

## 4.10 Recreation

### 4.10.1 Methods and Significance Criteria

#### Methods

This section evaluates the effects on recreation that would result from the proposed action and alternatives.

Anticipated changes in land cover/land use for each alternative are described in Chapter 2, *Proposed Action and Alternatives*. See Section 4.0, *Environmental Consequences*, for a description of the methodology used across all resource chapters for the analysis of cumulative effects.

Impacts on recreation are analyzed qualitatively by their relevance to a particular alternative. The qualitative analysis addresses how implementation of the alternatives could potentially affect existing recreational facilities either through implementation of the PCCP or alternatives, or as a result of implementation of the Permit Applicants' long-term plans.

#### Significance Criteria

According to Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a proposed action would be considered to have a significant effect if it would result in any of the following.

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

### 4.10.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

#### Alternative 1—No Action

As described in Section 4.0, *Environmental Consequences*, Alternative 1 includes reasonably foreseeable activities in the Plan Area associated with urbanization and related infrastructure development, operation, and maintenance identified in the various planning documents of the Permit Applicants as well as future projects of the South Placer Regional Transportation Authority (SPRTA) and Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), such as local transportation and water projects; however, future SPRTA and PCWA projects within the Plan Area do not involve constructing recreation facilities or generating demand for recreation facilities through a permanent increase in population.

#### **Impact REC-1: Increased use of existing recreational facilities, resulting in substantial physical deterioration (NEPA: less than significant; CEQA: less than significant)**

Public and private development envisioned in the *Placer County General Plan* and *City of Lincoln General Plan* would go forward under the no action alternative. The EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994).

The EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* concluded that impacts related to recreation are less than significant with implementation of mitigation (City of Lincoln 2008). Future projects of SPRTA and PCWA would not include development of housing and would not increase use of recreational facilities.

**NEPA Determination:** With mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan*, impacts of growth associated with the *Placer County General Plan* and *City of Lincoln General Plan* would be less than significant, and future projects of SPRTA and PCWA would not increase use of recreational facilities. Accordingly, this impact would be less than significant.

**CEQA Determination:** With mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan*, impacts of growth associated with the *Placer County General Plan* and *City of Lincoln General Plan* would be less than significant, and future projects of SPRTA and PCWA would not increase use of recreational facilities. Accordingly, this impact would be less than significant.

**Impact REC-2: Construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment (NEPA: less than significant; CEQA: less than significant)**

Public and private development envisioned in the *Placer County General Plan* and *City of Lincoln General Plan* would go forward under Alternative 1, the no action alternative. The EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994). The EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* concluded that construction of new recreational resources would result in impacts on traffic, air quality, light and glare, and conversion of agricultural land. Implementation of the City of Lincoln's general plan policies and mitigation measures would not reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels (City of Lincoln 2008). These impacts are addressed in the appropriate topical sections of this document. Future projects of SPRTA and PCWA would not include development of recreational facilities.

**NEPA Determination:** The EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994). Implementation of the City of Lincoln's general plan would result in the potential need for new parks and recreational facilities, which would result in impacts on traffic, air quality, light and glare, and conversion of agricultural land that cannot be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. These impacts are addressed in the appropriate topical sections of this document. No additional significant impacts not addressed in those sections would occur.

**CEQA Determination:** The EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994). Implementation of the City of Lincoln's general plan would result in the potential need for new parks and recreational facilities, which would result in impacts on traffic, air quality, light and glare, and conversion of agricultural land that cannot be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. These impacts are addressed in the appropriate topical sections of this document. No additional significant impacts not addressed in those sections would occur.

## Alternative 2—Proposed Action

### **Impact REC-1: Increased use of existing recreational facilities, resulting in substantial physical deterioration (NEPA: less than significant; CEQA: less than significant)**

Impacts on recreation could result if implementation of the PCCP under Alternative 2, the proposed action, would result in substantial population growth, which would then lead to an increased use of existing recreational facilities and result in physical deterioration. The conservation strategy and conservation measures would not increase growth nor result in changes in population, and they would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities. Open space would be preserved as part of the PCCP Reserve System, which in some limited cases could enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for the public in the Plan Area.

