

## 3.16 PARKS AND RECREATION

---

This section of the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) describes the existing recreational resources within the SCAG region, identifies the regulatory framework with respect to laws and regulations that affect recreation resources, and analyzes the potential impacts of the Connect SoCal Plan (“Connect SoCal”; “Plan”). In addition, this PEIR provides regional-scale mitigation measures as well as project-level mitigation measures to be considered by lead agencies for subsequent, site-specific environmental review to reduce identified impacts as appropriate and feasible.

### 3.16.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### 3.16.1.1 Definitions

Definitions of terms used in the regulatory framework, characterization of baseline conditions, and impact analysis for recreation are provided.

**Recreation Level of Service (LOS):**<sup>1</sup> In the context of recreation of recreational service, LOS refers to the amount of “service” each park, open land, trail, or other facility provides to its constituents.<sup>2</sup> Conventional recreation and park LOS analysis—often called the “NRPA standards” method because it was published by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)—is based on capacity only. NRPA standards suggest providing a certain number of facilities or acres of parkland per 1,000 population. The County of Los Angeles General Plan<sup>3</sup> and Orange County General Plan<sup>4</sup> have established a standard for parklands of four acres of local parkland and six acres of regional parkland per 1,000 county residents in unincorporated areas; the Imperial County General Plan<sup>5</sup> has established a standard of five net acres of overall parkland per 1,000 county residents in unincorporated areas; the San Bernardino County General Plan<sup>6</sup> has established a standard of 14.5 acres of undeveloped lands and/or

---

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that LOS may also refer to a transportation metric when discussing traffic impacts, however for the purposes of this section of the PEIR, LOS refers to the amount of “service” each park, open land, trail, or other facility provides to its constituents.

<sup>2</sup> National Recreation and Parks Association. *NRPA Parks Metrics* Available online at: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/ParkMetrics/>, accessed March 29, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed August 19, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Orange County Public Works Development Services. 2015. *General Plan: Chapter VII. Recreation Element*. Available online at: <http://ocplanning.net/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24960>, accessed August 19, 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department. 2008. *Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Parks-&-Recreation-Element-\(2008\).pdf](http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Parks-&-Recreation-Element-(2008).pdf), accessed August 19, 2019.

<sup>6</sup> San Bernardino County Land Use Services. 2007. *County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan*. Available online at: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>, accessed August 19, 2019.

trails per 1,000 county residents and 2.5 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 county residents; and Ventura County has not established numeric parkland standards.

Because park needs and definitions vary among jurisdictions, the following description are provided for informational purposes. The definitions below are not intended to define all parkland in the region, but rather, are intended to provide general guidance about different types of parks that can be found in the region.

**Local Park:** According to the Los Angeles County General Plan, a park that is considered to serve the local community (within a two-mile service radius of the park) is generally 20 acres or less in size.<sup>7,8</sup> Further, the Los Angeles County General Plan has refined local parks into the following categories:<sup>9</sup>

*Park Node:* Park nodes are small pieces of open space that serve as public destinations, connections, and community defining spaces. Examples include plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks, public art installations, etc.

**Size:** One-quarter acre or less

**Service Area:** No service radius area

*Pocket Park:* Pocket parks are less than three acres in size and serve residential or business areas within a quarter mile radius or within walking distance. Passive park amenities include picnic areas and seating areas. Active park amenities include children’s play apparatus.

**Size:** Less than three acres

**Service Area:** Up to one-quarter mile radius of the park

*Neighborhood Park:* The common objective of all neighborhood parks is to bring people together to recreate and socialize close to home. Passive park amenities include informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, and barbecues. Active park amenities include practice sports fields, basketball, tennis, and

---

<sup>7</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed July 7, 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Orange County Public Works Development Services. 2015. *General Plan: Chapter VII. Recreation Element*. Available online at: <http://ocplanning.net/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24960>, accessed March 27, 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed July 7, 2019.

volleyball courts. Park facilities typically include public restrooms, and onsite parking and information kiosks.

**Size:** Three to 10 acres

**Service Area:** One-half mile radius of the park

*Community Park:* Community parks that are located in residential neighborhoods serve both the needs of the community park service radius and neighborhood park service radius. The amenities programmed into a community park are focused on meeting the needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community. Passive park amenities include informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, family and group picnic areas with overhead shelters, and barbecues; active sports activities including light sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, aquatics complexes, skate parks, soccer arenas, roller hockey, community gardens, and dog parks; and park facilities including public restrooms, concession buildings, community buildings, maintenance buildings, and on-site parking and information kiosks.

**Size:** 10 to 20 acres

**Service Area:** 1 to 2-mile radius around the park

**Regional Park:** A park greater than 20 acres in size is generally considered a regional park. A regional park may have a service radius of over 25 miles.<sup>10,11</sup> For instance, the Los Angeles County General Plan has refined regional parks into the following categories:<sup>12</sup>

*Community Regional Park:* Community regional parks protect and conserve natural resources, preserve open spaces, and provide recreational facilities that are not available in neighborhood or community parks. Passive park amenities include open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, and barbecues. Active sports activities include lighted sports fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts. Additional amenities include multiple sports facilities, aquatics centers, fishing lakes, community buildings, gymnasiums, and scenic views and vistas. Park facilities typically include public restrooms, concession buildings, community buildings, maintenance buildings, and on-site parking and information kiosks.

---

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Orange County Public Works Development Services. 2015. *General Plan: Chapter VII. Recreation Element*. Available online at: <http://ocplanning.net/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24960>, accessed March 27, 2019.

<sup>12</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed July 7, 2019.

**Size:** 20 to 100 acres

**Service Area:** Up to 20-mile radius around the park

*Regional Park:* Regional Parks include unique areas such as lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies, and campgrounds, in addition to the active recreational facilities offered in community and community regional parks. Many of the recreation activities are associated with experiencing the natural environment. A regional park may also perform important ecological and environmental functions, including serving as wildlife habitats. Passive park amenities include group picnic areas with overhead shelters and barbecues. Additional park amenities include lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies for swimming, fishing and boating, and sports fields.

**Size:** Greater than 100 acres

**Service Area:** 25-mile or greater radius around the park

*Special Use Facility:* Special use facilities are generally single purpose facilities that serve greater regional recreational or cultural needs. Passive features include wilderness parks, nature preserves, botanical gardens, and nature centers. Active uses include performing arts, water parks, golf driving ranges, and golf courses.

**Size:** No size criteria

**Service Area:** No assigned service radius area

**Trails/Linear Parks:** SCAG,<sup>13</sup> Los Angeles County,<sup>14</sup> and San Bernardino County<sup>15</sup> define trails as linear parks that provide community access to increased health and fitness activities in the increasingly urbanized region.

**Multi-Benefit Parks:** According the Los Angeles County General Plan, multi-benefit parks and open spaces are created through collaborative efforts among city, county, state, and federal agencies; private organizations; schools; private landowners; and industries. These parks are characterized as having more than one function and contributing to multiple program goals. There are a number of applications of multi-benefit parks including: utility corridors and flood protection basins that can serve as areas for active or passive recreation; school sites located adjacent to parks that can share facilities, such as parking

<sup>13</sup> SCAG. 2016. *2016-2040 RTP: Active Transportation Appendix*. Available online at: [http://scagrtpscs.net/Documents/2016/final/f2016RTPSCS\\_ActiveTransportation.pdf](http://scagrtpscs.net/Documents/2016/final/f2016RTPSCS_ActiveTransportation.pdf), accessed September 4, 2019.

<sup>14</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed August 19, 2019.

