

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

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### **18. PUBLIC SERVICES—PARKS AND RECREATION**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzes the Project's potential impacts on parks and recreation facilities in the Project vicinity and determines whether such facilities can accommodate the Project. The analysis is based in part on information provided by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (County Parks Department) and the City of Santa Clarita (City) Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, included in **Appendix 5.18** of this Draft EIR.

#### **2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

##### **a. Regulatory Setting**

##### **(1) Federal Regulations**

Several federal recreational facilities are located in the Project vicinity, as detailed further below. As such, a summary of relevant federal agencies and regulations pertaining to parks and recreation follows..

##### ***(a) United States Forest Service***

The United States Forest Service (U.S. Forest Service) manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. As discussed further below, several national forests and recreation areas are located in the Project vicinity.

##### ***(b) Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act***

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act allows the federal government to charge a fee for the recreational use of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.<sup>1,2</sup> The recreation fee program ensures that such fees are retained by the collecting site and used for improvements therein.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, Public Law 108-447, Section 804, December 2004.*

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**(c) National Wilderness Preservation System**

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established a National Wilderness Preservation System comprised of federally owned lands designated by Congress as “wilderness areas.” Wilderness areas are administered in a manner that provides for their protection, the preservation of their wilderness character, and the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment. No federal lands may be designated as wilderness areas except as provided for in the Wilderness Act or by a subsequent Act.

**(d) National Trails System Act of 1968**

The National Trails System is a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968.<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the Act, trails may be established near urban areas, within scenic areas, and along historic travel routes. The purpose of the National Trails System Act is to: institute a national system of recreation, scenic, and historic trails; designate the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail as the initial components of that system; and prescribe the methods by which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system.

**(2) State Regulations**

As a number of state park facilities are located in the Project vicinity, as detailed further below, relevant state regulations regarding parks and recreation are summarized herein.

**(a) California State Parks**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) manages 280 park “units” in the California State Parks System. Because of the breadth and diversity of the resources that California State Parks oversees, there are a variety of departments, policies, and publications that guide the management of the California State Parks System, such as the California Outdoor Recreation Plan, the California Recreation Policy, the California Recreation Trails Plan, and a General Plan for more than 125 individual park units.

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<sup>2</sup> *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Digest of Federal Resource Laws of Interest to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), [www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/REA.html](http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/REA.html), accessed March 5, 2015.*

<sup>3</sup> *United States Code, Title 16, Sections 1241–1251.*

**(b) Quimby Act**

The State's Quimby Act was enacted to promote the availability of park and open space areas in California.<sup>4</sup> The Quimby Act authorizes cities and counties to enact ordinances requiring the dedication of land, or the payment of fees for park and/or recreational facilities in lieu thereof, or both, by developers of residential subdivisions as a condition to the approval of a tentative map or parcel map. Accordingly, the County of Los Angeles (County) has adopted a Parkland Dedication Ordinance.

The Quimby Act, codified in Government Code Section 66477(a)(2), establishes a maximum parkland dedication standard of three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for new subdivision development, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community parkland exceeds that limit, as follows:

*The dedication of land, or the payment of fees, or both, shall not exceed the proportionate amount necessary to provide three acres of park area per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision,... unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community park area,... exceeds that limit, in which case the legislative body may adopt the calculated amount as a higher standard not to exceed five acres per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision.*

**(3) County Regulations****(a) County of Los Angeles General Plan**

As discussed in more detail in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, of this Draft EIR, the County's General Plan directs future growth and development in the County's unincorporated areas and establishes goals, policies, and objectives that pertain to the entire County. The current General Plan, adopted in 1980, includes a Conservation and Open Space Element that sets policy for the open space-related resources in the County, which include land and water areas devoted to recreation, scenic beauty, conservation, and the use of natural resources. To protect areas of significant natural resources, the Conservation and Open Space Element recommends the retention of non-urban or open space areas. Special emphasis is on the protection of hillside character and Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs).<sup>5</sup> The Element also has goals to protect sites of historical,

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<sup>4</sup> California Government Code, Section 66477, Quimby Act.

<sup>5</sup> Significant Ecological Areas are ecologically important land and water systems that support valuable habitat for plants and animals, often integral to the preservation of rare, threatened, or endangered species and the conservation of biological diversity in the County. Source: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, SEA Program, <http://planning.lacounty.gov/sea>, accessed March 5, 2015.

archaeological, scenic, and scientific value. Relevant policies focus on providing low intensity outdoor recreation compatible with the protection of natural resources and developing local parks in urban areas.

As also discussed further in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, the County released a draft General Plan update, entitled Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 (Draft General Plan), in January 2014 and a Draft EIR addressing the Draft General Plan in June 2014. This Draft General Plan contains a new Conservation and Natural Resources Element that includes a section on Open Space Resources with stated goals of meeting the County's diverse needs and effective collaboration in open space resource preservation.

The General Plan policy consistency analysis provided in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, of this Draft EIR, indicates the Project would be consistent with relevant General Plan polices related to parks and recreation.

***(b) Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012***

As discussed in greater detail in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, of this Draft EIR, the recently updated Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012 (Area Plan) serves as a long-term guide for development over the next 20 years. The Area Plan ensures consistency between the General Plans of the County and the City in order to achieve common goals and encourages the coordination of land use plans with public services and other departments or agencies. The plan also provides classifications for County Parks. Due to growth pressures in the County, particularly in and around Castaic within the Project vicinity, the need for additional playfields for youth sports is identified as a park planning objective.

Within the Area Plan, the Conservation and Open Space Element establishes a policy framework for the designation and long-term preservation of open space within the Santa Clarita Valley (Valley) and addresses associated uses and benefits, including park and recreational facilities, wildlife habitat preservation, scenic views, water recharge and watershed protection, air quality, cultural and historical resources, property values, and community character. The defined goals, objectives, and policies relate to the following issues: responsible management of environmental systems; geological, biological, water, cultural, historic, and scenic resources; air quality and greenhouse gas reduction; park, recreation, and trail facilities; and open space. Policies relevant to the Project address the development of new parklands throughout the Valley, the provision of parks within a reasonable distance of residential neighborhoods, and the enhancement of existing facilities.

The Area Plan policy consistency analysis provided in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, of this Draft EIR, indicates the Project would be consistent with applicable Area Plan policies related to parks and recreation. Specifically, see the Area Plan Consistency Analysis provided in **Appendix 5.11B** of this Draft EIR for discussion of each policy.

**(c) Los Angeles County Park and Recreation Standards**

The mission of the County Parks Department is to provide County residents and visitors with quality recreational opportunities that promote a healthy lifestyle and strengthen the community through diverse physical, education, and cultural programming. The County Parks Department has identified the following standards for neighborhood, community, and regional facilities:

- Neighborhood parks are typically 3 to 10 acres in size and serve residents living within a half-mile radius. Amenities for neighborhood parks can include informal open play areas and children’s play structures; picnic tables, picnic shelters, and barbecues; practice sports fields, as well as basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts; public restrooms; information kiosks; recreation offices; and parking.
- Community parks are typically 10 to 20 acres in size and serve neighborhoods within a one- to two-mile radius. Amenities can include informal open play areas and children’s play structures; group picnic areas with overhead shelters; lighted sports fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts; concessions buildings and maintenance buildings; public restrooms; information kiosks; and parking.
- Regional facilities are typically greater than 100 acres in size and have a service radius of 25 miles or more. They include unique areas such as lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies, and campgrounds in addition to active recreational facilities offered in community parks. Amenities can include picnic areas; nature centers; trail systems; scenic drives; campgrounds; water areas for swimming, fishing, and boating; and in some cases, sports fields.

**(d) Los Angeles County Code**

As permitted by the Quimby Act, the County has adopted a Parkland Dedication Ordinance.<sup>6</sup> The ordinance requires each subdivider of a residential subdivision to either “provide local park space to serve the subdivision, pay a fee in lieu of the provision of such park land,... provide local park space containing less than the required obligation but developed with amenities equal in value to the park fee, or do a combination of the

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<sup>6</sup> *Los Angeles County Code, Sections 21.24.340, 21.24.350, 21.28.130, and 21.28.140.*

above....”<sup>7</sup> For purposes of this ordinance, “local park space” may include, but is not limited to: “publicly or privately owned playgrounds, riding and hiking trails, tennis, basketball or other similar game-court areas, swimming pools, putting greens, athletic fields, picnic areas, and other types of natural or scenic areas... for passive or active recreation.”<sup>8</sup> However, the County Parks Department currently recommends that Quimby credit only be given for public parks due to the shortage of local parkland owned by the County.<sup>9</sup>

Under the County’s ordinance, the parkland acreage required for each subdivision is based on a formula that takes into account the number of residential units, type of residence (e.g., detached or attached single-family, multi-family with less than four or more than five units, etc.), and average household size by park planning area.<sup>10</sup> The Project Site is located in Park Planning Area 35A—Valencia/Newhall.<sup>11</sup> If all or any portion of the local park space obligation for a residential subdivision is not satisfied by the provision of local park space, a park fee is required as a condition prior to final approval of the subdivision based on a representative land value for each park planning area. For the Project, located in Park Planning Area 35A—Valencia/Newhall, the County has currently established a representative land value of \$319,597 per acre.<sup>12</sup>

The County Code also sets forth open space requirements for residential developments within Hillside Management Areas. As discussed in greater detail in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, of this Draft EIR, much of the Project Site contains hillside land, defined as mountainous and hilly areas with 25 percent slopes or greater, and is designated as H5—Residential 5, which is an urban land use designation. Per County

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<sup>7</sup> *Los Angeles County Code, Section 21.24.340.*