Within the Plan Area, Alternative 2, the proposed action, would serve to streamline the development envisioned in the *Placer County General Plan* and the *City of Lincoln General Plan* as well as SPRTA and PCWA projects. As described under Impact REC-1 for Alternative 1, the EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994) and the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* concluded that impacts related to recreation are less than significant with implementation of mitigation identified in the EIR (City of Lincoln 2008).

**NEPA Determination:** Under Alternative 2, the proposed action, impacts on existing recreational facilities could result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but those impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce impacts from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the general plan on existing recreational facilities to less-than-significant levels. No additional increased use of recreational facilities would be generated. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

**CEQA Determination** Under Alternative 2, the proposed action, impacts on existing recreational facilities could result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but those impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce impacts from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the general plan on existing recreational facilities to less-than-significant levels. No additional increased use of recreational facilities would be generated. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant. No additional mitigation is required.

### **Impact REC-2: Construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment (NEPA: less than significant; CEQA: less than significant)**

The PCCP under Alternative 2, the proposed action, would support recreational use in specific areas within existing preserves but would not directly authorize construction of new or expanded recreational facilities on existing preserves or new preserves acquired as part of Plan implementation. There are no adopted regional park/trail plans for areas within the Reserve Acquisition Area (RAA) that identify new park and trail facilities. Limited public access and some types of recreation may be allowed on some reserve lands so long as public access and use does not conflict with the biological objectives of the Plan. Up to 70 miles of hiking trails may be developed, and hunting and fishing may be permitted under limited circumstances. The conditions on Covered Activities require public and recreational access to be governed by a public access and recreation plan. Recreation would be prohibited on some reserve lands at all or certain times of year.

Within the Plan Area, Alternative 2, the proposed action, would serve to streamline the development envisioned in the *Placer County General Plan* and the *City of Lincoln General Plan* as well as SPRTA and PCWA projects. As described under Impact REC-2 for Alternative 1, the EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994). The EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* concluded that construction of new recreational resources would result in impacts related to traffic, air quality, light and glare, and conversion of agricultural land. Implementation of the City of Lincoln's general plan policies and mitigation measures would not reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels (City of Lincoln 2008)). These impacts are addressed in the appropriate topical sections of this document.

**NEPA Determination:** The PCCP under Alternative 2, the proposed action, would not authorize construction of new recreational facilities. The conditions on PCCP implementation set forth requirements that public and recreational access be governed by a recreation plan that would ensure that recreation activities would be compatible with conservation. Impacts on recreational facilities would result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but those impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce indirect impacts due to the construction of new recreational facilities, but not to less-than-significant levels. However, because Alternative 2 does not involve the construction of new recreational facilities other than those analyzed in the general plan EIRs, this impact would be less than significant.

**CEQA Determination:** The PCCP under Alternative 2, the proposed action, does not authorize construction of new recreational facilities. The conditions on PCCP implementation set forth requirements that public and recreational access be governed by a recreation plan that would ensure that recreation activities would be compatible with conservation. Impacts on recreational facilities would result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but those impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce indirect impacts due to the construction of new recreational facilities, but not to less-than-significant levels. However, because Alternative 2 does not involve the construction of new recreational facilities other than those analyzed in the general plan EIRs, this impact would be less than significant. No mitigation has been identified.

### Alternative 3—Reduced Take/Reduced Fill

**Impact REC-1: Increased use of existing recreational facilities, resulting in substantial physical deterioration (NEPA: less than significant; CEQA: less than significant)**

Impacts on recreation could result if implementation of the PCCP under Alternative 3 would result in substantial population growth, which would then lead to an increased use of existing recreational facilities and result in physical deterioration. Compared to Alternative 2, the proposed action, Alternative 3 would slightly reduce development within the Potential Future Growth Area (PFG) and would not result in additional development or population growth that would cause an increased use of existing recreational facilities. Under Alternative 3, open space would still be preserved as part of the PCCP Reserve System, which in some limited cases could enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for the public in the Plan Area.