<sup>15</sup> San Bernardino County Land Use Services. 2007. *County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan*. Available online at: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>, accessed August 19, 2019.

and park amenities; watershed areas that can protect critical wildlife habitats, preserve open space, provide trails for recreation, and contribute to water conservation objectives; and water districts, where trails can be located adjacent to flood protection channels and trailhead parks.<sup>16</sup>

**School Sites:** According the Los Angeles County General Plan, the County works with school districts to organize, promote, and conduct joint recreational and educational programs. These community recreation agreements are a form of joint-use agreement, where either a school or park facility may be put to some recreational use by the other party in exchange for some facility improvement and/or maintenance. A park does not have to be adjacent to a school (i.e., share a common boundary) for an agreement to be viable.<sup>17</sup>

**City Parks and Facilities:** According the Los Angeles County General Plan, city parks and facilities that are located close to the borders of the unincorporated areas are enjoyed by city and County residents alike. Similarly, local County parks that are located within or close to the borders of cities provide recreational amenities for both populations.<sup>18</sup>

**Private Recreational Facilities:** According the Los Angeles County General Plan, private recreational facilities play an important role in meeting recreational needs. The network of private recreational facilities consists of churches, health and fitness clubs, and other organizations that offer a variety of programs and facilities.<sup>19</sup>

**Greenways:** According the Los Angeles County General Plan, greenways provide a linear area along natural corridors, and often follow features such as rivers, man-made waterways, drainage channels, and utility easements. Greenways can accommodate various modes of uninterrupted pedestrian travel on pathways, including walking, jogging, and bicycling, and can include recreation areas and natural landscape features.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed July 7, 2019.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

Within the SCAG region, parks are classified into several subgroups: neighborhood, community, city, as well as specialized recreation areas, regional recreational areas, state and federal recreation areas, and open space areas.<sup>21</sup>

**Neighborhood Park:** A park or playground developed primarily to serve the recreational needs of citizens living within a 0.5-mile radius of the park. These facilities include pocket parks and neighborhood playgrounds.<sup>22</sup>

**Community Park:** A larger park or facility developed to meet the park and recreational needs of those living or working within a one to two-mile radius. Community parks may have a variety of playing fields and community recreation facilities.<sup>23</sup>

**City Park:** A park having a wide range of improvements not usually found in neighborhood and community parks and designed to meet the recreational needs of the entire city population. Recreational facilities might include a nature area, golf course, zoo, pool, skateboarding parks, playing fields, or structures like gymnasiums, community centers, and public or private educational institutions. Parks may also be themed, such as a park dedicated to the agricultural heritage of the area.

**Specialized Recreation Area:** A recreation area or facility devoted to a very specific activity or use, such as a linear park, golf courses, or soccer parks.

**Regional Recreation Area:** Regional recreation areas provide access to significant ecological, cultural, or historical features or unique facilities that attract visitors from throughout the entire region (including incorporated and unincorporated areas). Regional recreation areas may be composed of one large site or several sites located in proximity that together provide a significant recreation area for the region. These parks may include areas of significant natural resources, as well as more developed activity sites. Regional recreation areas may be supported by a wide variety of specialized facilities such as indoor recreation centers, large group picnic areas, special event facilities/festival space, and campgrounds.

**State and Federal Recreation Areas:** A park maintained by state or federal agencies and typically providing recreational opportunities like camping, hiking, bird watching, rafting, boating, and fishing. Many parts of the region have vast areas covered by state or federal parkland.

---

21 California Department of Parks and Recreation. *Find a Park by County*. Available online at: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex>, accessed July 25, 2019.

22 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed September 16, 2019.

23 Ibid.

**Open Space Areas:** Open space refers to lands that are generally unimproved and used for resource conservation and/or the managed production of resources. Open space is comprised of both designated open space and “de facto” open space. Designated open space is land that has been left undeveloped by design. Other land is deemed open space not by design, but because the land is not involved in a productive use, or in the case of agricultural lands, the land is consumed by a productive use that contributes to the visual quality of the land or provides wildlife habitat.

### 3.16.1.2 Existing Conditions

The diverse natural resources located in the six counties within SCAG’s jurisdiction provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for residents and tourists alike. Resources range from small neighborhood parks featuring playground equipment and sports fields to vast expanses of wilderness with hiking trails, rafting, and camping. In addition to parks for active recreation, the SCAG region also has a diversity of open space areas. The SCAG region contains approximately 150 miles of coastline, four national forests, two national parks, and several national wildlife refuges. There are 48 California state parks, 268 county parks, and over 3,300 city parks and open space areas in the SCAG region.<sup>24,25</sup> These lands are governed by a variety of agencies, including municipal park departments, independent park districts, counties, cities, community service districts, and federal and state agencies.

#### *Open Space and Recreation Lands in the SCAG Region*

Public parks and open space serve all of the residents in the SCAG region, as well as tourists and visitors. The variety of landscapes within the SCAG region allows for a broad range of parks and recreational facilities, many of which are quite unique. The multitude of parks and associated facilities make the SCAG region an ideal area for outdoor exploration and draw many tourists and visitors to the area. An effective regional transportation system would increase accessibility to such destinations, for tourists and residents alike. Improved access to outdoor spaces would benefit the overall health and well-being of residents, as well as public education and environmental awareness. **Table 3.16-1, Recreational Areas and Protected Open Space by County (Acres)**, shows California Protected Areas (CPAs), lands owned in fee, from small parks to large wilderness areas, in each SCAG county by acreage.

Each city and county within the SCAG region has a general plan containing an open space and/or parks and recreation element. Each element describes specific rules, regulations, and current conditions of

<sup>24</sup> California Department of Parks and Recreation. *Find a Park by County*. Available online at: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex>, accessed October 24, 2018.

<sup>25</sup> GreenInfo Network. 2016. *California Protected Areas: Data Portal*. Available online at: <http://www.calands.org/>, accessed October 29, 2018.

various local parks and recreation facilities to maximize recreational benefits within each jurisdiction. Based on the information found in the various county plans, Orange County and Los Angeles County have a deficiency in local parkland. Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties have established regional parkland standards, which they currently meet. Imperial County also meets its combined local and regional parkland standard. Further detail regarding the condition of parks, recreation, and open space in counties within the SCAG region is described below.

**Table 3.16-1  
Recreational Areas and Protected Open Space by County (Acres)**

County	Total Acres
Imperial County	1,575,196
Los Angeles County	906,082
Orange County	152,486
Riverside County	2,857,963
San Bernardino County	8,492,573
Ventura County	645,734
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,630,034</b>

Source:

GreenInfo Network. 2018. CPAD: California Protected Areas: Data Portal. Available online at: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-protected-areas-database-2018a>, accessed June 20, 2019.

### *Imperial County*

Imperial County is a predominantly agricultural area and approximately 50 percent of County lands are undeveloped and under federal jurisdiction. A recreation designation covers the largest area of any land use in the County.<sup>26</sup> The County maintains approximately 1,575,196 acres of regional parkland and protected open space, 97 percent of which is open access land. Two and a half percent of protected land has no public access and less than one percent has restricted access, where the public can only enter with a permit. This total includes parkland owned by the federal, state, county, and city as well as special district, nonprofit, private, and joint parkland.<sup>27</sup> The Imperial County General Plan has established a standard of five net acres of overall parkland per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas. With a total

<sup>26</sup> Imperial County. 1993. *General Plan Environmental Impact Report, Update*. Available online at: <http://www.icpds.com/?pid=829>, accessed March 27, 2019.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.



population of 207,682 in 2019, there are approximately 7,585 protected acres per 1,000 inhabitants, which is significantly higher than the set overall standard.<sup>28</sup>

Imperial County contains the Ocotillo Wells and Heber Dunes State Parks as well as eight County parks.<sup>29</sup> County parks maintain sports courts and recreational facilities, trails, barbecues, and playgrounds and space for activities such as camping, boating, and fishing. The Heber Community Center is also operated by the County and includes a library, event area, kitchen, and sports courts. Ocotillo Wells is a State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and contains more than 85,000 acres of desert open for off-road exploration, recreation, and camping. The Heber Dunes State Park is also an SVRA; it is mostly utilized by all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riders. The 323 acres of parkland are exclusively for day utilization and no camping, shooting or hunting is allowed.

### *Los Angeles County*

Los Angeles County has 906,082 acres of parkland, a majority of which is under the jurisdiction of the federal government.<sup>30</sup> This total includes parkland owned by the federal, state, county, and city as well as special district, nonprofit, private, and joint parkland.<sup>31</sup> The County maintains approximately 70,000 acres.<sup>32</sup> Over 92 percent of the total parkland is open access and less than one percent allows no public access. The Los Angeles County General Plan has established a standard of 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in the unincorporated areas and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population in Los Angeles County. According to the General Plan (2015), the County has a substantial deficit in local parkland, providing approximately 0.6 acres of local parkland per 1,000 unincorporated residents but 7.02 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents (total), which is above the regional standard.<sup>33</sup>

---

<sup>28</sup> California Protected Areas (CPAD). 2018. *CPAD Statistics*. August. Available online at: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-protected-areas-database-2018a>, accessed July 30, 2019.

<sup>29</sup> Imperial County Planning and Development Services. 2018. *Parks and Recreation*. Available online at: <https://www.co.imperial.ca.us/publicwork/index.asp?fileinc=parkscounty>, accessed July 30, 2019.