<sup>8</sup> *Los Angeles County Code, Section 21.24.340.*

<sup>9</sup> *Electronic Communication, James Barber, Land Acquisition & Development Section Head, Planning Division, Planning & Development Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, October 28, 2013.*

<sup>10</sup> *Los Angeles County Code, Section 21.24.340(A). See also Los Angeles County Ordinance, Section 21.24.350.*

<sup>11</sup> *Electronic Communication, James Barber, Land Acquisition & Development Section Head, Planning Division, Planning & Development Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, September 23, 2013.*

<sup>12</sup> *Los Angeles County Ordinance, Section 21.28.140(A)(1). “The representative land values included in subsection A1 of this section shall be adjusted annually, effective July 1, by the department of parks and recreation.... The adjusted representative land values shall apply to... residential subdivision maps that are first advertised by the department of regional planning for hearing before either a hearing officer to the Regional Planning Commission on or after the respective July 1 adjustment date.” (Los Angeles County Ordinance section 21.28.140[A][3].) In addition, see the Park Obligation Worksheet provided in **Appendix 5.18** of this Draft EIR.*

Code, residential development in an urban hillside management area requires open space comprising at least 25 percent of the net site area. However, as the Project would involve a Zone Change and associated Conditional Use Permit to implement a Residential Planned Development (RPD) within Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 53295 (VTTM 53295), the residential portion of the Project would be subject to the RPD open space requirement of 30 percent of the net area. County Code Section 22.56.215(J) specifies such open space may include one or more of the following: (1) undisturbed natural areas; (2) open space for passive recreation; (3) private yards, provided that certain construction rights are dedicated; (4) parks and open recreational areas; (5) riding, hiking, and bicycle trails; (6) landscaped areas adjacent to streets and highways; (7) greenbelts; (8) areas graded for rounding of slopes to contour appearance; and/or (9) such other areas as the hearing officer deems appropriate.

#### **(e) Department of Parks and Recreation's Park Design Guidelines and Standards**

The County Parks Department's Park Design Guidelines and Standards are intended to provide County staff, design professionals, and other relevant agencies with guidance on how to design and develop parks that meet County standards and expectations. Representing a common approach to the design of the Countywide park system, the manual addresses topics such as spatial organization, site layout, building design, parking lot design, circulation, recreational facilities, children's play areas, splash pads, passive recreation areas, park furnishings, landscaping, stormwater management, and utility infrastructure, and includes lists of preferred products to be used at County parks as well as preferred plants for both potable and recycled water.<sup>13</sup>

#### **(4) City Regulations**

A number of City parks are also located in the Project vicinity, as detailed further below. City standards for neighborhood and community parks are similar to the categories used by the County, previously discussed.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, the City's General Plan specifies a parkland standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents.<sup>15</sup> As the Project Site is located within the County, however, the Project would not be subject to City regulations.

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<sup>13</sup> *County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Planning & Development Agency, Park Design Guidelines and Standards, June 2014, [http://file.lacounty.gov/dpr/cms1\\_216063.pdf](http://file.lacounty.gov/dpr/cms1_216063.pdf), accessed March 5, 2015.*

<sup>14</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012, Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, p. 165.*

<sup>15</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012, Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, p. 165.*

## (5) Previously Adopted Plans and Mitigation

### (a) Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP and EIS/EIR

The Project Site is included in the project area for the Applicant's Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan (RMDP/SCP), shown in **Figure 3-5**, RMDP/SCP Project Area, in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, of this Draft EIR, which covers certain aspects of resource management for the Project and other nearby developments. As discussed in greater detail in **Section 4.1**, Environmental and Regulatory Setting, the RMDP component of the Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP project is a conservation, mitigation, and permitting plan for the long-term management of sensitive biological resources and development-related infrastructure in the River and tributary drainages within the 11,999-acre Specific Plan area and along the extension of Magic Mountain Parkway through the Project Site. The SCP component of the Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP project is a conservation and management plan to permanently protect and manage a system of preserves designed to maximize the long-term persistence of the San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* ssp. *Fernandina*) (spineflower), a federal candidate and state-listed endangered plant species. The SCP encompasses the Specific Plan area, the Valencia Commerce Center planning area, and the Project Site, in order to conduct conservation planning and preserve design on the Project Applicant's land holdings in Los Angeles County that contain known spineflower populations.

The Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP project was the subject of a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) (SCH No. 2000011025) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).<sup>16,17</sup> At the time CDFW certified the EIR portion of the EIS/EIR in December 2010, it also adopted the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for the RMDP/SCP project. This regulatory plan, required under CEQA, describes the mitigation measures, monitoring, and/or reporting plan for the Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP project (including the Entrada South Project Site). The Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR determined that parks and recreation impacts would be less than significant. Thus, no mitigation measures were required.

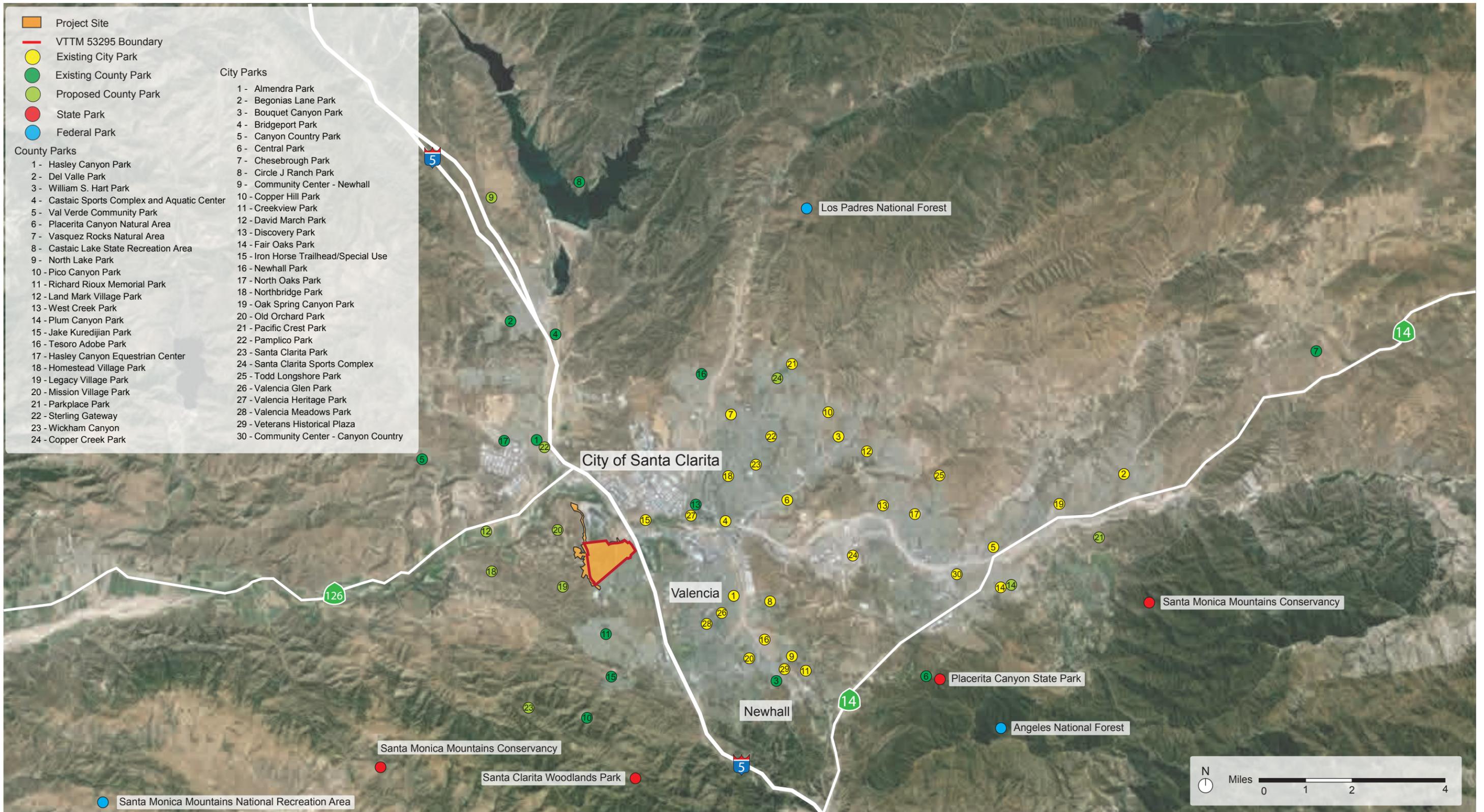
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<sup>16</sup> *Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan, Final Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report, June 2010.*

<sup>17</sup> *The California Department of Fish and Game was officially renamed the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as of January 1, 2013.*

**b. Existing Conditions**

There are no existing public parks or trails within the Project Site boundaries. However, numerous existing and proposed parks and recreational facilities are located in the vicinity of the Project Site, including facilities maintained by the federal government, the State of California, the County, Ventura County, and the City, as described below and illustrated in **Figure 5.18-1**, Federal, State, County, and City Park Facilities in the Project Vicinity in the Project Vicinity, on page 5.18-10.



Note: The locations of the state and federal parks shown herein are general, as such facilities comprise vast areas within the Project vicinity.



