

## 5. Environmental Analysis

### 5.16 RECREATION

This section of the program EIR evaluates the potential for implementation of the SUP to impact recreation facilities and parks in the District. The section discusses plans and policies from the Education Code, along with the existing recreation facilities throughout the SUP area, and possible environmental impacts that may occur during future phases of the SUP.

#### 5.16.1 Environmental Setting

##### 5.16.1.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

State regulations are summarized below. The following regulatory framework discussion does not include all plans and policies that relate to recreation in the District. Site-specific projects have not been identified, and there may be local jurisdictional plans and policies that are applicable depending on the type of project and the location. Specific requirements might not be up to date when a proposed site-specific school project undergoes review; therefore, this section provides a general discussion of the most important one.

##### State

###### *California Education Code Section 38131.b*

The **Civic Center Act** permits public use of school facilities. Organizations and uses qualifying for Civic Center permits are shown in Table 5.16-1. School facilities available for Civic Center use include gyms, playing fields, stadiums, auditoriums, multipurpose rooms, cafeterias, and classrooms. Facilities are available within designated time frames outside school hours. Organizations wishing to use a school location for a Civic Center use must apply for a permit from the District. A variety of rules, regulations, and restrictions governing the use of school buildings for civic center purposes appear in detail on the permit and the application.

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**Table 5.16-1 Civic Center Organizations and Uses**

Qualify for Civic Center Permits	Do Not Qualify for Civic Center Permits
Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs)	For-profit organizations
Girl/Boy Scout Troops	Swimming pools
Senior citizens' organizations	Private school activities
Youth groups	Parking lots
Recreational activities of clubs and associations concerned with education, recreation, arts, politics, economics, charity	Religious services
Meetings/discussions open to the general public concerned with education, politics, economics, arts, charities, culture, community moral interests	Political campaign headquarters
Exercise classes such as jazzercise, aerobics, and jujitsu	Cultural classes
Good news clubs	Invitation only and exclusive meetings
Authorized Ballroom dances sponsored by Youth Services and PTAs	Tennis courts
	Roller blading
	Gymnastics
	Karate
	Child care and enrichment programs
	Wrestling
	Hammer throwing and discus
	Nonauthorized ballroom dances
	Picnics
	Weight lifting

### 5.16.1.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### Major Recreational Facilities

Major recreational facilities in the District are described below by Educational Service Center (ESC). Major recreational areas listed are limited to federal, state, and county facilities; city parks are included in summaries below by city.

#### *North ESC*

- Angeles National Forest: about 700,000 acres; 50 campgrounds; 557 miles of hiking and equestrian trails.<sup>1</sup>
- Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park
- Verdugo Mountains State Park property

<sup>1</sup> Angeles National Forest. 2014, February 24. Hiking. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/angeles/recreation/hiking>.

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- El Cariso Community Regional Park in the Community of Sylmar in the City of Los Angeles
- Veterans Memorial Community Regional Park in the Community of Sylmar in the City of Los Angeles
- Santa Clarita Woodlands Park (portions owned and operated by City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County)

### *East ESC*

- Earnest E. Debs Regional Park in the Community of Lincoln Heights in the City of Los Angeles
- Los Angeles State Historic Park next to the Community of Chinatown in the City of Los Angeles
- Rio de Los Angeles State Park next to the Community of Mt. Washington in the City of Los Angeles
- Belvedere Community Regional Park in the Community of East Los Angeles in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

### *West ESC*

- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (includes Topanga State Park)
- Santa Monica State Beach in the City of Santa Monica
- Dockweiler State Beach in the Community of Playa Del Rey in the City of Los Angeles
- Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area in the Community of Ladera Heights in unincorporated Los Angeles County.<sup>2</sup>
- Will Rogers State Historic Park

### *South ESC*

- Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in the Community of Wilmington in the City of Los Angeles
- Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center in the Community of San Pedro in the City of Los Angeles
- Earvin Magic Johnson County Recreation Area in the Community of Willowbrook in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

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<sup>2</sup> Part of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area is in the City of Los Angeles; the Community of Ladera Heights in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

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- Jesse Owens Community Regional Park in the Community of South Los Angeles in the City of Los Angeles
- Victoria Community Regional Park in the City of Carson

#### *Proposed Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study*

A Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment for a 400,000-acre area including the Santa Monica Mountains, western San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Susana Mountains, and Simi Hills are under preparation by the National Park Service, with completion anticipated in 2014.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of the special resource study is to determine whether any portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor study area is eligible to be designated as a unit of the national park system or added to an existing national park. The study will also explore other ways that private or governmental entities can protect resources and provide more outdoor recreation opportunities.<sup>4</sup> The Rim of the Valley Corridor study area includes parts of the North and West Educational Service Center areas.