<sup>30</sup> California Protected Areas (CPAD). 2018. *CPAD Statistics*. August. Available online at: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-protected-areas-database-2018a>, accessed July 30, 2019.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed July 7, 2019.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

Los Angeles County has 177 County parks and 24 state parks, the most of any county in the SCAG region.<sup>34</sup> Parks in Los Angeles include beaches, picnic areas, sports fields and courts, and hiking and camping opportunities. There are also multiple special use facilities, single purpose facilities serving greater regional recreational or cultural needs, such as the Hollywood Bowl.<sup>35</sup> Prominent parks in Los Angeles County include Santa Catalina Island Regional Park, Griffith Park, Topanga State Park, and the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve.

### *Orange County*

Orange County contains 152,486 acres of protected parkland, the majority of which is controlled on a federal or county level.<sup>36</sup> This total includes parkland owned by the federal, state, county, and city as well as special district, nonprofit, private, and joint parkland.<sup>37</sup> Orange County General Plan (2014) established parkland standards of 2.5 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents.<sup>38</sup> With a total population of approximately 3,250,000 people,<sup>39</sup> the County provides about 46.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, far surpassing regional parkland standards.

Orange County maintains 25 urban and wilderness parks, comprised of 60,000 acres including historical sites, beaches and harbors, and 150 miles of paved regional trails and 350 miles of off-road trails. Additionally, there are a host of local parks, beaches, and nature preserves.<sup>40</sup> Prominent parks include Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Carbon Canyon Regional Park and Irvine Regional Park.

### *Riverside County*

Riverside County has 2,857,963 acres of protected parkland, over 2.8 million of which are open access.<sup>41</sup> This total includes parkland owned by the federal, state, county, and city as well as special district,

---

<sup>34</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Frequently Asked Questions. Available online at: <http://parks.lacounty.gov/frequently-asked-questions/>, accessed July 30, 2019.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> California Protected Areas (CPAD). 2018. *CPAD Statistics*. December. Available online at: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-protected-areas-database-2018a>, accessed July, 30 2019.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Orange County Public Works. *Orange County General Plan, Chapter VII Recreation Element*. Available online at: <https://www.ocgov.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24960>, accessed September 16, 2019.

<sup>39</sup> SCAG modeling, 2019.

<sup>40</sup> Orange County. 2018. *OC Parks Strategic Plan*. Available online at: <http://www.ocparks.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=82682>, accessed July 30, 2019.

<sup>41</sup> California Protected Areas (CPAD). 2018. *CPAD Statistics*. December. Available online at: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-protected-areas-database-2018a>, accessed July 30, 2019.

nonprofit, private, and joint parkland.<sup>42</sup> Regional parks in the area cover approximately 23,317 acres.<sup>43</sup> The County does not have set standards regarding parklands but the vast amount of open space, the second-most in the SCAG region, allow for approximately 1,161 acres of protected parkland per 1,000 residents based on a 2019 population of 2,460,000 people.<sup>44</sup> Riverside County parks include Joshua Tree National Park, Anza-Borrego State Park, and the Salton Sea State Recreation Area.

### *San Bernardino County*

San Bernardino has the most open space and protected parkland out of all of the counties in the SCAG region. It maintains a total of 8,492,573 acres of protected parkland, 8,469,686 of which are open access.<sup>45</sup> This total includes parkland owned by the federal, state, county, and city as well as special district, nonprofit, private, and joint parkland.<sup>46</sup> The 2007 General Plan denotes a standard of 2.5 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents.<sup>47</sup> With a population of approximately 2,210,000 people,<sup>48</sup> the County provides about 3,830 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, far surpassing regional parkland standards.

The San Bernardino Regional Parks Department operates a total of 8,515 acres of regional parks. Numerous County special districts operate local parks in many unincorporated communities of the County. These districts operate independently from the County government and are financed by local taxes within each respective district boundary. The County also includes wilderness areas that are mostly under the jurisdiction of the BLM, including the Sand to Snow National Monument and the Mojave Trails National Monument.<sup>49</sup>

---

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Riverside County. 2015. *County of Riverside General Plan Chapter 5: Multipurpose Open Space Element*. December. Available online at: [https://planning.rctlma.org/Portals/14/genplan/general Plan 2017/elements/OCT17/Ch05 MOSE 120815.pdf?ver=2017-10-11-102103-833](https://planning.rctlma.org/Portals/14/genplan/general%20Plan%202017/elements/OCT17/Ch05%20MOSE%20120815.pdf?ver=2017-10-11-102103-833), accessed July 30, 2019.

<sup>44</sup> SCAG modeling, 2019.

<sup>45</sup> California Protected Areas (CPAD). 2018. *CPAD Statistics*. December. Available online at: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-protected-areas-database-2018a>, accessed July, 30 2019.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> County of San Bernardino. 2019. *San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR*. June. Available online at: [http://countywideplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Ch\\_05-15-REC.pdf](http://countywideplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Ch_05-15-REC.pdf), accessed July 30, 2019.

<sup>48</sup> SCAG modeling, 2019.

<sup>49</sup> County of San Bernardino. 2019. *San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR*. June. Available online at: [http://countywideplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Ch\\_05-15-REC.pdf](http://countywideplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Ch_05-15-REC.pdf), accessed July 30, 2019.

## *Ventura County*

Ventura County is home to 645,734 acres of protected parkland and open space.<sup>50</sup> This total includes parkland owned by the federal, state, county, and city as well as special district, nonprofit, private, and joint parkland.<sup>51</sup> The County maintains 13 regional parks, 23 county parks, and a multitude of beach front parks and marinas, and community parks. The County also operates the Hungry Valley SVRA, 18,780 acres between Los Angeles and Ventura counties that are open to vehicular use, trail use, and camping.<sup>52</sup> Ventura County does not specify parkland and open space standards but with a population of approximately 868,000 persons<sup>53</sup>, the County provides roughly 743 acres of total parkland and open space per 1,000 residents.

### **3.16.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

The federal government sets public recreation standards for protection of publicly owned recreation areas; scenic, historic, and recreational trails; national forests, and recreational fisheries from conversion to non-compatible land uses that may include transportation projects through the recreational resource. The state sets recreation standards for protection of public parkland and establishment of new parkland to meet the needs of a growing population as a result of development project. The provision of new parkland and recreational facilities is generally subject to local general plan policies.

#### **3.16.2.1 Federal**

##### ***Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (U.S. DOT Act)***

Section 4(f) of the U.S. DOT Act (Public Law 89-670) was enacted as a means of protecting publicly owned public parks, recreation areas, and wildlife/waterfowl refuges as well as historic sites of local, state, or national significance, from conversion to transportation uses.

The provision states that the Secretary of the U.S. DOT may approve a transportation project requiring the use of publicly owned land of a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or land

---

<sup>50</sup> California Protected Areas (CPAD). 2018. *CPAD Statistics*. December. Available online at: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-protected-areas-database-2018a>, accessed July 30, 2019.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> California State Parks. *Hungry Valley SVRA*. Available online at: [http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1192](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1192), accessed September 17, 2019.

<sup>53</sup> SCAG modeling, 2019.

from an historic site of national, state, or local significance (as determined by the federal, state, or local officials having jurisdiction over the park, recreation area, refuge or site) only if:<sup>54</sup>

- There is no feasible and prudent avoidance alternative to the use of land; and the action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from such use; or
- The Administration determines that the use of the property will have a de minimis impact.

### ***National Trails System Act***

The National Trails System Act (Public Law 90-543) was established by Congress in 1968 to establish a network of scenic, historic, and recreational trails. The act defined four categories of national trails: recreation trails, scenic trails, historic trails, and connecting or side trails. Trails within park, forest, and other recreation areas administered by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture or in other federally administered areas may be established and designated as “National Recreation Trails” by the appropriate Secretary.<sup>55</sup> Since the National Trails System Act was enacted, the list of qualifying national scenic trails and national historic trails has grown from the initial two trails (the Application National Scenic Trail and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail) to the current list, which includes 11 national scenic trails and 19 historic trails. In addition, more than 1,000 national recreation trails have been designated nationwide, 91 of which are located in California.<sup>56,57</sup>

### ***National Forests Land Management Plans***

Each of the four Southern California national forests (Cleveland National Forest, Los Angeles National Forest, San Bernardino National Forest, and Los Padres National Forest) is included in the Southern California National Forests Vision. The Southern California National Forests Vision (forest plans) has created individual land management plans for each of the four Southern California national forests. The land management plans include strategic programmatic direction for managing the land in each national forest and its resources for the next 10 to 15 years. The plans include sections on resource management,

---

<sup>54</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. *Environmental Review Toolkit: Section 4(f)*. Available online at: <https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/legislation/section4f.aspx>, accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>55</sup> Government Publishing Office. 1968. *National Trails System Act: Public Law 90-543*. Available online at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-82/pdf/STATUTE-82-Pg919.pdf>, accessed August 20, 2019.