**Figure 5.18-1**  
County, State, and Federal Park Facilities within the Project Area

## **(1) Federal Parks**

### **(a) Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is located approximately 12 miles southwest of the Project Site. This 153,075-acre area is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and includes facilities for hiking, biking, fishing, climbing, camping, horseback riding, swimming, water activities, as well as historic sites.<sup>18</sup>

### **(b) Angeles National Forest**

Angeles National Forest covers approximately 700,000 acres in the San Gabriel Mountains and is administered by the U.S. Forest Service.<sup>19</sup> Angeles National Forest is divided into three districts; the Project Site is located near the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District.<sup>20</sup> Angeles National Forest offers campgrounds, picnic areas, swimming, fishing, and wilderness areas and includes 463 recreational residences, 25 picnic areas, 36 campgrounds, five ski areas, 548 miles of trails, five wilderness areas, and 10 lakes and reservoirs.<sup>21</sup>

Encompassing 342,177 acres within Angeles National Forest as well as 4,002 acres within San Bernardino National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument was designated on October 10, 2014. The San Gabriel Mountains contain four wilderness areas (Magic Mountain, Pleasant View Ridge, San Gabriel, and Sheep Mountain) and unique geological features such as the San Andreas Fault. This new national monument is managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

### **(c) Los Padres National Forest**

The approximately two-million-acre Los Padres National Forest is located primarily in northern Ventura County, with a portion in Los Angeles County, approximately nine miles north of the Project Site.<sup>22</sup> There are 109 developed sites in Los Padres National Forest,

<sup>18</sup> National Park Service, *Santa Monica Mountains, Frequently Asked Questions*, [www.nps.gov/samo/faqs.htm](http://www.nps.gov/samo/faqs.htm), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>19</sup> United States Forest Service, *Angeles National Forest Visitor Guide*, [www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5419124.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5419124.pdf), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>20</sup> United States Forest Service, *About the Forest*, [www.fs.usda.gov/main/angeles/about-forest](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/angeles/about-forest), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>21</sup> United States Forest Service, *Welcome to the Angeles National Forest*, [www.fs.usda.gov/main/angeles/about-forest/districts](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/angeles/about-forest/districts), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>22</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, *Welcome to Los Padres National Forest!*, [www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fsm9\\_034051.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm9_034051.pdf), accessed March 5, 2015.

including family and group campgrounds, picnic and day use areas, beaches and swimming sites, and scenic overlooks.<sup>23</sup> In addition, Los Padres National Forest has 10 designated wilderness areas comprising 875,000 acres, 459 miles of roads and trails designated for off-road vehicle use, 1,257 miles of maintained trails, and two condor sanctuaries totaling over 54,000 acres.<sup>24</sup>

Within Los Padres National Forest, Lake Piru is located just west of the Los Angeles/Ventura County line and approximately nine miles northwest of the Project Site.<sup>25</sup> Lake Piru Recreation Area is operated by Recreation Resource Management. Recreational opportunities and amenities at Lake Piru include campgrounds, boating, fishing, picnic and day use areas, a snack bar, and a store. The payment of a fee is required for day use, boating, group picnic area, camping, and for other miscellaneous activities.<sup>26</sup>

## **(2) State Parks**

### **(a) Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Rim of the Valley Corridor/Trail**

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) was established by the California State Legislature in 1980.<sup>27</sup> The Conservancy has preserved over 69,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings and improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout southern California. The Conservancy zone encompasses the Santa Monica Mountains, Simi Hills, Verdugo Mountains, and significant portions of the Santa Susana and San Gabriel Mountains.<sup>28</sup> Portions of Conservancy lands are owned and/or operated by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, a local entity

<sup>23</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, *Welcome to Los Padres National Forest!*, [www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fsm9\\_034051.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm9_034051.pdf), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>24</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, [www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet/%21ut/p/c5/04\\_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtDDw9\\_AI8zPwhQoY6leDdGCqCPOBqwDLG-AAjgb6fh75uan6BdnZaY6OiooA1tkqIQ%21%21/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfME80MEkxVvKFCOTBFMktTNVVJNDAwMDAwMDA%21/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=stelprdb5104688&navid=17000000000000&pnavid=null&ss=110507&position=Not%20Yet%20Determined.Html&ttype=detailfull&pname=Los%20Padres%20National%20Forest-%20About%20the%20Forest](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet/%21ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtDDw9_AI8zPwhQoY6leDdGCqCPOBqwDLG-AAjgb6fh75uan6BdnZaY6OiooA1tkqIQ%21%21/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfME80MEkxVvKFCOTBFMktTNVVJNDAwMDAwMDA%21/?navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=stelprdb5104688&navid=17000000000000&pnavid=null&ss=110507&position=Not%20Yet%20Determined.Html&ttype=detailfull&pname=Los%20Padres%20National%20Forest-%20About%20the%20Forest), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>25</sup> Lake Piru Recreation Area, *Homepage*, <http://camplakepiru.com/>, accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, *Who We Are and What We Do*, <http://smmc.ca.gov/mission.html>, accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>28</sup> LAMountains.com, *Interactive Park Search*, [www.lamountains.com/parks\\_search.asp](http://www.lamountains.com/parks_search.asp), accessed March 5, 2015.

formed as a partnership between the Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

The Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor is an overlay on public and private property encompassing the San Rafael and Simi Hills and the Verdugo, San Gabriel, Santa Monica, and Santa Susana Mountains.<sup>29</sup> Within the Corridor, the Rim of the Valley Trail is proposed, a portion of which has been developed, as discussed further below.

### **(b) Santa Clarita Woodlands Park**

The 4,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park is located west of I-5 and can be accessed via either Lyons Avenue or the Calgrove Boulevard/The Old Road interchange.<sup>30</sup> This park includes the 480-acre Michael D. Antonovich Open Space, the 168-acre Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon, and a number of trails including Pico Canyon Trail, Rice Canyon Loop Trail, and East Canyon Trail.<sup>31</sup> Additional points of interest include the former oil well known as Pico No. 4 and the associated oil boom town Mentryville, both of which are registered as California State Historical Landmarks. Santa Clarita Woodlands Park is operated by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Michael D. Antonovich Open Space is accessed from The Old Road as well as a number of trailheads. The park straddles the ridgeline of the Santa Susana Mountains and comprises dense mixed woodlands. The Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon is located just west of the Calgrove Boulevard/I-5 intersection in the Santa Susana Mountains, approximately 3 to 4 miles southeast of the Project Site. The facilities at Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon include several multi-use trails as well as Towsley Lodge.<sup>32</sup>

### **(c) Placerita Canyon State Park**

Placerita Canyon State Park (known as Placerita Canyon Nature Center) is located east of State Route 14 (SR-14) and is accessible from Placerita Canyon Road. It is a state

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<sup>29</sup> *Electronic Communication, Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, November 21, 2013.*

<sup>30</sup> *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Santa Clarita Woodlands Park, [www.lamountains.com/parks.asp?parkid=626](http://www.lamountains.com/parks.asp?parkid=626), accessed March 5, 2015.*

<sup>31</sup> *Electronic Communication, Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, November 21, 2013.*

<sup>32</sup> *Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority, main page, [www.mrca.ca.gov/](http://www.mrca.ca.gov/), accessed September 25, 2013; Electronic Communication, Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, March 5, 2015.*

park operated by the County Parks and Recreation Department.<sup>33</sup> It provides links to Angeles National Forest, the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills, and the Santa Monica Mountains.<sup>34</sup>

### (3) County Parks

**Table 5.18-1**, Existing and Proposed County Parks and Recreation Facilities in Portions of Park Planning Area 35A Near the Project Site, on page 5.18-15 provides information on County parks within the vicinity of the Project Site. As shown therein, the County maintains 12 developed parks totaling approximately 1,312 acres within the vicinity of the Project Site, in addition to the 12,658-acre Castaic Lake State Recreation Area and the 518-acre Placerita Canyon State Park (known as Placerita Canyon Nature Center), both of which are state-owned property operated by the County Parks Department.<sup>35</sup> The majority of these facilities are developed and contain amenities, such as children’s play areas, multi-purpose fields, recreation/activity buildings, sand volleyball courts, picnic tables, etc. Parks located near the Project Site are shown on **Figure 5.18-1**, Federal, State, County, and City Park Facilities in the Project Vicinity. Specific County parks of note due to size, variety of amenities, and/or proximity to the Project Site include Val Verde Community Regional Park, Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, Castaic Lake Sports Complex, and Hasley Canyon Equestrian Center, discussed in greater detail below. In addition, there are approximately 117 acres of proposed parkland within the Project vicinity.

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<sup>33</sup> California Department of Parks and Recreation, Placerita Canyon SP, [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=622](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=622), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>34</sup> California Department of Parks and Recreation, Placerita Canyon SP, [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=622](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=622), accessed October 28, 2013.

<sup>35</sup> Electronic Communication, James Barber, Land Acquisition & Development Section Head, Planning Division, Planning & Development Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, September 23, 2013.