Within the Plan Area, Alternative 3 would serve to streamline the development envisioned in the *Placer County General Plan* and the *City of Lincoln General Plan* as well as SPRTA and PCWA projects. As described under Impact REC-1 for Alternative 1, the EIR for the *Placer County General Plan*

concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994) and the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* concluded that impacts related to recreation are less than significant with implementation of mitigation (City of Lincoln 2008).

**NEPA Determination:** Under Alternative 3, impacts on existing recreational facilities would result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but they would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce impacts from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the general plan on existing recreational facilities to less-than-significant levels. Alternative 3 would generate no other increased use of recreational facilities. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

**CEQA Determination:** Under Alternative 3, impacts on existing recreational facilities could result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but they would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce impacts from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the general plan on existing recreational facilities to less-than-significant levels. Alternative 3 would generate no other increased use of recreational facilities. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant. No additional mitigation is required.

**Impact REC-2: Construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment (NEPA: less than significant; CEQA: less than significant)**

Impacts of Alternative 3 would be the same as those identified for Impact REC-2 under Alternative 2, the proposed action.

Alternative 3 would support recreational use, including conserving open space areas necessary for access to a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in specific areas within existing preserves, but would not directly authorize construction of new or expanded recreational facilities on existing preserves or new preserves acquired as part of Plan implementation.

Within the Plan Area, Alternative 3 would serve to streamline the development envisioned in the *Placer County General Plan* and the *City of Lincoln General Plan* as well as SPRTA and PCWA projects. As described under Impact REC-2 for Alternative 1, the EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994). The EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* concluded that construction of new recreational resources would result in impacts related to traffic, air quality, light and glare, and conversion of agricultural land. Implementation of the City of Lincoln's general plan policies and mitigation measures would not reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels (City of Lincoln 2008). These impacts are addressed in the appropriate topical sections of this document.

**NEPA Determination:** The PCCP under Alternative 3 would not authorize construction of new recreational facilities. The conditions on PCCP implementation set forth requirements that public and recreational access be governed by a recreation plan that would ensure that recreation activities are compatible with conservation. Impacts related to recreational facilities would result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but those impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce indirect impacts due to the construction of new recreational facilities, but not to less-than-significant levels. However, because no new recreational facilities beyond those analyzed in the general plan EIRs would be constructed under Alternative 3, this impact would be less than significant.

**CEQA Determination:** The PCCP under Alternative 3 would not authorize construction of new recreational facilities. The conditions on PCCP implementation set forth requirements that public and recreational access be governed by a recreation plan that would ensure that recreation activities would be compatible with conservation. Impacts related to recreational facilities would result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but those impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce indirect impacts due to the construction of new recreational facilities, but not to less-than-significant levels. However, because no new recreational facilities beyond those analyzed in the general plan EIRs would be constructed under Alternative 3, this impact would be less than significant. No mitigation has been identified.

## Alternative 4—Reduced Permit Term

### **Impact REC-1: Increased use of existing recreational facilities, resulting in substantial physical deterioration (NEPA: less than significant; CEQA: less than significant)**

Impacts on recreation could result if implementation of the PCCP under Alternative 4 would result in substantial population growth, which would then lead to an increased use of existing recreational facilities that would result in physical deterioration. The conservation strategy and conservation measures would not increase growth or result in changes in population, and they would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities. Open space would be preserved as part of the PCCP Reserve System, which in some limited cases could enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for the public in the Plan Area.