<sup>56</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service. 2019. *Reference Manual 45: National Trails System*. Available online at: [https://www.nps.gov/policy/Reference\\_Manual\\_45.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/policy/Reference_Manual_45.pdf), accessed August 20, 2019.

<sup>57</sup> American Trails. *NRT Database*. Available online at: <http://www.nrtdatabase.org/>, accessed August 20, 2019.

public use and enjoyment, facilities operation and maintenance, commodity and commercial uses, and fire management.<sup>58</sup>

### ***Executive Order 12962—Recreational Fisheries***

The objective of Executive Order 12962, dated June 7, 1995, is the conservation, restoration and enhancement of aquatic systems to provide for increased recreational fishing. Under the executive order, federal agencies shall improve the quantity function, sustainable productivity and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for recreational fishing opportunities by:<sup>59</sup>

- Developing and encouraging government-private sector partnerships
- Identifying recreational fishing opportunities
- Implementing sound aquatic conservation and restoration practices
- Providing access and promoting awareness
- Supporting outreach programs
- Implementing laws
- Establishing cost-share programs
- Evaluating the effects of federally funded, permitted, or authorized actions on aquatic resources and recreational fishing
- Assisting private landowners to conserve and enhance aquatic resources

### ***Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, Section 6(f)(3)***

Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF Act) of 1965 (16 U.S.C. § 460l et seq.) contains provisions to protect federal investments in park and recreation resources and the quality of those assisted resources. The law recognizes the likelihood that changes in land use or development may make park use of some areas purchased with LWCF Act funds obsolete over time, particularly in rapidly changing urban areas, and provides for conversion to other use pursuant to certain specific conditions.

Section 6(f)(3) states that no property acquired or developed with assistance under Section 6(f)(3) shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The

---

<sup>58</sup> USDA. 2005. *Land Management Plan: Part 1 Southern California National Forests Vision*. Available online at: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5166876.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5166876.pdf), accessed August 20, 2019.

<sup>59</sup> Government Publishing Office. 1995. *Executive Order 12962 of June 7, 1995*. Available online at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1995-06-09/pdf/95-14407.pdf>, accessed August 20, 2019.

Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he or she finds it to be in accordance with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he or she deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.

This requirement applies to all parks and other sites that have been the subject of LWCF Act grants of any type, and includes acquisition of park land and development or rehabilitation of park facilities. If a transportation project would have an effect upon a park or site that has received LWCF Act funds, the requirements of Section 6(f)(3) would apply.<sup>60</sup>

### 3.16.2.2 State

#### *Quimby Act of 1965*

The Quimby Act was established by the California State Legislature in 1965 and codified as California Government Code Section 66477. The Quimby Act allows the legislative body of a city or county, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or impose a requirement of the payment of fees in lieu thereof, or a combination of both, for park or recreational purposes as a condition to the approval of a tentative tract map or parcel map. Under the Quimby Act, requirements for parkland dedications are not to exceed three acres of parkland per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision, and in-lieu fee payments shall not exceed the proportionate amount necessary to provide three acres of parkland, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community parkland exceeds that limit.<sup>61</sup>

#### *California Public Park Preservation Act of 1971*

The primary instrument for protecting and preserving parkland is the State Public Park Preservation Act of 1971 (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 5400–5409). Under the Act, cities and counties may not acquire any real property that is in use as a public park for any non-park use unless compensation or land, or both, are provided to replace the parkland acquired. This provides no net loss of parkland and facilities.<sup>62</sup>

#### *California Recreational Trails Plan of 2002*

The California Department of State Parks (California State Parks) is a trustee agency that owns and operates all state parks and participates in land use planning that affects state parklands. Pursuant to

---

<sup>60</sup> National Park Service. 2015. *Land and Water Conservation Fund*. Available online at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/protection.htm>, accessed August 20, 2019.

<sup>61</sup> California Legislative Information. *AB-1191 Quimby Act*.

<sup>62</sup> California Legislative Information. 1971. *Chapter 2.5. Preservation of Public Parks [5400-5409]*.

California Public Resources Code Section 5070, the California Recreational Trails Act, California State Parks has prepared the California Recreational Trails Plan in 1978, which was updated in 2002, with reports highlighting progress on the plan that are submitted to the State Legislature every two years.<sup>63</sup> The California Recreational Trails Plan establishes 12 designated trail corridors that pass through the SCAG region with the intent of forming a statewide trail system that links mountain, valley, and coastal communities to recreational, cultural, and natural resources throughout the state.<sup>64</sup>

### *State Open Space Standards*

State planning law (Government Code Section 65560) provides a structure for the preservation of open space by requiring every city and county in the State to prepare, adopt, and submit to the Secretary of the Resources Agency a “local open-space plan for the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of open space land within its jurisdiction.” The following open space categories are identified for preservation:<sup>65</sup>

- **Open space for public health and safety**, including, but not limited to, areas that require special management or regulation due to hazardous or special conditions.
- **Open space for the preservation of natural resources**, including, but not limited to, natural vegetation, fish and wildlife, and water resources.
- **Open space for resource management and production**, including, but not limited to, agricultural and mineral resources, forests, rangeland, and areas required for the recharge of groundwater basins.
- **Open space for outdoor recreation**, including, but not limited to, parks and recreational facilities, areas that serve as links between major recreation and open space reservations (such as trails, easements, and scenic roadways), and areas of outstanding scenic and cultural value.
- **Open space for the protection of Native American sites**, including, but not limited to, places, features, and objects of historical, cultural, or sacred significance such as Native American sanctified

---

<sup>63</sup> California Department of Parks and Recreation. *Trails Plan – 2011 Progress Report*. Available at: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25677](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25677), accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>64</sup> California Department of Parks and Recreation. *California Recreational Trails Plan Trail Corridors*. Available at: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25680](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25680), accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>65</sup> California Legislative Information. 1970. *Article 10.5. Open Space Lands [65560-65570]*.



cemeteries, places of worship, religious or ceremonial sites, or sacred shrines located on public property (further defined in California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.9<sup>66</sup> and 5097.993<sup>67</sup>).

### ***Mitigation Fee Act***

The California Mitigation Fee Act, Government Code sections 66000, *et seq.*, allows cities to establish fees to be imposed on development projects for the purpose of mitigating the impact of development on a city's ability to provide specified public facilities. In order to comply with the Mitigation Fee Act a City must follow the following primary requirements: (1) Make certain determinations regarding the purpose and use of a fee and establish a nexus or connection between a development project or class of project and the public improvement being financed with the fee; (2) Segregate fee revenue from the General Fund in order to avoid commingling of capital facilities fees and general funds; (3) For fees that have been in the possession of a City for five years or more and for which the dollars have not been spent or committed to a project, the City must make findings each fiscal year.<sup>68</sup>

#### **3.16.2.3 Local**

### ***Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs)***<sup>69</sup>

The Hillside Management and Significant Ecological Areas Ordinance was originally adopted in 1982 and most recently amended in 2019. Significant Ecological Areas (or SEAs) in LA County are designated as such due to their biological resources. These areas include undisturbed (or lightly disturbed) habitat of threatened or valuable species, or areas that support species movement, and are appropriately sized to support sustainable populations of the local species. The program is designed to conserve the diversity of biological resources in LA County through conservation and more stringent development rules. The SEA Ordinance outlines the review process and development standards for these areas to ensure biodiversity and ecosystems will not be negatively impacted by development. There are 21 SEAs in LA County per the 2035 General Plan published in 2015.

---

<sup>66</sup> California Legislative Information. 1976. CHAPTER 1.75. *Native American Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Sites [5097.9-5097.991]*.

<sup>67</sup> California Legislative Information. 2002. CHAPTER 1.76. *Native American Historic Resource Protection Act [5097.993-5097.994]*.

<sup>68</sup> California Legislative Information. 1987. CHAPTER 5. *Fees for Development Project [66000-66008]*.

<sup>69</sup> Los Angeles County. *Significant Ecological Areas Program*. Available online at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/site/sea/home/>, accessed September 11, 2019.