**Table 5.18-1  
Existing and Proposed County Parks and Recreation Facilities in Portions of Park Planning Area 35A  
Near the Project Site**

<b>Facilities<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Gross Acreage<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Condition</b>
1 Hasley Canyon County Park	5.4	28700 West Quincy Street	Developed
2 Del Valle Park	5.5	28201 West Sloan Canyon Road	Developed
3 William S. Hart Regional County Park	156.0	24151 San Fernando Road	Developed
4 Castaic Sports Complex and Aquatic Center	53.7	31320 North Castaic Road	Developed
5 Val Verde Community Regional Park	57.9	30300 West Arlington Road	Developed
6 Placerita Canyon Nature Center (state-owned)	517.9	19152 Placerita Canyon Road	Developed
7 Vasquez Rocks Natural Area	912.9	Aqua Dulce	Developed
8 Castaic Lake State Recreation Area (state-owned)	12,657.8	32132 Ridge Route Road	Developed
9 North Lake County Park	15.0	Castaic/Val Verde	Proposed
10 Pico Canyon Park	21.3	Pico Canyon	Developed
11 Richard Rioux Memorial County Park	16.7	Stevenson Ranch	Developed
12 Landmark Village	9.8	Newhall/Valencia	Proposed
13 West Creek County Park	16.9	Saugus	Developed
14 Plum Canyon Park <sup>c</sup>	8.5	Canyon Country	Proposed
15 Jake Kuredjian Park	5.7	26265 Pico Canyon Road	Developed
16 Tesoro Adobe Park	2.2	29350 Avenida Rancho Tesoro	Developed
17 Hasley Canyon Equestrian Center	67.0	28400 Industry Drive	Developed
18 Homestead Village	15.2	Newhall Ranch	Proposed
19 Legacy Village	20.0	Stevenson Ranch Phase V	Proposed
20 Mission Village (5-acre park and 20-acre park)	25.0	Newhall Ranch	Proposed
21 Parkplace Park	13.6	Tick Canyon Subdivision	Proposed
22 Sterling Gateway	7.1	Northeast of Val Verde	Proposed
23 Wickham Canyon	5.0	West of Stevenson Ranch, Pico Canyon	Proposed
24 Copper Creek Park	6.5	North of Copper Hill Park	Proposed
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,622.6</b>		

<sup>a</sup> The following former County parks located within the boundaries of the City of Santa Clarita are now owned/operated by the City: David March Park, Northridge Park, Chesebrough Park, Copper Hill County Park, Pacific Crest Park, Fair Oaks Park, and Summer Hill.

<sup>b</sup> Gross acreage includes land with more than a 3 percent slope.

<sup>c</sup> Formerly referred to as Whites Canyon Park.

Source: Electronic communication, James Barber, Land Acquisition & Development Section Head, Planning Division, Planning & Development Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, September 23, 2013.

### **(a) Val Verde Community Regional County Park**

Val Verde Community Regional County Park covers approximately 58 acres and is located approximately 3.9 miles north of the Project Site at 30300 West Arlington Road in

the unincorporated community of Val Verde. Existing park amenities include a children's play area, community recreation building, horseshoe pits, outdoor basketball court, picnic tables and barbecue grills, softball field, swimming pool, and tennis court.<sup>36</sup>

### **(b) Castaic Lake State Recreation Area**

The 12,658-acre Castaic Lake State Recreation Area is a multi-use park located approximately 5.3 miles northwest of the Project Site in the unincorporated area of Castaic. Castaic Lake Reservoir and the surrounding land are owned by the State. However, the County leases the land and operates the upper lake, the 2,240-acre Castaic Lake Reservoir, and the lower lake, the 200-acre Castaic Lagoon.<sup>37</sup> With two boat launching ramps, the upper lake offers visitors a range of water sports, such as sailing, water-skiing, power-boating, and fishing. Castaic Lagoon serves as a recreation area and a recharge basin. Overnight camping is available at the lagoon, which features sandy beaches, grassy picnic areas, a boat launching ramp, parking, and restrooms.

### **(c) Castaic Sports Complex and Aquatic Center**

The Castaic Sports Complex and Aquatic Center covers approximately 54 acres and is located approximately 4.7 miles north of the Project Site at 31320 North Castaic Road in Castaic. Existing park amenities include a 12-station par/jogging course, barbecues, children's play areas, community rooms, gymnasium, horseshoe pits, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, indoor volleyball, kitchen, lighted softball fields, locker room with showers, multi-purpose field, picnic tables, and a skate park.<sup>38</sup> The Aquatic Center includes a 6,425-square-foot pool, a 4,435-square-foot recreation pool, and a 12,500-square-foot building.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>36</sup> County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation, Val Verde Community Regional Park, Park Amenities, [http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/Parks/Val\\_Verde\\_Community\\_Regional\\_Park?1dmy&page=dept.lac.dpr.home.parks.fulllist.ValVerdeCommunityRegional.detail.hidden&urile=wcm%3apath%3a/dpr+content/dpr+site/home/parks/full+list+of+parks/val+verde+community+regional+park/left+nav/030+park+features](http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/Parks/Val_Verde_Community_Regional_Park?1dmy&page=dept.lac.dpr.home.parks.fulllist.ValVerdeCommunityRegional.detail.hidden&urile=wcm%3apath%3a/dpr+content/dpr+site/home/parks/full+list+of+parks/val+verde+community+regional+park/left+nav/030+park+features), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>37</sup> Electronic Communication, James Barber, Land Acquisition & Development Section Head, Planning Division, Planning & Development Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, September 23, 2013.

<sup>38</sup> County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation, Castaic Sports Complex and Aquatic Center, Park Amenities, [http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/Parks/Castaic\\_Sports\\_Complex?1dmy&page=dept.lac.dpr.home.parks.fulllist.CastaicSportsComplex.detail.hidden&urile=wcm%3apath%3a/dpr+content/dpr+site/home/parks/full+list+of+parks/castaic+sports+complex/left+nav/030+park+features](http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/Parks/Castaic_Sports_Complex?1dmy&page=dept.lac.dpr.home.parks.fulllist.CastaicSportsComplex.detail.hidden&urile=wcm%3apath%3a/dpr+content/dpr+site/home/parks/full+list+of+parks/castaic+sports+complex/left+nav/030+park+features), accessed March 5, 2015.

<sup>39</sup> County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation, Castaic Sports Complex and Aquatic Center, [http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/Parks/Castaic\\_Sports\\_Complex](http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/Parks/Castaic_Sports_Complex), accessed March 5, 2015.

#### **(d) Hasley Canyon Equestrian Center**

The Hasley Canyon Equestrian Center is a 67-acre facility along Hasley Creek that features a fenced arena, horse warm-up area, equestrian barn with office and storage space, and day use parking for horse trailers and cars. The Hasley Canyon Equestrian Center provides a location for local equestrian enthusiasts and professionals, law enforcement mounted units, and educational facilities.

#### **(e) Proposed Parks within Newhall Ranch**

As indicated in **Table 5.18-1**, Existing and Proposed County Parks and Recreation Facilities in Portions of Park Planning Area 35A Near the Project Site, and depicted in **Figure 5.18-1**, Federal, State, County, and City Park Facilities in the Project Vicinity, park facilities are proposed within the planned communities of Mission Village, Homestead Village, and Landmark Village, all located within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area, as well as within the adjacent Legacy Village. In accordance with Mitigation Measure (MM) SP 4.20-1 set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan included as **Appendix 2G** of this Draft EIR, The Newhall Land and Farming Company (i.e., the Project Applicant) will provide a number of neighborhood and community parks, recreational facilities, a trail system, and substantial open space within the Specific Plan area. Of note, the approved Mission Village project located immediately west of the Project Site will include trails connecting to the County's proposed Santa Clara River Trail (discussed below).

#### **(4) City Parks**

Although the Project would be served by County, state, and federal parks, due to their proximity, discussion of City parks is provided for informational as well as cumulative impact purposes. There are 29 existing parks and 1 existing recreation facility under the jurisdiction of the City of Santa Clarita, the locations of which are listed in **Table 5.18-2**, Existing City of Santa Clarita Parks, on page 5.18-18. Collectively, these parks contain amenities such as children's play areas, multi-purpose fields, restrooms, volleyball courts, picnic tables, etc. In addition to its developed park space and passive park land, the City has purchased land for the preservation of natural open space along the Santa Clara River and as a greenbelt surrounding urban areas. The City has also acquired almost 260 acres of land for future parks or expansion of existing parks that are not yet fully developed.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Update: One Valley One Vision 2012, Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, 2012, p. 166.*

**Table 5.18-2  
Existing City of Santa Clarita Parks**

Park or Facility	Acreage
<b>Developed Parks</b>	
1. Almendra Park 23420 Alta Madera Dr.	4.3
2. Begonias Lane Park 14911 Begonias Ln.	4.2
3. Bouquet Canyon Park 28127 Wellston Dr.	10.5
4. Bridgeport Park 23520 Bridgeport Ln.	16.0
5. Canyon Country Park 17615 Soledad Canyon Rd.	19.3
6. Central Park 27150 Bouquet Canyon Rd.	106.1
7. Chesebrough Park 23505 Sunset Hills Dr.	6.7
8. Circle J Ranch Park Whites Canyon Rd.	5.3
9. Community Center—Newhall 22421 Market St.	4.5
10. Copper Hill Park Copper Hill Dr. & Brookview Ter.	5.5
11. Creekview Park 22200 Park St.	5.0
12. David March Park 28310 N. Via Joyce Dr.	3.0
13. Discovery Park 27150 Canyon View Dr.	5.0
14. Fair Oaks Park 17468 Honey Maple St.	6.3
15. Iron Horse Trailhead/Special Use 25311 Magic Mountain Pkwy.	5.1
16. Newhall Park 24923 Newhall Ave.	14.3
17. North Oaks Park 27824 Camp Plenty Rd.	2.3
18. Northbridge Park 27400 N. Grandview Dr.	8.6
19. Oak Spring Canyon Park 28920 Oak Spring Canyon Rd.	5.7
20. Old Orchard Park 25023 Avenida Rotella	5.4
21. Pacific Crest Park 29051 Garnet Canyon Dr.	6.8

**Table 5.18-2 (Continued)**  
**Existing City of Santa Clarita Parks**

Park or Facility	Acreage
22. Pamplico Park 22444 Pamplico Dr.	7.6
23. Santa Clarita Park 27285 Seco Canyon Rd.	7.3
24. Santa Clarita Sports Complex 26407 Golden Valley Rd.	36.0
25. Todd Longshore Park 28151 Whites Canyon Rd.	5.5
26. Valencia Glen Park 23750 Via Gavola	7.3
27. Valencia Heritage Park 24155 Newhall Ranch Rd.	17.2
28. Valencia Meadows Park 25671 Fedala Rd.	6.1
29. Veterans Historical Plaza 24275 N. Walnut St.	0.5
<b>Developed Park Acreage</b>	<b>337.3</b>
<b>Developed Recreational Facilities</b>	
1. Community Center—Canyon Country 18792 Flying Tiger Dr.	0.5
<b>Developed Recreational Facilities Acreage</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Total Developed Acreage</b>	<b>337.8</b>
<i>Source: Electronic Communication, Jeff Morrison, Project Development Coordinator, Parks Planning, City of Santa Clarita, September 13, 2013.</i>	

### (5) Private Recreational Facilities

In addition to the previously mentioned public facilities, the Valley includes four private golf courses: Valencia Country Club, Vista Valencia Golf Course, Robinson Ranch, and TPC Valencia.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Update: One Valley One Vision 2012, Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element, 2012, p. 169.*

## **(6) Trails in the Project Vicinity**

The Valley is served by an extensive trail system, including regional, County and City trails, several of which are described below. While there are no existing trails within the Project Site, the County Parks Department has proposed a regional trail along the Santa Clara River just north of the Project Site, segments of which would be developed in conjunction with Newhall Ranch.<sup>42</sup> There is also a developed “paseo” system (walkways), which runs through the community of Valencia to the east. Furthermore, a network of trails is proposed throughout the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area immediately west of the Project Site.

