

## **CHAPTER 19**

---

# **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

## CHAPTER 19 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

---

This section addresses the impacts of the proposed project on recreational resources and facilities in the vicinity of the project area. This analysis was prepared using information from city and county general plans and resource agency plans.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### Existing Conditions

The PWRP consists of two separate treatment plant sites located near the intersection of 30<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue P-8 and the intersection of 40<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue O-8. The primary treatment facilities and oxidation ponds are located near the intersection of 30<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue P-8. At the intersection of 40<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue P are additional oxidation pond facilities. The PWRP is completely surrounded by property owned by LAWA. Surrounding uses include agriculture and vacant land. The site is bordered on the north and east by sparsely inhabited desert landscape. Residences and domestic parcels can be found directly to the south and west of the PWRP. To the east, rural residences, agricultural land, and undisturbed desert dominate the landscape.

#### Nearby Recreation Facilities

Recreational facilities in the area include parks, golf courses, bikeways, and open space. Open space is often utilized for recreational purposes such as bird watching and hiking even if it has not been designated as a park or recreational center. The portion of the Sierra Highway between Avenue H and the Kern County line is designated as a bikeway in the Antelope Valley Areawide Plan. Currently, bicycles within this bikeway use the paved shoulder of the road. In addition, the area along 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Avenue S through Avenue P is designated as a bike trail within the City of Palmdale. No special lanes have been provided for bicycles in the project area. Other recreational facilities (public or private) in the area include the Palmdale USAF Plant 42

Heritage Airpark, William J. McAdam Park, and the Desert Aire Golf Course. Local neighborhood parks are maintained throughout the city. Figure 19-1 shows the location of recreational facilities in and around the project area.

#### *Palmdale Plant 42 Heritage Airpark*

The Palmdale Plant 42 Heritage Airpark was dedicated on October 20, 1998. Located between 20<sup>th</sup> Street East and 25<sup>th</sup> Street East on Avenue P in Palmdale, the 26.4-acre park is located approximately one mile west of the PWRP. The Airpark is currently home to nine planes plus two scale models. In addition, two buildings are located on site, one used primarily for restoration and a second to be used for exhibits.

#### *William J. McAdam Park*

The William J. McAdam Park is 20 acres in size and located approximately one mile south of the primary PWRP. This park provides outdoor recreational facilities including a swimming pool, softball fields, tennis courts, walking trails, and picnic areas. This park is open to the public.

#### *Desert Aire Golf Course*

Desert Aire Golf Course is located at 3620 Avenue P, in the City of Palmdale. The golf course is located one mile east of the primary PWRP site and adjacent to the PWRP storage facility. The golf course is also within LAWA property lease area. The course covers several acres and is open year round to the public.

### REGULATORY BACKGROUND

#### County General Plan

The project area is located partially in an unincorporated area of the County. Therefore, development in the area is governed by the policies, procedures, and standards set forth in the County

General Plan. The County is in the process of updating its General Plan, which is scheduled for adoption in 2005.

### **Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan**

Since the project is located partially in an unincorporated area of the County within the Antelope Valley, it is also governed by the policies, procedures, and standards set forth in the *Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan*. The *Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan*, in conjunction with the other chapters and elements of the County General Plan, is a coordinated statement of public policy by the County for use in making public decisions relating to the future of the Antelope Valley. The *Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan* includes goals and policies relating to open space and recreation within the planning area. These include the following:

- Encourage the development of an interconnected system of convenient bikeway routes and bikeway support facilities that interrelate to other transportation modes throughout the Antelope Valley;
- Where feasible, use existing and abandoned publicly-owned rights of way and designated scenic highways for bikeway systems;
- Encourage safety considerations in the planning, construction, and use of bikeways in the Antelope Valley;
- Encourage the retention of publicly-owned lands that are needed to satisfy recreational needs as local or regional parks, or possess unique historical value;
- Consider land swapping as a means of expanding existing parks, and as a means of locating new parks. In this respect, the possibility of exchanging designated excess lands for lands directly adjacent

to existing parks and for land in more desirable locations should be explored; and

- Explore possibilities for increased provisions of integrated bikeway/recreation corridors, or linear parks.

### **City of Palmdale General Plan**

The project area is located partially within the City of Palmdale, and as such is subject to the guidelines of the *Palmdale General Plan*. The City of Palmdale updated its General Plan in 1993. The *City of Palmdale General Plan* identifies the types of development that will be allowed, the spatial relationships among land uses, and the general pattern of future development in the city. The *City of Palmdale General Plan* also addresses planning issues that may affect or be affected by areas outside of the existing city limits.<sup>1</sup>

The *City of Palmdale General Plan* contains a Parks, Recreation, and Trails Element designed to guide future development of parks, recreation facilities, multi-use trails, bikeways, and open space areas. Specifically, the following goals are identified within this element:<sup>2</sup>

- Provide adequate parks to meet the needs of existing and future residents;
- Provide a broad range of recreational programs, including programs for all ages and activity levels, and education programs and cultural events, to enrich the lives of Palmdale residents;
- Provide a network of open space areas to provide for passive recreation opportunities, enhance the integrity of biological systems, and provide visual relief from the developed portions of the city; and Develop a system of multi-use trails which provide connections to the County trails system and the City of Lancaster trails system.

---

<sup>1</sup> *City of Palmdale General Plan, January 25, 1993.*

<sup>2</sup> *City of Palmdale General Plan, Parks, Recreation and Trails Element, Adopted by City Council September 24, 2003.*

The General Plan also identifies objectives and policies for attaining the stated goals.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

**Thresholds of Significance**

The CEQA Guidelines establish that a project could have a significant effect on existing land uses and recreation if it would:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such

that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or

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

None of the identified recreational areas are within the Agricultural Study Areas or the Reservoir Study Areas. No bike paths are designated along streets where distribution piping will be installed. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts to designated recreational areas. No mitigation measures are required.