### ***Orange County Transportation Association Measure M2<sup>70</sup>***

Also known as “OC Go,” Measure M2 is a voter-approved sales tax extension of Measure M, which was approved in 1990. This program is the funding source for county transportation projects as well as the Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program in Orange County. The Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program funds natural lands acquisitions and in turn, qualifying transportation projects undergo a streamlined California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process. Thirty million dollars for approximately 1,300 acres of land and \$10 million on 350 acres of habitat restorations have been funded through Measure M2.

### ***Ventura County Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance***

Formally adopted in May 2019, this ordinance establishes regulations for development on lands where animals travel between the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Los Padres National Forest. The ordinance includes restrictions on elements detrimental to species movement, such as fencing, certain types of lighting and development in riparian areas. To provide flexibility for compliance, exemptions are allowed for agricultural activities.

### ***Ventura County Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR)<sup>71</sup>***

SOAR is a collection of voter initiatives to create City Urban Restriction Boundaries (CURB) in eight of the county’s cities. With these initiatives, re-zoning natural or agricultural lands for development outside of a city’s sphere of influence requires a majority vote approval from residents. In 2016, voters approved all of the initiatives for renewal, which extends the expiration date until 2050.

### ***County and City General Plans***

The most comprehensive land use planning, including that for recreational facilities, in the SCAG region is provided by county and city general plans, which local governments are required by state law to prepare as a guide for future development. The SCAG region spans six counties and 191 cities, all of which have general plans containing policies related to provision of recreational resources. Open space and recreation resources are normally addressed in two mandatory elements of the general plan: land use and open space. The land use element normally focuses on the distribution of recreation facilities and

---

<sup>70</sup> OCTA. *OC GO Local Tax Dollars at Work*. Available online at: [http://octa.net/About-OC-Go/OC-Go-\(2011-2041\)/](http://octa.net/About-OC-Go/OC-Go-(2011-2041)/), accessed September 11, 2019.

<sup>71</sup> Ventura County Resources Management Agency. *County of Ventura Measure (SOAR) Save Open space and Agricultural Resources Initiative – 2050*. Available online at: [https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/ordinances/SOAR\\_Measure\\_C\\_2050.pdf](https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/ordinances/SOAR_Measure_C_2050.pdf)

programs and an inventory of open space land, including those lands that provide opportunities for recreational activities. In contrast, the open space element focuses on open space for outdoor recreation including, but not limited to:

- Areas of outstanding scenic, historical, and cultural value
- Areas particularly suited for park and recreational purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams
- Areas that serve as links between major recreational and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors

The six county general plans address the majority of the regional open space, beyond that provided by the national forest, national parks, and wildlife refuges:

- **Imperial County:** Parks and Recreation Element<sup>72</sup> and Conservation and Open Space Element<sup>73</sup> of County General Plan
- **Los Angeles County:** Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element<sup>74</sup> and Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element<sup>75</sup> of County General Plan
- **Orange County:** Chapter VI. Resources Element<sup>76</sup> and Chapter VII. Recreation Element<sup>77</sup> of County General Plan
- **Riverside County:** Chapter 5: Multipurpose Open Space Element and Chapter 10: Healthy Communities Element<sup>78</sup> of County General Plan

---

<sup>72</sup> County of Imperial Planning & Development Services. 2008. *Imperial County General Plan: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Parks-&-Recreation-Element-\(2008\).pdf](http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Parks-&-Recreation-Element-(2008).pdf), accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>73</sup> County of Imperial Planning & Development Services. 2016. *Imperial County General Plan: Conservation and Open Space Element*. Available online at: <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>, accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>74</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *General Plan 2035: Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf), accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>75</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed August 20, 2019.

<sup>76</sup> Orange County Development Services. 2012. *General Plan: Chapter VI Resources Element*. Available online at: <http://www.ocpublicworks.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=40235>, accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>77</sup> Orange County Public Works Development Services. 2015. *General Plan: Chapter VII. Recreation Element*. Available online at: <http://ocplanning.net/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24960>, accessed August 20, 2019.

- **San Bernardino County:** Chapter VI. Open Space Element<sup>79</sup> of County General Plan
- **Ventura County:** Resources Appendix<sup>80</sup> and Public Services and Facilities Appendix<sup>81</sup> of County General Plan

Each city in the SCAG region has its own respective general plan that helps provide guidance for the growth and development of the city and contains measures to maintain and/or enhance open space within each of the city's jurisdictions. Each city's general plan varies in level of detail and necessary measures to preserve open space. Although city general plans are not required to contain parks and recreation sections, cities often choose to include this section to provide measures to maintain and/or enhance city parks and recreation areas.

Additional plans and ordinances at the master plan level, city-level, and specific plan level may also apply within the SCAG region.

### **Zoning**

City and county zoning codes provide the set of detailed requirements that implement general plan policies at the level of the individual parcel. Zoning codes present standards for different uses and identifies which uses are allowed in the various zoning districts of the jurisdiction. Since 1971, state law has required the city or county zoning code to be consistent with the jurisdiction's general plan.<sup>82</sup>

---

<sup>78</sup> Riverside County Planning Department. *Current General Plan Documents*. Available online at: <https://planning.rctlma.org/ZoningInformation/GeneralPlan.aspx>, accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>79</sup> County of San Bernardino Land Use Service Division. Amended 2014. *County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan*. Available online at: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>, accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>80</sup> County of Ventura Resource Management Agency, Planning Division. 2005. *Ventura County General Plan: Resources Appendix*. Available online at: <https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/General-Plan-Resources-Appendix.pdf>, accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>81</sup> County of Ventura Resource Management Agency, Planning Division. 2005. *Ventura County General Plan: Public Facilities & Services Appendix*. Available online at: <https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/GENERAL-PLAN-Public-Facilities-Services-Appendix.pdf>, accessed November 6, 2018.

<sup>82</sup> Governor's Office of Planning and Research. 2017. *State of California General Plan Guidelines*. Available online at: [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR\\_COMPLETE\\_7.31.17.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR_COMPLETE_7.31.17.pdf), accessed August 20, 2019.

### 3.16.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

#### 3.16.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

For the purposes of this PEIR, SCAG has determined that the adoption and/or implementation of the Plan could result in significant adverse impacts to recreational resources, if the Plan would be considered to have the potential for significant impacts if it would:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated;
- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities, need for new or physically altered park facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, or other performance objectives;
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

#### 3.16.3.2 Methodology

The Plan lists transportation projects and includes strategies for integrating land use development patterns with transportation investments that emphasize system preservation and enhancement, active transportation, mode choices, accessibility, and mobility. These land use distribution patterns are designed to accommodate the region's demographic growth projections. Although population growth and development are anticipated to occur even without Connect SoCal, this Plan includes regional transportation and land use strategies that may influence growth throughout the region. To address this, the analysis in this PEIR covers overall region-wide impacts of major transportation projects listed in the Plan as well as transportation and land use strategies described in the Plan.<sup>83</sup>

The need for or deficiency in adequate park facilities or library facilities to serve residents in the SCAG region is not in and of itself a CEQA impact, but a social or economic impact (*City of Hayward v. B'd of Trustees* (2015) 242 Cal.App. 4th 833, 843). However, pursuant to Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, the determination of whether there is a significant impact related to parks or other recreational facilities is based on whether a significant impact could result from the construction and subsequent

---

<sup>83</sup> Major transportation projects include but are not limited to projects that involve ground disturbing activities and projects outside of existing rights-of-way such as projects that require new rights-of-way, adding traffic lanes, and grade separation.

operation of new or altered parks and/or recreational facilities or where existing park and recreational facilities would be substantially physically deteriorated as a result of the implementation of the Plan.

The methodology for determining the significance of recreation impacts compares the existing conditions to future (2045) conditions, as required in CEQA Section 15126.2(a). To assess potential impacts to recreation within the SCAG region, geographic information system (GIS) was used to analyze whether major highway, transit, and freight rail projects documented in the Plan would directly impact existing recreation resources. Baseline conditions were established for the acreage of local and regional parkland per 1,000 population in each county to determine existing park level of service, and the 2045 anticipated population growth forecast was used to calculate the quantity of parkland needed to meet future recreation needs.

The results of the GIS analysis determine whether major transportation projects included in the Plan could directly affect existing local and regional parkland in the SCAG region. Indirect impacts were evaluated based on the land development patterns after a review of the Plan's transportation and land use strategies, as well as the assumptions that protected recreational areas (such as national forests) would remain protected and new development would be encouraged away from natural habitat areas to be concentrated in existing urbanized areas such as high-quality transit areas (HQTAs) (near transit).