### **(a) Regional Trails**

#### **(i) Rim of the Valley Corridor/Trail**

The 275-mile Rim of the Valley Trail is proposed within the Rim of the Valley Corridor.<sup>43</sup> As proposed, the trail will be located on both public and private land. Currently, only 10 miles have been acquired in the Santa Susana Mountains in addition to the 60-mile-long Backbone Trail located in the Santa Monica Mountains. The portion of the trail nearest the Project Site is located approximately 2.5 miles to the southeast at the Oat Mountain lookout.

#### **(ii) Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

Established under the National Trail Systems Act of 1968, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (Pacific Crest Trail) traverses 2,650 miles from Canada to Mexico and generally runs along the high crests of the Sierra and Cascades mountain ranges in California, Oregon, and Washington.<sup>44</sup> The Pacific Crest Trail overlaps many of the Angeles National Forest trails and is accessible in the northern portion of the Valley in Agua Dulce.<sup>45,46</sup> Campgrounds, picnic areas, and staging areas are available along the trail.

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<sup>42</sup> *Electronic Communication, James Barber, Land Acquisition & Development Section Head, Planning Division, Planning & Development Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, September 23, 2013.*

<sup>43</sup> *Electronic Communication, Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, November 21, 2013.*

<sup>44</sup> *United States Department of Agriculture, Pacific Crest Trail, Frequently Asked Questions, www.fs.usda.gov/detail/pct/home/?cid=stelprdb5310782, accessed March 5, 2015.*

<sup>45</sup> *United States Department of Agriculture, Angeles National Forest, Pacific Crest Trail Information & Route Changes, www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04\_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtDDw9\_Al8zPyhQoY6BdkOyoCAGixyPg!/?navtype=&cid=stelprdb5195835&navid=1100000000000000&pn*  
(Footnote continued on next page)

**(b) County Trails<sup>47</sup>**

The County Parks Department plans and maintains an extensive system of regional riding and hiking trails within the County. The following discussion focuses on trails located in the Valley, as listed in **Table 5.18-3**, Existing and Proposed County Trails, below and illustrated on **Figure 5.18-2**, County and City Trails Within the Project Area, on page 5.18-22.

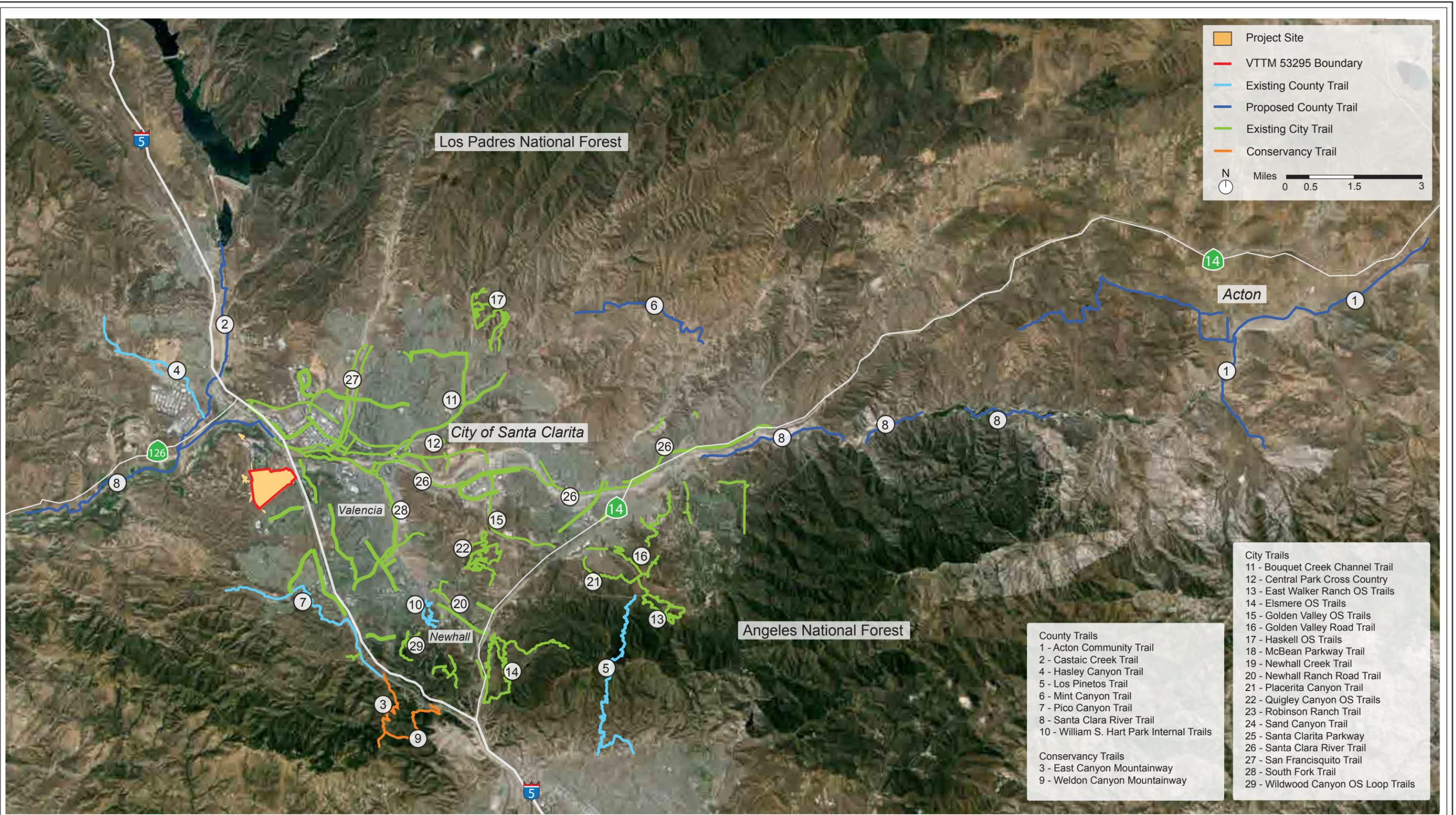
**Table 5.18-3  
Existing and Proposed County Trails**

<b>Trail Name</b>	<b>Length (miles)</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Los Pinetos Trail	7.0	Developed
William S. Hart Trail	2.5	Developed
Pico Canyon Trail	6.0	Partially Built
Hasley Canyon Trail	4.0	Partially Built
Castaic Creek Trail	6.0	Proposed
Mint Canyon Trail	4.0	Proposed
East Canyon Mountainway and Weldon Canyon Mountainway*	5.0	Developed
Santa Clara River Trail	15.0	Proposed
Acton Community Trail	17.0	Proposed
<hr/> <p><i>*Existing Conservancy trail.</i></p> <p><i>This information is the most current information; however, the information may change upon further study by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.</i></p> <p><i>Source: Electronic Communication, James Barber, Land Acquisition &amp; Development Section Head, Planning Division, Planning &amp; Development Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, September 23, 2013; Electronic Communication, Olga Ruano, Park Planning Assistant, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, September 23, 2013; and Electronic Communication, Olga Ruano, Park Planning Assistant, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, December 19, 2013</i></p>		

*avid=&ss=110501&position=Not%20Yet%20Determined.Html&ttype=detail&pname=Angeles%20National%20Forest%20-%20Pacific%20Crest%20Trail%20Trailhead, accessed March 5, 2015.*

<sup>46</sup> *Santa Clarita Guide, Wilderness Areas & Open Spaces in Santa Clarita, www.santaclaritaguide.com/Wilderness.html, accessed March 5, 2015.*

<sup>47</sup> *Electronic Communication, Olga Ruano, Park Planning Assistant, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, December 19, 2013 and January 6, 2014.*



***(i) Los Pinetos Trail***

Los Pinetos Trail is an approximately 7-mile-long multi-use trail that passes through Placerita Canyon Nature Center and Angeles National Forest. The trail connects to the City's trail system.

***(ii) William S. Hart Trail***

William S. Hart Trail is a 2.5-mile long existing trail located within William S. Hart Regional Park, which offers campgrounds, parking, and pit toilets.

***(iii) Pico Canyon Trail***

Pico Canyon Trail is partially built and will be roughly 6 miles in length beginning at the intersection of Potrero Canyon and the Santa Clara River just east of the Los Angeles/Ventura County line. The trail will generally follow Potrero Canyon and connect to Pico Canyon, ending at the mouth of the canyon just west of I-5. At this juncture, the trail will connect to another County proposed trail (Gavin Canyon Trail) that will connect to the partially built Rim of the Valley Trail.

