts to other resources as a result of the construction and management of parks and recreational facilities are discussed in **Section 4.1**, Surface Water Hydrology and Flood Control, **Section 4.2**, Geomorphology and Riparian Resources, **Section 4.5**, Biological Resources, **Section 4.6**, Jurisdictional Waters and Streams, and **Section 4.15**, Visual Resources, of this EIS/EIR.