The mitigation measures in the PEIR are categorized into two categories: SCAG mitigation and project-level mitigation measures. SCAG mitigation measures shall be implemented by SCAG over the lifetime of the Plan. For projects proposing to streamline environmental review pursuant to SB 375, SB 743 or SB 226 (as described in Section 1.0 Introduction), or for projects otherwise tiering off this PEIR, the project-level mitigation measures described below (or comparable measures) can and should be considered and implemented by Lead Agencies and Project Sponsors during the subsequent, project- or site-specific environmental reviews for transportation and development projects as applicable and feasible. However, SCAG cannot require implementing agencies to adopt mitigation, and it is ultimately the responsibility of the implementing agency to determine and adopt project-specific mitigation.

### 3.16.3.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

**Impact REC-1                      Potential to increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.**

*Significant and Unavoidable Impact – Mitigation Required.*

Transportation projects and growth under the Plan would have the potential to increase use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur, constituting a potentially significant impact. The Plan's transportation improvements aim to accommodate the anticipated population increase of approximately 3.2 million persons over the lifetime of the Plan. The Plan may influence new growth, primarily within urbanized areas such as HQTAs and other livable corridors and centers. Therefore, it is possible that existing neighborhood parks and other recreational facilities would see an increase in usage, which, in turn, may result in substantial physical deterioration of facilities. It is also possible that as population in urban centers increases, there may be more demand for parks outside of HQTAs, particularly if HQTAs are not well served. As such, the Plan's overall improvement of the transportation network could also result in increased accessibility and demand on regional parks.

Park accessibility is defined in the Plan as the share of the population within a one- and two-mile travel buffer from a regional park or school; also the share of park acreage that can be reached within 30 minutes by automobile or 45 minutes by bus or all transit modes during the evening peak period. As demonstrated in **Figure 3.16-1 Regional Recreation and Open Space Areas within a 45-Mile Radius of 2045 HQTAs** and **Table 3.16-2 Acres of Regional Recreation and Open Space Areas within a 45-Mile Radius of HQTAs in 2045**, based on the assumption that a 45-minute drive would provide access to regional parks within a 30-mile radius around HQTAs, most of the SCAG region would be adequately served by regional parks in 2045.

**Table 3.16-2**  
**Acres of Regional Recreation and Open Space Areas within a 45-Mile Radius of HQTAs in 2045**

	Imperial County <sup>1</sup>	Los Angeles County <sup>2</sup>	Orange County <sup>3</sup>	Riverside County <sup>4</sup>	San Bernardino County <sup>5</sup>	Ventura County <sup>6</sup>
Regional parkland standard (acres per 1,000 population)	n/a	6	6	n/a	2.5	n/a
2045 population <sup>7</sup>	281,200	11,677,200	3,534,600	3,251,700	2,815,000	947,500
Acres of Regional parkland/open space within 45-mile radius of 2045 HQTAs <sup>8</sup>	1,194,653.53	911,711.94	181,505.98	1,659,657.76	2,641,955.40	1,063,942.04
Acres regional parkland/ open space per 1,000 population within 45-mile radius of 2045 HQTAs	4,248.81	78.08	51.35	510.37	938.49	1,122.78
<b>Regional parkland surplus/deficiency within 45-mile radius of 2045 HQTAs</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>72.08 acre surplus</b>	<b>45.35 acre surplus</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>935.99 acre surplus</b>	<b>n/a</b>

Source:

- 1 Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department. *County General Plan: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>, accessed September 5, 2019.
- 2 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. March 2015. *Public Review Draft March 2015 Text-Only Version: Los Angeles County General Plan*. Available at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_draft-march2015.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_draft-march2015.pdf), accessed November 1, 2019.
- 3 Orange County Public Works Development Services. July 2014. *General Plan: Chapter VII. Recreation Element*. Available at: <http://ocplanning.net/civicax/filebank/blobload.aspx?blobid=24960>, accessed November 1, 2019.
- 4 Riverside County Planning Department. 8 December 2015. *Riverside County General Plan – Current*. Available at: <http://planning.rctlma.org/ZoningInformation/GeneralPlan.aspx>, accessed November 1, 2019.
- 5 County of San Bernardino Land Use Service Division. Amended 24 April 2014. *County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan*. Available at: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>, accessed November 1, 2019.
- 6 County of Ventura Resource Management Agency, Planning Division. Amended 8 May 2007. *Ventura County General Plan: Public Facilities & Services Appendix*. Available at: <https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/GENERAL-PLAN-Public-Facilities-Services-Appendix.pdf>, accessed November 1, 2019.
- 7 SCAG modeling, 2019.
- 8 GreenInfo Network. Accessed November 2019. *California Protected Areas Data Portal*. Available at: <http://www.calands.org/>

Local parks and urban areas are often overburdened in part because they are smaller and serve populated areas. As the land use strategies in the Plan emphasize compact development, it is possible that local parks could become overburdened. Accessibility to parks is also a public health concern and is addressed under Environmental Justice in the Plan. Urbanized areas, such as the low-income communities of Westlake and Southeast Los Angeles in the City of Los Angeles, are significantly park poor, with less than half an acre of park space per 1,000 residents.<sup>84</sup> Construction of transportation projects, as well as development in underutilized urban (opportunity) areas, as a result of land use strategies in the Plan would have the potential to impact recreational facilities both directly (through the acquisition of land)

<sup>84</sup> Los Angeles Department of City Planning. March 2015. *Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles: A Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan*. Available at: <http://planning.lacity.org/cwd/gnlpln/PlanforHealthyLA.pdf>, accessed June 24, 2019.



and indirectly (through development of transportation projects, urban uses, and increasing use of existing parks).

There may be sufficient parkland available in 2045 in some areas, while other areas may see a substantial increase in population and/or existing parks/recreational facilities may be transformed into development. As a result, by 2045 some areas and parks could have a lower LOS as a result of increasing population with no associated increase in park area, and some communities could have fewer parks. These impacts are expected to disproportionately affect urban centers where land prices are high. All of which is expected to result in existing parks and recreational facilities experiencing increased use and associated physical deterioration or accelerated physical deterioration.

Many of the transportation projects included in the Plan are located in urbanized areas, and therefore, are not likely to result in direct significant impacts to undisturbed lands or large tracts of land designated as open space. Additionally, as described in the regulatory framework, designated parklands are well protected at the local, state, and federal level.

Land use strategies described in the Plan would target growth in urbanized areas such as HQTAs that provide walkable, bikeable, and/or transit-oriented land patterns. Although HQTAs account for only 3 percent of total land areas, they are projected to accommodate 48 percent of the region's future households and 59 percent of the future jobs in 2045 under the Plan.<sup>85</sup> While land use strategies included in the Plan encourage additional parks and other regional and local biking and walking amenities, many of the areas where density would be expected to increase are areas without sufficient park space, resulting in increased use and the accelerated deterioration of existing neighborhood parks and recreational facilities.

The Plan includes strategies for active transportation, including expansion of the regional greenway network, regional and local bikeway network, and short-trip strategies to improve sidewalk quality and use of complete streets when making roadway improvements. These strategies are integrated with land use patterns such as HQTAs, livable corridors, neighborhood mobility areas, as well as with innovative technologies such as neighborhood electric micro-mobility vehicles through scooter and bike share programs. While the Plan has the potential to result in a significant impact on existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, implementation of such strategies can facilitate the creation of new neighborhood and regional recreational facilities and opportunities.

Overall, implementation of transportation projects as well as the transportation and land use strategies in the Plan would have the potential to increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks and

---

<sup>85</sup> SCAG SPM Model Output, September 13, 2019

other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated, resulting in a significant impact requiring mitigation measures.

### *Mitigation Measures*

#### SCAG Mitigation Measure

See SMM USWS-1.

**SMM REC-1:** SCAG shall continue the commitment to analyze public health outcomes as part of the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (Plan). As part of the public health analysis for the Plan, SCAG shall continue to analyze resident access to parks and recreational facilities from a county level to help local jurisdictions to improve resident access to parks. SCAG shall communicate the impacts of the Plan through its Public Health Working group, and continue to support policy changes at the city and county level through educational programs.

