

1 **3.15 RECREATION**

RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 **3.15.1 Environmental Setting**

3 The Park is designated as parks/recreation and resort in Needles, California General  
 4 Plan, Land Use (City of Needles 2015). The Park offers boating, camping, and limited  
 5 stay mobile housing. Amenities for visitors include full and partial hook-ups for RVs and  
 6 unlimited tent camping, water park, and horse shoe pits. Activities within the Park  
 7 include fishing and swimming in the River, use of OHVs at the designated OHV areas,  
 8 and inland and peninsula camping.

9 In addition, directly adjacent to the Project area, the Pirate’s Cove Resort and Marina  
 10 provide lodging, concession and other services to the visitors of the Park.

11 OHV areas are designated within the Project area; however, although OHV recreational  
 12 users access small pockets within the Project area, the designated areas are along the  
 13 perimeter of the footprint of the new open backwater channel. OHV trails run along the  
 14 current access roads and would remain OHV trails after the construction of the Project  
 15 (Figure 2.2-1). The Project would create an open backwater channel where currently  
 16 dense vegetation is located and OHV users are unable to access.

17 **3.15.2 Regulatory Setting**

18 No Federal or State laws relevant to this issue area are applicable to the Project. The  
 19 following goals and policies related to recreation are from the San Bernardino County  
 20 2007 General Plan:

- 21 • Chapter VI. Open Space Element – Section B. Goal OS 1. Countywide Goals  
 22 and Policies of the Open Pace Element. To provide plentiful open spaces, local  
 23 parks, and a wide variety of recreational amenities for all residents.

1 **3.15.3 Impact Analysis (CEQA)**

2 a) ***Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional***  
3 ***parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical***  
4 ***deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?***

5 b) ***Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction***  
6 ***or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse***  
7 ***physical effect on the environment?***

8 **Less than Significant Impact.** As discussed in Section 3.13, *Population and*  
9 *Housing*, implementation of the Project would not generate the need for new jobs  
10 or housing which would induce population growth in adjacent areas, and  
11 ultimately increase the use of Park facilities or other recreational facilities in the  
12 region.

13 In addition, OHV designated trails are located along the perimeter of the Project  
14 area. Although the OHV recreational users can access small pockets within the  
15 Project area, The open backwater channel would be located in the areas where  
16 dense vegetation currently exist and as a result, is not accessible to OHV users  
17 (Figure 2.2-1). Construction of the Project would not eliminate or reduce OHV  
18 access. Moreover, the placement of the excavated materials to the east of the  
19 Project area (Figure 2.4-1) where OHV recreation is designated, is anticipated to  
20 be easily accessible as a result of the placement and grading of the materials.  
21 This area (the remaining 99 acres) would remain under the responsibility of the  
22 County and would be managed as a regional Park; therefore, the impacts to  
23 recreation would be less than significant.

24 **3.15.4 Environmental Consequences (NEPA)**

25 **No Action Alternative**

26 The No Action Alternative would have no impacts related to Recreation. The Project  
27 would not be implemented and the Park would continue to be operated as a regional  
28 Park with activities as boating, camping, and limited stay mobile housing within the Park  
29 boundaries. The creation of additional open backwater habitat would not be constructed  
30 and the level of visitation and recreational activities within the Park would not be  
31 influenced by the Project.

32 **Proposed Action (Project)**

33 The Project is designed to create open backwater, wetland, riparian, and upland habitat  
34 within the Project area where it is currently being utilized as a designated OHV  
35 recreation area (Figure 2.4-4). The implementation of the Project would allow for the  
36 continued use and operation of OHVs along the perimeter of the Project area, where the  
37 designated OHV access trails are currently located.

38 Although OHV use and operation are occurring within small pockets of the densely  
39 vegetated areas, excavation of the open backwater would occur in these areas where

1 access is currently limited because of the existing dense vegetation (Figure 2.2-1).  
2 During construction of Phases 1 through 3, construction activities would temporarily limit  
3 the OHV recreational use because adjacent areas would be used by the Project until  
4 the backwaters and other habitat areas are established (Figure 2.4-1).

5 OHV recreational use and other recreational activities would not be prohibited or  
6 encouraged where the open backwater, wetland, riparian, and upland areas are  
7 developed (Figure 2.4-4).

8 It is anticipated that short-term/temporary impacts to Park operations and recreation  
9 would occur during construction. However, this would be short-term and once the  
10 Project is completed, the Project area would blend into the existing landscape and the  
11 regional Park would maintain its current operations.

## 12 **Cumulative Impacts**

13 The analysis area for potential cumulative impacts related to Recreation was defined as  
14 the Project area since no cumulative impacts are anticipated outside the Project area.  
15 Although the Project would limit OHV recreational use to the perimeter of the Project  
16 area during construction, no potential impacts are anticipated within the area of analysis  
17 and no cumulative impacts are anticipated to recreation because the Project design  
18 would not impact the current operations of the Park.

## 19 **3.15.5 Mitigation Summary (CEQA Only)**

20 The Project would not result in significant impacts to Recreation. Therefore, no  
21 mitigation is required.