#### **City Parks**

##### *Los Angeles*

The City of Los Angeles has 420 parks totaling approximately 15,700 acres. The largest city park, Griffith Park, spans 4,282 acres in the North and East Educational Service Center areas.<sup>5</sup> Notable facilities in Los Angeles city parks include the Griffith Observatory in Griffith Park and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro. Major recreational facilities, in addition to Griffith Park, include Hansen Dam Recreation Area and Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area.

##### *Other Cities*

##### *North ESC Area*

- San Fernando: seven parks<sup>6</sup>

##### *West ESC Area*

- West Hollywood: seven parks<sup>7</sup>

##### *South ESC Area*

- **Bell:** seven parks<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> An Environmental Assessment is a type of environmental documentation prepared for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

<sup>4</sup> National Park Service (NPS). 2014, February 12. Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study. <http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/index.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. 2014, February 3. Who We Are. <http://www.laparks.org/dos/dept/who.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> City of San Fernando. 2014, February 3. Park Facilities. <http://www.sfrcs.com/park-facilities/>.

<sup>7</sup> City of West Hollywood. 2014, February 3. Parks and Facilities. <http://www.weho.org/residents/recreation-services/parks-and-facilities>.

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- **Carson:** 15 parks, total over 110 acres<sup>9</sup>
- **Cudahy:** four parks<sup>10</sup>
- **Gardena:** seven parks<sup>11</sup>
- **Huntington Park:** seven parks, total over 31 acres<sup>12</sup>
- **Lomita:** five parks<sup>13</sup>
- **Maywood:** three parks<sup>14</sup>
- **South Gate:** nine parks, total about 172 acres<sup>15</sup>

In addition to city parks summarized above, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation provides local parks in unincorporated areas: for instance, six county parks in the Community of East Los Angeles.<sup>16</sup>

### 5.16.2 Thresholds of Significance

According to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G a project would normally have a significant effect on the environment if the project:

- REC-1      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.
- REC-2      Includes recreational facilities or requires the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

### 5.16.3 Environmental Impacts

The applicable thresholds are identified in brackets after the impact statement.

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**Impact 5.16-1: SUP implementation would not cause substantially physical deterioration in parks or recreational facilities. [Threshold REC-1]**

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#### All SUP Projects

The SUP would not increase population in the District. The SUP would expand existing schools; replace, modernize, and repair existing buildings at existing schools; and make other improvements at existing schools,

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<sup>8</sup> City of Bell. 2014, February 3.

<sup>9</sup> City of Carson. 2014, February. Parks. [http://ci.carson.ca.us/content/department/pub\\_service/parks\\_rec\\_parks.asp](http://ci.carson.ca.us/content/department/pub_service/parks_rec_parks.asp).

<sup>10</sup> City of Cudahy. 2014, February 3. About the City. <http://www.cityofcudahy.com/about/about.asp>.

<sup>11</sup> City of Gardena. 2014, February 3. Facilities. <http://www.ci.gardena.ca.us/facilities.html>.

<sup>12</sup> City of Huntington Park. 2014, February 3. City Parks. <http://www.huntingtonpark.org/index.aspx?NID=28>.

<sup>13</sup> City of Lomita. 1998, December. Lomita General Plan Land Use Element. <http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/citygov/pzbs/generalplan/landuse.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> City of Maywood. 2014, February 3. Parks & Recreation Description.

[http://www.cityofmaywood.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=162&Itemid=165](http://www.cityofmaywood.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=162&Itemid=165).

<sup>15</sup> City of South Gate. 2014, February 3. City Parks. <http://www.sogate.org/download/index.cfm/fuseaction/download/cid/444/>.

<sup>16</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 2014, February 3. Parks Locator. <http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/parkslocator/>.

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including installation of photovoltaic panels and wind arrays. Demands for parks are generated by the populations in the parks' service areas. Thus, the SUP would not create increased demands for parks and recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

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**Impact 5.16-2: SUP implementation would not have an adverse physical effect on the environment from the provision of new and/or expanded recreational facilities. [Threshold REC-2]**

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#### All SUP Projects

The SUP would not develop recreational facilities outside District-owned property. District schools include athletic and recreational facilities. The SUP would include repair, modernization, upgrade, and replacements of athletic facilities, including play equipment, and replacement of natural turf with synthetic turf. Further, development of new recreational facilities adjacent to existing campuses, or expansion and/or improvement of recreation facilities on existing or expanded school sites would provide, for example via joint-use, a positive impact on the availability of recreational facilities in communities served by schools. No environmental impacts to community recreational facilities would result from development or expansion of schools.

### 5.16.4 Applicable Regulations and Standard Conditions

#### State

- California Education Code Section 38131.b: Civic Center Act

### 5.16.5 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Upon implementation of Civic Center Act requirements the following impacts would be less than significant: 5.16-1 and 5.16-2.

### 5.16.6 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

### 5.16.7 Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.