#### Project Level Mitigation Measures

**PMM REC-1:** In accordance with provisions of sections 15091(a)(2) and 15126.4(a)(1)(B) of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, a Lead Agency for a project can and should consider mitigation measures to reduce substantial adverse effects on the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, as applicable and feasible. Such measures may include the following or other comparable measures identified by the Lead Agency:

- a) Prior to the issuance of permits, where projects require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities or the payment of equivalent Quimby fees, consider increasing the accessibility to natural areas and lands for outdoor recreation from the proposed project area, in coordination with local and regional open space planning and/or responsible management agencies.
- b) Prior to the issuance of permits, where projects require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities or the payment of equivalent Quimby fees, encourage patterns of urban development and land use which reduce costs on infrastructure and make better use of existing facilities, using strategies such as:
  - i. Increasing the accessibility to natural areas for outdoor recreation
  - ii. Utilizing “green” development techniques

- iii. Promoting water-efficient land use and development
- iv. Encouraging multiple uses, such as the joint use of schools
- v. Including trail systems and trail segments in General Plan recreation standards

#### *Level of Significance after Mitigation*

As discussed above, regulations and policies would reduce impacts but given the regional scale of the analysis in this PEIR, it is not possible to determine if all impacts would be fully mitigated by existing regulations and policies. Therefore, this PEIR identifies project-level mitigation consistent with applicable regulations and policies designed to reduce impacts. Lead Agencies may choose to include project-level mitigation measures in environmental documents as they determine to be appropriate and feasible. However, because of the regional nature of the analysis and the lack of project specific-detail, including project components and locations, and SCAG's lack of authority to impose project-level mitigation measures, this PEIR finds impacts to existing park facilities could be significant and unavoidable even with implementation of mitigation.

**Impact REC-2                      Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities, need for new or physically altered park facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, or other performance objectives.**

**Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.**

#### *Significant and Unavoidable Impact – Mitigation Required.*

Implementation of the Plan would result in additional linear recreation facilities, including a regional greenway network, a regional bikeway network, and local bikeway networks, the construction of which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. Furthermore, the Plan encourages increased residential and commercial development in HQTAs that may necessitate the construction or expansion of recreation facilities within or in nearby accessible locations to the HQTAs, which are typically urban areas. Development of recreation facilities benefits the community socially, economically and environmentally. Recreational facilities and programs can also promote public health. For example, San Bernardino County enacted the Vision 2B Active program to promote health and wellness in the county

by encouraging residents to increase their physical activity and connecting them to existing recreational programs, amenities, and activities.<sup>86, 87</sup>

As discussed in **Section 3.14, Population and Housing**, the total population in the SCAG region is expected to increase by approximately 3.2 million people by 2045, independent of the Plan. The land use framework of the Plan assumes an increase in small-lot, single- and multi-family housing that is expected to mainly occur in infill locations near transit infrastructure (HQTAs and transit priority areas [TPAs]), and transit-oriented communities. This increased density in urban areas will increase demand for parks and recreational facilities in these areas. Larger parks become increasingly difficult to provide as space is limited and land is expensive. When park development and expansion in urban areas occurs, it is beneficial but can also result in environmental impacts associated with construction and operation. Park construction, including the linear recreational facilities considered in the Plan, can result in noise and air quality impacts and park and recreational facility operation can also result in long-term noise and night lighting impacts. See **Section 3.3, Air Quality**, and **Section 3.13, Noise**, for a discussion of air quality and noise impacts from construction and mitigation to reduce these impacts. Therefore, this PEIR finds that potential construction and/or expansion of recreational facilities that may result from implementation of the Plan has the potential to result in a significant adverse impact, and mitigation measures are required.

### *Mitigation Measures*

#### SCAG Mitigation Measure

See **SMM REC-1**.

#### Project Level Mitigation Measures

See **PMM REC-1, PMM AQ-2, and PMM NOISE-1**.

### *Level of Significance after Mitigation*

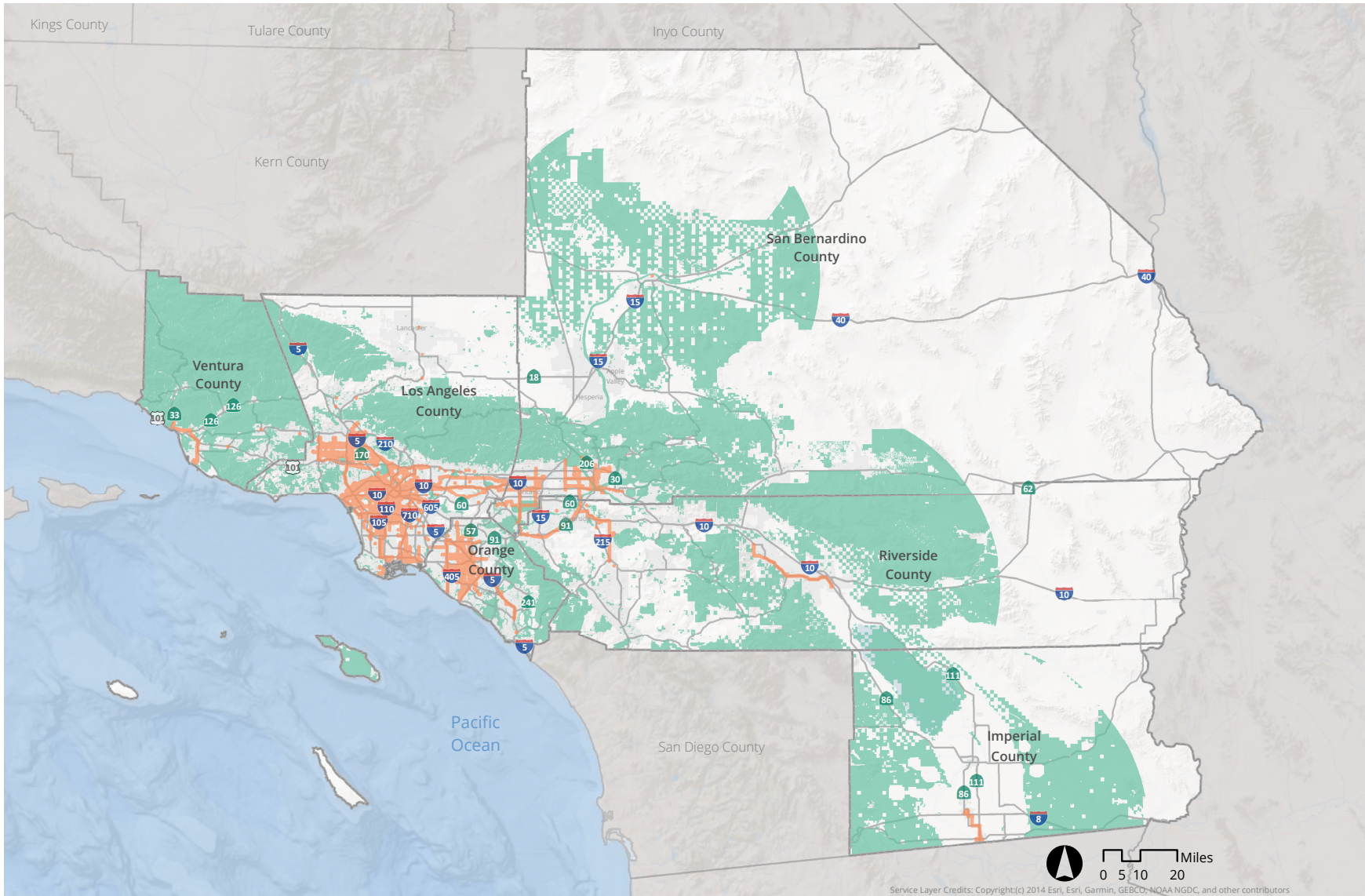
As discussed above, regulations and policies would reduce impacts but given the regional scale of the analysis in this PEIR, it is not possible to determine if all impacts would be fully mitigated by existing regulations and policies. Therefore, this PEIR identifies project-level mitigation measures consistent with applicable regulations and policies designed to reduce impacts. Lead Agencies may choose to include

---

<sup>86</sup> SCAG. 2019. *Public Health Draft Technical Report*.

<sup>87</sup> National Recreation and Park Association. *Why Parks and Recreation are Essential Public Services*. Available online at: <https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Advocacy/Resources/Parks-Recreation-Essential-Public-Services-January-2010.pdf>

project-level mitigation measures in environmental documents as they determine to be appropriate and feasible. However, because of the regional nature of the analysis and the lack of project specific-detail, including project components and locations, and SCAG's lack of authority to impose project-level mitigation measures, this PEIR finds impacts resulting from the construction and operation of parks could be significant and unavoidable even with implementation of mitigation.