***(iv) Hasley Canyon Trail***

Hasley Canyon Trail is proposed to follow Hasley Canyon for 4 miles in a westerly direction from Castaic Creek. A portion of this trail is built and runs through and adjacent to Valencia Commerce Center, connecting to the Hasley Canyon Equestrian Center.

***(v) Castaic Creek Trail***

The Castaic Creek Trail is proposed to link with the Santa Clara River Trail at the intersection of Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River. The trail will follow Castaic Creek north for 6 miles to the Castaic Lake State and County Recreation Area, ultimately intersecting with the other proposed County trails located further north.

***(vi) Mint Canyon Trail***

This proposed 4-mile-long trail links the Mint Canyon Equestrian Trail to the Bouquet Canyon Equestrian Trail. The trail will run through Vasquez Canyon.

***(vii) East Canyon Mountainway and Weldon Canyon Mountainway***

Together, the East Canyon Mountainway and Weldon Canyon Mountainway are approximately 5 miles in length. The East Canyon Mountainway runs along the north side

of the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Weldon Canyon Mountainway runs along the ridge between East Canyon and Sunshine Canyon. This is an existing Conservancy trail.

***(viii) Santa Clara River Trail***

The proposed Santa Clara River Trail will be 15 miles long. The trail will follow the path of the Santa Clara River and Soledad Canyon Road, with County segments west of I-5 and east of SR-14 connected by trails within the City between the two freeways. The western portion of the trail is proposed to extend from Edison Curve to I-5. The eastern portion of the trail is proposed to extend from Camp Plenty Road to Shadow Pines Boulevard.

***(ix) Acton Community Trail***

This proposed Acton Community Trail will be 17 miles long. The trail will connect to the Pacific Crest Trail on the west and the proposed Palmdale Hills Trail on the east.

***(c) City Trails***

Although the Project would be served by County and regional trails, due to their proximity, the following discussion of City trails is provided for informational and cumulative impact purposes. The City has adopted a system of trails to provide pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian connections to residential communities within the City and to the County's regional trail system. City trails are listed in **Table 5.18-4**, Existing City of Santa Clarita Trails, on page 5.18-25.

**Table 5.18-4  
Existing City of Santa Clarita Trails**

Name		From	To	Miles	Additional Information
<b>Class I Trails</b>					
Bouquet Creek Channel Trail (Behind Bouquet Plaza)		Espuella Drive	Newhall Ranch Road	0.3	Connects to the existing paseo along McBean Parkway and the bicycle trail along Newhall Ranch Road
Golden Valley Road Trail		Green Mountain Road	Soledad Bridge	3.0	Connects to the City of Santa Clarita backbone trail system
		Lost Canyon Road	Via Princessa	0.5	
McBean Parkway Trail		Santa Clara River	Newhall Ranch Road	0.5	
Newhall Creek Trail		Creekview Park	Valle de Oro	0.3	
Newhall Ranch Road Trail		Golden Valley Bridge	San Francisquito Trail	4.4	
		Avenue Tibbits	Vanderbuilt Way	2.4	
Santa Clarita Parkway		Newhall Ranch Road	River Village Park Site	0.3	
San Francisquito Trail		Copper Hill Drive	Santa Clara River (east side)	2.9	
		Decoro Drive	Anza Drive (west side of SF Creek)	1.9	
Santa Clarita River Trail (SCRT)	Along Soledad Canyon Road <sup>a</sup>	Auto Center Trailhead	Lost Canyon Road	7.2	Includes a Class I bicycle path and accommodates equestrians
	Canyon View Trail Access	Soledad Canyon Road at Camp Plenty Road	Discovery Park Site	0.8	
	River Village Section	River Village Park Site	Bouquet Canyon Road	1.7	
	Bridgeport Section	Bouquet Canyon Road	San Francisquito Creek	2.0	
	River Court Section	Avenue Rockefeller	Avenue Anza	0.4	
	South River Section	Auto Center Trailhead	Iron Horse Trailhead	2.3	
	Segment 1	Avenue Anza	The Old Road	1.0	
South Fork Trail		Valencia Boulevard	Orchard Village Road	2.3	An extension of this trail from Orchard Village Road to Towsley Canyon Park is proposed.
		South Fork Connector	Via Princessa	1.5	
<b>Total Class I Trail Mileage</b>				<b>35.7</b>	
<b>Multi-Use Trails</b>					
Central Park Cross Country		Cross Country & Connector	Newhall Ranch Road	3.1	

**Table 5.18-4 (Continued)  
Existing City of Santa Clarita Trails**

Name		From	To	Miles	Additional Information
East Walker Ranch OS Trails		Allen Trail, Reynier Trail, Walker Loop, Bridge	Golden Valley Trail	4.9	
Elsmere OS Trails		Elsmere Loop		5.5	
Golden Valley OS Trails		Mitchell Trail, Nadeu Trail, Placerita Trail		6.2	
Haskell OS Trails		Little Loop, OS Access		0.7	
Placerita Canyon Trail		Quigley Canyon	Creekview Park	1.5	Will eventually link up with the South Fork and with William S. Hart Park
Quigley Canyon OS Trails		City Loop, Coyote Loop, Fox's Loop, Rawlins Loop, Refinery, Clean Energy		5.2	
Robinson Ranch Trail		Oak Spring Canyon	U.S. Forest	1.8	
San Francisquito Trail—Creek		Decoro Drive	Anza Drive	1.9	Connects to other proposed County trails located further north
Sand Canyon Trail		Alamo Canyon Drive	west, toward Triumph Avenue	0.1	
		Road Runner Road	Live Oak Springs Canyon Road	0.5	
		Valley Ranch Road	south 1,500 feet	0.5	
SCRT	Santa Clara River Connector	Iron Horse Trailhead	Auto Center Trailhead	2.8	Future segments will connect north to Lost Canyon Road.
	River Village Section	River Village Park Site	Bouquet Canyon Road	1.7	
	River Village Central Park Access	Newhall Ranch Road	Central Park	0.5	
South Fork Trail		Magic Mountain Parkway	Newhall Creek	2.4	
Wildwood Canyon OS Loop Trails		Haskell Vista Lane		1.1	
<b>Total Multi-Use Trail Mileage</b>				<b>40.3</b>	
<b>Total Trail Mileage</b>				<b>76.0</b>	

<sup>a</sup> According to the City of Santa Clarita, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update, 2008.

<sup>b</sup> Includes Commuter Rail Trail.

Source: Electronic Communication, Jeff Morrison, Project Development, Parks Planning, City of Santa Clarita, September 13, 2013.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

#### a. Methodology

The methodology used to evaluate potential park and recreation impacts involves the following: (1) identifying the existing parks and recreational facilities in the Project vicinity; (2) projecting the future population associated with the Project; and (3) evaluating the demand for park and recreation service anticipated at the time of Project buildout compared to the expected level of service available, considering County, state, and federal facilities, as well as the Project's recreational amenities. The analysis also considers whether the Project would conflict with the parks and recreation standards set forth in regulatory documents (i.e., the Quimby Act, County Code).

#### b. Project Design Elements/Project Design Features

In compliance with County Code, the Project Applicant would satisfy the County's Parkland Dedication Ordinance via the provision of public park space on-site with amenities equal in value to the park fee established for the Project (refer to the analysis below of Project compliance with the Quimby Act and County Parkland Dedication Ordinance for further details). Additionally, the Project would meet the RPD open space requirement of 30 percent of the site area within the residential portions of the Project Site. As discussed in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, of this Draft EIR and described further below, the Project would include the following park, recreation, open space, and trails components within proposed VTTM 53295:

- A 5.6-acre public neighborhood park, located in Planning Area 8;
- Two private recreational centers within 2.9 acres;
- 101.7 acres of open space area plus 27.2 acres of Spineflower Preserve;<sup>48</sup>
- 7,240 linear feet of community trails;
- 10,980 linear feet of paseos;
- 13,740 linear feet of recreational trails; and
- 8,090 linear feet of bike lanes.

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<sup>48</sup> *Open space acreage refers to lots within the tract map designated as open space. Additional open space areas, such as natural drainage courses, roadway medians, and landscaped parkways adjacent to on-site roadways, in addition to the proposed park, recreation centers, and Spineflower Preserve, bring the total open space area to approximately 153 acres.*

As discussed in **Section 5.14**, Population, Housing, and Employment, of this Draft EIR, the proposed 339 single-family units and 1,235 multi-family units would generate an estimated residential population of 5,288 persons. In addition, approximately 2,700 employees are anticipated to be present on-site. Given the retail nature of much of this employment, it is unlikely that a substantial proportion of Project employees would relocate to the Project area to live closer to their job.

### (1) Park, Recreation Areas, and Open Space

A 5.6-acre public neighborhood park would be developed on Lot 372 within VTTM 53295 immediately east of the elementary school (on Lot 373), as illustrated in **Figure 3-12**, Public Neighborhood Park, in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, of this Draft EIR.<sup>49</sup> This public park would contain approximately 5.0 acres of usable parkland. It is anticipated that the public neighborhood park would include the following improvements:

- A restroom building;
- A group picnic pavilion;
- An open turf area;
- Picnic table areas including barbeques, hot coal receptacles, and trash containers with liners;
- A lighted, full-court basketball court;
- Children's play areas with benches and shade covers;
- Shade structures with tables and seating;
- A multi-purpose field;
- Drinking fountains at the restroom building, multi-use field, and basketball court;
- A parking lot with 13 spaces;
- Dog waste receptacles;
- Park walls, park enclosure fencing, and locking gates;

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<sup>49</sup> Although the elementary school would be located adjacent to the proposed park, the Saugus Union School District has indicated it will be able to satisfy the recreational and educational requirements of the school without using any portion of the public park. Source: Letter to County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation from Saugus Union School District, July 23, 2014.