Within the Plan Area, Alternative 4 would serve to streamline the development envisioned in the *Placer County General Plan* and the *City of Lincoln General Plan* as well as SPRTA and PCWA projects. As described under Impact REC-1 for Alternative 1, the EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994) and the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* concluded that impacts related to recreation are less than significant with implementation of mitigation identified in the EIR (City of Lincoln 2008).

**NEPA Determination:** Under Alternative 4, impacts on existing recreational facilities could result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but they would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce impacts from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the general plan on existing recreational facilities to less-than-significant levels. No additional increased use of recreational facilities would be generated. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

**CEQA Determination:** Under Alternative 4, impacts on existing recreational facilities could result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but they would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce impacts resulting from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the general plan on existing recreational facilities to less-than-significant levels. No additional increased use of recreational facilities would be generated. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant. No additional mitigation is required.

**Impact REC-2: Construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment (NEPA: less than significant; CEQA: less than significant)**

Under Alternative 4, the PCCP's permit term would be reduced to 30 years. In general, Alternative 4 supports recreational use, including conserving open space areas necessary for access to a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in specific areas within existing preserves, but it does not directly authorize construction of recreational facilities.

Within the Plan Area, Alternative 4 would serve to streamline development envisioned in the *Placer County General Plan* and the *City of Lincoln General Plan* as well as SPRTA and PCWA projects. The EIR for the *Placer County General Plan* concluded that impacts on recreation are less than significant (Placer County 1994). As described under Impact REC-2 for Alternative 1, the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* concluded that construction of new recreational resources would result in impacts on traffic, air quality, light and glare and conversion of agricultural land. Implementation of the City of Lincoln's general plan policies and mitigation measures would not reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels (City of Lincoln 2008). These impacts are addressed in the appropriate topical sections of this document.

**NEPA Determination:** The PCCP under Alternative 4 would not authorize construction of new recreational facilities. The conditions on PCCP implementation set forth requirements that public and recreational access be governed by a recreation plan that would ensure that recreation activities would be compatible with conservation. Impacts would result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but those impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce impacts resulting from the construction of new recreational facilities, but not to less-than-significant levels. However, because no new recreational facilities beyond those analyzed in the general plan EIRs would be constructed under Alternative 4, this impact would be less than significant.

**CEQA Determination:** The PCCP under Alternative 4 would not authorize construction of new recreational facilities. The conditions on PCCP implementation set forth requirements that public and recreational access be governed by a recreation plan that would ensure that recreation activities would be compatible with conservation. Impacts from Covered Activities would result from Covered Activities associated with implementation of the *Placer County General Plan*, but those impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation as described in the EIR for the *City of Lincoln General Plan* would reduce impacts resulting from the construction of new recreational facilities, but not to less-than-significant levels. However, because no new recreational facilities beyond those analyzed in the general plan EIRs would be constructed under Alternative 4, this impact would be less than significant. No mitigation has been identified.

### 4.10.3 Cumulative Analysis

#### Alternative 1—No Action

Under Alternative 1, the PCCP would not be implemented and there would be no cumulative impact.

#### Alternative 2—Proposed Action

Alternative 2, the proposed action, would not increase growth or result in changes in population, and it would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, Alternative 2 would not contribute to a cumulative impact on recreation.

### **Alternative 3—Reduced Take/Reduced Fill**

Alternative 3 would not increase growth or result in changes in population, and it would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, Alternative 3 would not contribute to a cumulative impact on recreation.

### **Alternative 4—Reduced Permit Term**

Alternative 4 would not increase growth or result in changes in population, and it would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, Alternative 4 would not contribute to a cumulative impact on recreation.

## **4.10.4 References Cited**

City of Lincoln. 2008. *City of Lincoln General Plan Update Final Environmental Impact Report*. State Clearinghouse No. 2005112003. February.

Placer County. 1994. *Countywide General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report*. July 26. Prepared by Crawford Multari & Starr, DKS Associates, Psomas and Associates, Jones & Stokes Associates, Recht Hausrath & Associates, J. Laurence Mintier & Associates.