Regional Recreation and Open Space Areas within a 45-Mile Radius of 2045 HQTAs

■ Recreation and Open Space   
 ■ High Quality Transit Areas

SOURCE: California Protected Areas Database 2017a, SCAG, 2019

FIGURE 3.16-1

Regional Recreation and Open Space Areas within a 45-Mile Radius of 2045 HQTAs

### 3.16.4 SOURCES

American Trails. *NRT Database*. Available online at: <http://www.nrtdatabase.org/>, accessed August 20, 2019.

California Department of Parks and Recreation. *California Recreational Trails Plan Trail Corridors*. Available at: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25680](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25680), accessed November 6, 2018.

California Department of Parks and Recreation. *Find a Park by County*. Available online at: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex>, accessed October 24, 2018.

California Department of Parks and Recreation. *Trails Plan – 2011 Progress Report*. Available at: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25677](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25677), accessed November 6, 2018.

California Legislative Information. 1970. *Article 10.5. Open Space Lands [65560-65570]*. Available online at: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=65560](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=65560), accessed August 20, 2019.

California Legislative Information. 1971. *Chapter 2.5. Preservation of Public Parks [5400-5409]*. Available online at: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=5.&title=&part=&chapter=2.5.&article=](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=5.&title=&part=&chapter=2.5.&article=), accessed August 20, 2019.

California Legislative Information. 1976. *CHAPTER 1.75. Native American Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Sites [5097.9-5097.991]*. Available online at: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=5097.9](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=5097.9), accessed August 20, 2019.

California Legislative Information. 1987. *CHAPTER 5. Fees for Development Project [66000-66008]*. Available online at: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=1.&title=7.&part=&chapter=5.&article=](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=1.&title=7.&part=&chapter=5.&article=), accessed August 20, 2019.

California Legislative Information. 2002. *CHAPTER 1.76. Native American Historic Resource Protection Act [5097.993-5097.994]*. Available online at: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=5097.993](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=5097.993), accessed August 20, 2019.

California Legislative Information. *AB-1191 Quimby Act*. Available online at: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB1191](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1191), accessed August 20, 2019.

California Protected Areas (CPAD). 2018. *CPAD Statistics*. August. Available online at: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-protected-areas-database-2018a>, accessed July 30, 2019.

California State Parks. *Hungry Valley SVRA*. Available online at: [http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1192](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1192), accessed September 17, 2019.

- County of Imperial Planning & Development Services. 2008. *Imperial County General Plan: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Parks-&-Recreation-Element-\(2008\).pdf](http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Parks-&-Recreation-Element-(2008).pdf), accessed November 6, 2018.
- County of Imperial Planning & Development Services. 2016. *Imperial County General Plan: Conservation and Open Space Element*. Available online at: <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>, accessed November 6, 2018.
- County of San Bernardino Land Use Service Division. Amended 2014. *County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan*. Available online at: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>, accessed November 6, 2018.
- County of San Bernardino. 2019. *San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR*. June. Available online at: [http://countywideplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Ch\\_05-15-REC.pdf](http://countywideplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Ch_05-15-REC.pdf), accessed July 30, 2019.
- County of San Bernardino. 2019. *San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR*. June. Available online at: [http://countywideplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Ch\\_05-15-REC.pdf](http://countywideplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Ch_05-15-REC.pdf), accessed July 30, 2019.
- County of Ventura Resource Management Agency, Planning Division. 2005. *Ventura County General Plan: Resources Appendix*. Available online at: <https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/General-Plan-Resources-Appendix.pdf>, accessed November 6, 2018.
- County of Ventura Resource Management Agency, Planning Division. 2005. *Ventura County General Plan: Public Facilities & Services Appendix*. Available online at: <https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/GENERAL-PLAN-Public-Facilities-Services-Appendix.pdf>, accessed November 6, 2018.
- Government Publishing Office. 1968. *National Trails System Act: Public Law 90-543*. Available online at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-82/pdf/STATUTE-82-Pg919.pdf>, accessed August 20, 2019.
- Government Publishing Office. 1995. *Executive Order 12962 of June 7, 1995*. Available online at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1995-06-09/pdf/95-14407.pdf>, accessed August 20, 2019.
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research. 2017. *State of California General Plan Guidelines*. Available online at: [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR\\_COMPLETE\\_7.31.17.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR_COMPLETE_7.31.17.pdf), accessed August 20, 2019.
- GreenInfo Network. 2016. *California Protected Areas: Data Portal*. Available online at: <http://www.calands.org/>, accessed October 29, 2018.
- Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department. 2008. *Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Parks-&-Recreation-Element-\(2008\).pdf](http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Parks-&-Recreation-Element-(2008).pdf), accessed August 19, 2019.
- Imperial County Planning and Development Services. 2018. *Parks and Recreation*. Available online at: <https://www.co.imperial.ca.us/publicwork/index.asp?fileinc=parkscounty>, accessed July 30, 2019.



- Imperial County. 1993. *General Plan Environmental Impact Report, Update*. Available online at: <http://www.icpds.com/?pid=829>, accessed March 27, 2019.
- Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Frequently Asked Questions. Available online at: <http://parks.lacounty.gov/frequently-asked-questions/>, accessed July 30, 2019.
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *General Plan 2035: Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf), accessed November 6, 2018.
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 2015. *Los Angeles County General Plan Adopted October 6, 2015: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element*. Available online at: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp\\_final-general-plan.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf), accessed August 19, 2019.
- Los Angeles Department of City Planning. March 2015. Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles: A Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan. Available at: <http://planning.lacity.org/cwd/gnlpln/PlanforHealthyLA.pdf>, accessed June 24, 2019.
- National Park Service. 2015. *Land and Water Conservation Fund*. Available online at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/protection.htm>, accessed August 20, 2019.
- National Recreation and Parks Association. *NRPA Parks Metrics* Available online at: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/ParkMetrics/>, accessed March 29, 2019.
- Orange County Development Services. 2012. *General Plan: Chapter VI Resources Element*. Available online at: <http://www.ocpublicworks.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=40235>, accessed November 6, 2018.
- Orange County Public Works Development Services. 2015. *General Plan: Chapter VII. Recreation Element*. Available online at: <http://ocplanning.net/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24960>, accessed August 19, 2019.
- Orange County. 2018. *OC Parks Strategic Plan*. Available online at: <http://www.ocparks.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=82682>, accessed July 30, 2019.
- Riverside County Planning Department. *Current General Plan Documents*. Available online at: <https://planning.rctlma.org/ZoningInformation/GeneralPlan.aspx>, accessed November 6, 2018.
- Riverside County. 2015. *County of Riverside General Plan Chapter 5: Multipurpose Open Space Element*. December. Available online at: [https://planning.rctlma.org/Portals/14/genplan/general\\_Plan\\_2017/elements/OCT17/Ch05\\_MOSE\\_120815.pdf?ver=2017-10-11-102103-833](https://planning.rctlma.org/Portals/14/genplan/general_Plan_2017/elements/OCT17/Ch05_MOSE_120815.pdf?ver=2017-10-11-102103-833), accessed July 30, 2019.
- San Bernardino County Land Use Services. 2007. *County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan*. Available online at: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>, accessed August 19, 2019.

San Bernardino County Land Use Services. 2007. *County of San Bernardino 2007 General Plan*. Available online at: <http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/lus/GeneralPlan/FINALGP.pdf>, accessed August 19, 2019.

SCAG. 2016. *2016-2040 RTP: Active Transportation Appendix*. Available online at: [http://scagrtpsc.net/Documents/2016/final/f2016RTPSCS\\_ActiveTransportation.pdf](http://scagrtpsc.net/Documents/2016/final/f2016RTPSCS_ActiveTransportation.pdf), accessed September 4, 2019.

SCAG. 2015. *2016 Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy PEIR*. November 2015.

Southern California Association of Governments. *2008 Regional Comprehensive Plan, Open Space & Habitat Chapter*. Available online at: [http://www.scag.ca.gov/Documents/f2008RCP\\_OpenSpaceHabitat.pdf](http://www.scag.ca.gov/Documents/f2008RCP_OpenSpaceHabitat.pdf), accessed March 27, 2019.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2017 ACS 5 Year Population Estimates. Available online at: [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml), accessed July 30, 2019.

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service. 2019. *Reference Manual 45: National Trails System*. Available online at: [https://www.nps.gov/policy/Reference\\_Manual\\_45.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/policy/Reference_Manual_45.pdf), accessed August 20, 2019.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. *Environmental Review Toolkit: Section 4(f)*. Available online at: <https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/legislation/section4f.aspx>, accessed November 6, 2018.

USDA. 2005. *Land Management Plan: Part 1 Southern California National Forests Vision*. Available online at: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5166876.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5166876.pdf), accessed August 20, 2019.