- Internal park walkways;
- Benches at informal seating areas;
- Security lighting at the parking lot, playgrounds, group picnic shelter, basketball court, and all walkways;
- Landscaping and irrigation; and
- A water quality, bio-filtration basin in the park.

Two separate private neighborhood recreation centers are also planned on a total of 2.9 acres within the Project Site. One recreational center would be located on approximately 2.1 acres to the west of Planning Area 8 on Lot 372, and the other recreational center would be located on approximately 0.8 acres east of the northern portion of Planning Area 5 on Lot 409. These recreation centers would primarily serve Planning Areas 4 through 7 and would be fenced and maintained by a homeowner association. These recreation centers would contain amenities such as a pool, spa, wading pool, overhead shade structure, barbeque areas, and restrooms. The larger of the two private neighborhood recreation areas is depicted in **Figure 3-13**, Larger Neighborhood Recreation Center, in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, of this Draft EIR. Separate smaller recreation areas would be located throughout the multi-family Planning Areas within VTTM 53295. These may contain facilities for passive uses or active uses such as tot lots, play courts, and/or pools.

In addition, the Project would provide 101.7 acres of open space (plus the 27.2-acre Spineflower Preserve). The Spineflower Preserve, described in more detail in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, would be located within the eastern portion of the Project Site.

## **(2) Community Trails, Paseos, Recreational Trails, and Bike Lanes**

As shown in **Figure 3-14**, Project Trails Plan, in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, of this Draft EIR, the Project would provide an extensive community trail system throughout the Project Site, which would connect to the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan trail system to the west and the existing community of Westridge to the south. As illustrated, the proposed trail system would include community trails, paseos, recreational trails, and bike lanes, each of which is described further below.

Community trails are paved pedestrian and bicycle routes in landscaped parkways with a minimum width of 8 feet. The approximate combined length of these trails is 7,240 linear feet. They are located adjacent to major roads in order to connect the existing

and proposed communities in the area. Community trails are proposed along Magic Mountain Parkway, Westridge Parkway, and Commerce Center Drive.

Paseos are paved pedestrian and bicycle routes with a minimum width of 8 feet. The approximate combined length of these paseos is 10,980 linear feet. Paseos provide local access that link the Planning Areas together and provide access to the on-site amenities and the community trail network. Paseos may or may not follow a roadway. As shown in **Figure 3-14**, Project Trails Plan, the Project proposes paseos that extend along the western boundary of VTTM 53295 between Westridge Parkway and Magic Mountain Parkway, as well as adjacent to the Project's two primary residential collector roadways, A Street and B Drive, south of Magic Mountain Parkway. The paseos would provide pedestrian access between residential neighborhoods and the neighborhood park, the private recreation centers, the elementary school, the community and local trails, and the larger commercial area.

Recreational trails provide pedestrian and bicycle access and may or may not be paved. These trails typically have a width of 5 feet to 8 feet. The approximate combined length of these trails is 13,740 linear feet. As shown in **Figure 3-14**, Project Trails Plan, recreational trails would be located within the southern portion of the Project Site, along the drainage channel west of Planning Area 13, and along the western and southern property lines of the existing Chevron Station located at the southwestern corner of the intersection of The Old Road and Magic Mountain Parkway.

In addition to the trail types described above that would serve as bicycle routes, Magic Mountain Parkway would include a striped 5- to 7-foot-wide Class II bike lane in each direction, as shown in **Figure 3-14**, Project Trails Plan, with an approximate length of 8,090 linear feet. As illustrated, these bike lanes would be continuous with planned bike lanes within the approved Mission Village community to the immediate west.

As part of the Project, a pedestrian bridge extending across Magic Mountain Parkway would be provided. As also shown in **Figure 3-14**, Project Trails Plan, the pedestrian bridge would be located north of Planning Area 9 and would connect the residential areas to the south with the primary commercial area to the north. The pedestrian bridge would also be integrated with the community trails, bike lanes, paseos, and recreational trails.

### **(3) Project Design Features**

Based on the foregoing, the following Project design feature (PDF) has been incorporated into the Entrada South (ES) Project's design and will be included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) to ensure implementation.

**PDF ES 5.18-1:** The Project Applicant shall enter into a Park Development Agreement (PDA), post bonds, and submit a Park Delivery Schedule prior to the County Parks Department clearing the first unit (final) map containing housing. The Project Applicant shall commence construction of the public neighborhood park prior to the County issuing the 668th residential building permit and complete park construction within 14 months after commencement of construction. (Construction commencement is defined as when the Project Applicant starts precise grading and/or installing utilities for the public neighborhood park.)

Beginning when the first residential building permit is issued, the Project Applicant shall submit monthly reports to the County Parks Department that identify, for each unit map, the number of residential units for which building permits were issued (permitted units) for the month and cumulative to date, and which specify for the permitted units the owner, building number, building type (e.g., single-family home, condominium, apartment), and lot number. The monthly reports are due on the first County business day of each month until the public neighborhood park is conveyed to the County.

Failure to provide the County Parks Department with a report, or to commence construction prior to the 668th residential building permit, or to convey the park to the County prior to the 1,030th residential building permit will result in the County Parks Department requesting the Department of Public Works to withhold further issuance of residential building permits until the respective report is received, or park construction is commenced, or the park is conveyed to the County.

### **c. Significance Thresholds**

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and other relevant criteria, the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning has determined that a project would have a potentially significant impact related to parks and recreation based on the following criteria:

**Threshold 5.18-1:** Would the Project create or exacerbate a failure to meet acceptable service ratios or established performance objectives, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives for parks?

**Threshold 5.18-2:** 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?

**Threshold 5.18-3:** Would the Project include neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of such facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

**Threshold 5.18-4:** Would the Project interfere with regional open space connectivity?

**Threshold 5.18-5:** Could the Project require new or expanded recreational facilities for future residents?

#### **d. Project Impacts**

**Threshold 5.18-1:** Would the Project create or exacerbate a failure to meet acceptable service ratios or established performance objectives, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives for parks?

**Threshold 5.18-2:** 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?

**Threshold 5.18-5:** Could the Project require new or expanded recreational facilities for future residents?

Project impacts with respect to Thresholds 5.18-1, 5.18-2, and 5.18-5 are addressed in the following combined analysis since these thresholds all relate to the demand for public parks and recreational facilities in the area and associated regulatory standards.

Occupancy of the Project's residential units would increase the demand for parks and recreational facilities in the Project area. In addition, a nominal percentage of Project employees may utilize parks and recreational facilities during the course of their workday, although these employees would be more likely to use facilities near their homes during non-work hours. While the proposed neighborhood park, private recreational centers, and smaller recreation areas provided on-site would meet the general daily needs of Project residents and employees, it is nonetheless anticipated that such persons may also use the local, regional, state, and federal parks, recreation areas, trails, and national forests within the Valley, as discussed below.

#### **(1) County Parks and Associated Regulatory Standards**

As noted above, the Quimby Act establishes a parkland dedication standard of three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for new subdivision development, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community parkland exceeds that limit. In turn, the County Parks Department determines a project's total parkland requirements under its ordinance.

The dedication of land, fees in lieu of dedicated parkland, construction of amenities on dedicated parkland that are of equal dollar value to the park fee, or a combination of the three, are all considered to adequately satisfy the requirement and avoid a significant impact. These factors are all taken into consideration with respect to Threshold 5.18-1.

The County has estimated the parkland requirements for the Project based on the proposed unit count, anticipated average household size, and applicable assessment factors per the VTTM 53295 Park Obligation Report and Worksheet provided in **Appendix 5.18** of this Draft EIR. **Table 5.18-5**, Quimby Act Requirements for the Project, on page 5.18-34 details the parkland requirements calculated for the Project. As shown therein, the Quimby Act requirement for the Project is 11.71 acres.

The County Parks Department determines credits toward meeting the park requirements of the County's Park Dedication Ordinance based on several criteria (e.g., access, improvements, topography, etc.). As previously discussed, while "local park space" under the ordinance may include a variety of park and recreational facilities, including privately owned facilities, trails, pools, and picnic areas, among others, the County Parks Department currently recommends that Quimby credit be given only for public parks due to the shortage of local park land owned by the County.<sup>50</sup> Based on the proposed 5.6-acre public neighborhood park (5.0 usable acres), the Project's expected parkland provision credit is 5.0 acres, as shown in **Table 5.18-6**, Quimby Act Credits for the Project, on page 5.18-35. This credit is considered conservative because it does not take into account the Project's two private recreational centers covering 2.9 acres, several smaller recreation areas, approximately 31,960 linear feet of trails and paseos, and approximately 8,090 linear feet of bike lanes to be provided on-site, shown in **Figure 3-14**, Project Trails Plan, in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, of this Draft EIR. Nonetheless, the remaining net obligation for the Project is 6.71 acres or an in-lieu fee of \$2,122,420, as shown in **Table 5.18-6**, Quimby Act Credits for the Project. Because the amenities and improvements within the proposed public neighborhood park (e.g., basketball court, children's play areas, picnic areas, restrooms, landscaping, etc.) are valued at more than \$2.122 million, per an agreement with the County Parks Department, the Project Applicant would satisfy the County's Parkland Dedication Ordinance via the provision of public park space with amenities equal to or greater in value than the established in-lieu park fee.

