

4.14 PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation section assesses and analyzes the impact of the proposed project on recreation facilities. The analysis is intended to determine the extent to which a project contributes to the physical deterioration of publicly provided recreation facilities and potential impacts on the environment created by the need for new or expanded recreational facilities.

4.14.1 Existing Setting

The Town of Yucca Valley is responsible for 175 acres of parks and open space. Forty-five of the 175 acres are currently developed. There are eight public parks available to Yucca Valley residents: The Community Center Park, Hi-Desert Park, Machris Park, Paradise Park, Triangle Park, North Park, South Park, and Sunnyslope Park, all maintained by the Town of Yucca Valley. Additionally, the Town has cooperative agreements with other organizations such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Morongo Unified School District, and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District to share and coordinate uses at facilities owned by such organizations.¹

The Town of Yucca Valley offers a wide variety of programs and events throughout the year to provide recreational opportunities for its residents. Programs include various sports teams, leisure classes, a summer aquatics program, and youth and teen programs. The Town maintains a Community Center where many of the recreational activities are held.

Other recreational facilities located within and/or adjacent to the Town of Yucca Valley include the Blue Skies Golf Course, the Joshua Tree National Park, and the Big Morongo Canyon Wildlife Preserve.

4.14.2 Existing Policies and Regulations

State Regulations

Quimby Act (California Government Code 66477). This State policy requires the dedication of land and/or imposes a requirement of fees for park and recreational purposes as a condition of approval of tentative map or parcel map.

Local Regulations

Town of Yucca Valley Comprehensive General Plan Policies. The General Plan establishes a standard of five acres of developed parkland for each 1,000 residents. The Town currently provided approximately 2.3 acres of developed parkland for each 1,000 residents and approximately 8.9 acres of developed parkland, undeveloped parkland, and open space for each 1,000 residents.

4.14.3 Thresholds of Significance

The proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would cause the following:

¹ Town of Yucca Valley, *Parks Master Plan*, December 16, 1999, p. iii.

- An increase in 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; and/or
- Require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.14.4 Impacts and Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impacts

The following impacts were determined to be less than significant. In each of the following issues, either no impact or a less than significant impact would occur (and, therefore, no mitigation would be required) or adherence to established regulations, standards, and policies would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Increased Use of Parks or Recreational Facilities

Threshold	Would the proposed 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?
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The proposed project does not include a residential, park or recreation component. While development of the project site with retail and restaurant uses would generate employment opportunities, new positions are likely to be filled by persons already residing in the community. As the proposed project is unlikely to significantly increase local or regional populations, a less than significant increase in demand on existing or planned neighborhood/regional parks or other recreational facilities will occur. With a less than significant increase in demand on existing park or recreational facilities, development of the proposed project will not require the construction or expansion of park facilities; therefore, a less than significant impact will occur. Accordingly, potential direct and indirect impacts to parks are less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Provide Parks or Recreational Facilities

Threshold	Would the proposed project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?
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The proposed project does not include a park or residential component and, therefore, will result in a less than significant impact. As indicated previously, the project will not significantly increase the local or regional population base, resulting in a less than significant impact with regard to the need for new or expanded parks.

Potentially Significant Impacts

There are no potentially significant impacts related to parks and recreation and, therefore, there are no mitigation measures that would be required.

4.14.5 Cumulative Impacts

The project's potential for producing impacts on the provision of parks and other recreational facilities is inherently a cumulative impact discussion. This is because the determination of impacts associated with the provision of parks or recreation facilities is based on the incremental effect that the project will produce on the Town's available resources to provide the services. This determination includes existing and future demands produced by other development projects in the Town's service areas, providing a cumulative analysis. As previously discussed in the Population and Housing Section (Section 4.12), the employment rates in the Town of Yucca Valley have not kept pace with the population increase in the area. While the project would result in new jobs for the area, and other similar commercial development would result in new jobs for the area, the new jobs would likely be filled by persons already living in the community. As such, the cumulative effect of several commercial retailers bringing new jobs to the area would not be expected to result in population growth for the area. For this reason, the proposed project, in combination with other projects occurring within the Town, would not result in substantial population growth for the area, and therefore, would not result in significant cumulative impacts to parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, based on the discussion above and the cumulative projects shown in Chapter 2, Table 2.A and Figure 2.1, the project would produce a less than significant cumulative impact on the provision of parks and recreation facilities.

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