Discussion of the Project's consistency with Area Plan policies is provided in **Section 5.11**, Land Use, of this Draft EIR.

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<sup>50</sup> *Electronic Communication, James Barber, Land Acquisition & Development Section Head, Planning Division, Planning & Development Agency, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, October 28, 2013.*

**Table 5.18-5  
Quimby Act Requirements for the Project**

<b>Description/Category</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Avg. Household Size<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Assessment Factor</b>	<b>Obligation (acres)</b>
Detached	339	3.36	0.003	3.42
Multi-Family (with less than 5 units/building)	178	2.27	0.003	1.21
Multi-Family (with 5 or more units/building)	1,057	2.26	0.003	7.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,574</b>			<b>11.80</b>
<p><sup>a</sup> Based on occupancy factors used by the County Parks Department to determine Quimby Act requirements..  Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, VTTM 53295 Park Conditions of Map Approval and Park Obligation Report, September 16, 2014. See <b>Appendix 5.18</b> of this Draft EIR.</p>				

As it relates to the demand for County parks and recreational facilities generated by the Project, the use of such resources would be offset somewhat by the provision of parks and recreational facilities on-site. Specifically, in addition to the public park and associated amenities which would satisfy Quimby Act requirements, the two private recreational centers, several smaller active and passive recreation areas, network of trails/paseos, and bike lanes provided on-site would meet a variety of the Project population's recreational needs. In addition, Project implementation would help alleviate the Valley's need for additional playfields for youth sports, as identified in the Area Plan, through the provision of a full-court basketball court and a multi-purpose field within the proposed public neighborhood park, as well as a swimming pool within one of the private recreation centers. Further, it is noted that various parks, recreational facilities, trails, and open space areas are planned within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area just west of the Project Site, which may help meet the demand for parks and recreational facilities generated by the Project. Therefore, while it is anticipated that Project residents would use County parks and recreational facilities in the area to some extent, substantial physical deterioration of these facilities is not expected, nor would new or expanded off-site facilities be needed.

**Table 5.18-6  
Quimby Act Credits for the Project**

<b>Park/ Recreation Category</b>	<b>Quimby Act Obligation (acres)</b>	<b>Provided On-Site (acres)</b>	<b>Quimby Credit (acres)</b>	<b>Net Obligation (acres)</b>	<b>In-Lieu Fee</b>
Public Park	11.80	5.6	5.0	6.80	\$2,173,260
	<b>Amenities Provided On-Site</b>				<b>Estimated Cost<sup>a</sup></b>
Public Park Amenities	Restroom building; group picnic pavilion; open turf area; picnic table areas including barbeques, hot coal receptacles, and trash containers with liners; lighted, full-court basketball court; children's play areas with benches and shade covers; shade structures with tables and seating; multi-purpose field; drinking fountains at the restroom building, multi-use field, and basketball court; parking lot with 13 spaces; dog waste receptacles; park walls, park enclosure fencing, and locking gates; internal park walkways; benches at informal seating areas; security lighting at the parking lot, playgrounds, group picnic shelter, basketball court, and all walkways; landscaping and irrigation; and water quality, bio-filtration basin in the park				\$2,362,328
<p><sup>a</sup> As estimated in <i>Entrada South–VTTM 53295, Neighborhood Park–Lot 372, Estimate of Probable Construction Costs, Schematic Plan Level, April 2014.</i></p> <p>Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, <i>VTTM 53295 Park Conditions of Map Approval and Park Obligation Report, September 16, 2014; Eyestone Environmental, 2015. See Appendix 5.18 of this Draft EIR.</i></p>					

## (2) State and Federal Parks and Recreational Facilities

It is also anticipated that the Project population would use state and federal parks, recreation areas, and forests in the area. However, given the regional draw of many of those facilities, it is assumed that some of the future Project occupants may already currently use these facilities. State parks are funded through a combination of user fees, property taxes, and General Fund revenues and are intended for the use of all California residents. Similarly, national park facilities charge user fees for certain uses and activities, which are used in part to maintain those areas. Accordingly, Project implementation and any associated use of state and federal facilities would generate funding such that substantial physical deterioration is not expected, nor would new or expanded facilities be needed.

## (3) Trails

It is also anticipated that the Project population would use the existing (and future) trail systems in the Valley. However, as with other recreational facilities in the area, given

the regional draw of much of the Valley's trail network, it is assumed that some of the future Project occupants may already currently use it. As previously discussed, an extensive community trail system would be provided on-site, with connectivity to the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan trail system to the west and the existing community of Westridge to the south. Such improvements would be available for public use, thus enhancing the trail system in the Valley.

#### **(4) Significance Conclusion**

Based on the preceding analysis, with satisfaction of Quimby Act/County Parkland Dedication Ordinance requirements and the provision of appropriate recreational space and amenities to serve the Project population, impacts with respect to parks and recreational facilities would be less than significant.

**Threshold 5.18-3:** Would the Project include neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of such facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The potential construction-related impacts of the Project are analyzed throughout **Section 5.0** of this Draft EIR for each applicable environmental topic (e.g., within **Section 5.1**, Aesthetics; **Section 5.3**, Air Quality; **Section 5.4**, Biological Resources; **Section 5.13**, Noise; **Section 5.20**, Transportation/Traffic, etc.). Construction activities specifically related to the proposed park and recreational facilities would represent a small proportion of overall Project construction. While Project construction as a whole would result in some temporary significant impacts, as addressed in each relevant analysis section, such impacts would not occur solely as the result of the proposed park and recreational facilities. Additionally, the mitigation measures proposed to reduce or avoid Project-related construction impacts, as provided throughout **Section 5.0** of this Draft EIR, would likewise serve to reduce or avoid impacts associated with construction of the on-site park and recreational facilities. Further, Project construction activities would not affect or hinder access to nearby parks or recreational facilities within the surrounding area. As such, impacts related to development of the proposed parks and recreational facilities would be less than significant.

**Threshold 5.18-4:** Would the Project interfere with regional open space connectivity?

As shown in **Figure 5.18-1**, Federal, State, County, and City Park Facilities in the Project Vicinity, major open space resources within the Valley and surrounding area include Santa Clarita Woodlands Park, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Angeles National Forest, and Los Padres National Forest. Additionally, in

accordance with Mitigation Measure SP 4.20-1 set forth in the MMRP for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, provided in **Appendix 2G** of this Draft EIR, the communities planned west of the Project Site collectively will include open areas totaling 1,106 acres (of which 186 acres will be community parks), a High Country Special Management Area of 4,214 acres, a River Corridor Special Management Area of 819 acres, a 15-acre lake, and an 18-hole golf course. Connection to the County's planned regional Santa Clara River Trail will also be provided within the Specific Plan community of Mission Village, as shown in **Figure 3-14**, Project Trails Plan, in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, of this Draft EIR.

As previously discussed, the Project would provide 101.7 acres of open space (plus the 27.2-acre Spineflower Preserve), as well as an extensive trail network with connections to the various uses on-site and the adjacent communities of Mission Village and Westridge.<sup>51</sup> Accordingly, the open space areas and trail improvements provided as part of the Project would improve regional open space connectivity in the Project area, including within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area. Impacts with respect to regional open space connectivity would be less than significant.

#### 4. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The geographic context for the cumulative impact analysis of parks and recreation is the Santa Clarita Valley. Anticipated growth within the Valley through 2024 would cumulatively increase the demand for parks and recreational facilities. While much of this growth would occur within unincorporated areas of the County, a portion would occur within the City of Santa Clarita and thus would be served by City facilities.

As discussed in the Area Plan, much of the land designated for parks and open space in the Valley is either not accessible to residents or is not developed for recreational use. More parks are needed to accommodate specific recreational activities, such as ball fields for youth, to better serve the existing population and future growth. As also indicated in the Area Plan, within the City there are only approximately 1.5 to 2 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population (as of 2007). As such, the City has developed a parks master plan to prioritize actions needed to expand parkland and associated services in order to meet its parkland goals. However, regional parkland acreage, which does not factor into jurisdictional parkland ratios, is considered abundant in the Valley.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Discussion of connectivity as it relates to biological resources and specifically the Spineflower Preserve is provided in **Section 5.4**, Biological Resources, of this Draft EIR.

<sup>52</sup> One Valley One Vision Revised Draft Program EIR (November 2010), **Section 3.16**, Parks and Recreation, pages 3.16-10 and 3.16-21.

As previously discussed, the Project would satisfy its Quimby Act requirements and the County's Parkland Dedication Ordinance via the provision of public park space with amenities equal to or greater in value than the established in-lieu park fee. As also discussed, the park in combination with additional recreational facilities provided on-site would meet the Project's daily recreational needs and offset impacts to other park resources in the area. Like the Project Applicant, the proponents of the related projects and all other future development projects in the area would be required to comply with the County's Park Dedication Ordinance or other applicable local (i.e., City) parkland requirements, in accordance with the Quimby Act. With the provision of adequate park resources and/or the payment of in-lieu fees, as required, impacts to parks and recreational facilities would be minimized. As such, the Project's contribution to cumulative impacts related to parks and recreation would be less than significant.

## **5. MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **a. Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP Mitigation Measures**

The Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR determined that parks and recreation impacts would be less than significant. Thus, no mitigation measures were required.

### **b. Project-Specific Mitigation Measures**

Based on compliance with Quimby Act requirements and the County's Parkland Dedication Ordinance, as well as implementation of the proposed improvements and PDF 5.18-1, Project-level impacts with regard to parks and recreation would be less than significant. Therefore, no Project-specific mitigation measures regarding parks and recreation would be required.

## **6. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

As indicated, Project-level impacts with respect to parks and recreation facilities would be less than significant. Similarly, cumulative impacts would be less than significant.