

# Section 3E Recreation

## 3E.1 Summary

The following is a summary of the proposed project’s potential impacts to recreation, any necessary mitigation measures, and the level of significance after mitigation.

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Significance after Mitigation
<b>SANTIAGO HILLS II PLANNED COMMUNITY</b>		
<b>Potential Impact 3E-1.</b> Increase the Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities Such That Substantial Physical Deterioration of the Facilities Would Occur or Be Accelerated	<i>No mitigation was included in 2000 SEIR 1278.</i>  No new mitigation is required.	Less than significant
<b>Potential Impact 3E-2.</b> Include Recreational Facilities or Require the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities That Might Have an Adverse Physical Effect on the Environment	<i>2000 SEIR 1278 mitigation measure that continues to be applicable:</i>  <b>MM PS-9B.</b> <i>Dedicate Recreation Easements to County of Orange for Peters Canyon Regional Riding and Hiking Trail and Class I Bikeway Along Jamboree Road.</i>  <b>MM PS-9D.</b> <i>Modify Signals at Arterial Highway Intersections with Trails.</i>  <i>MM PS-8 and MM PS 9A from 2000 SEIR 1278 have been implemented by the revised project and are no longer applicable.</i> <i>MM PS-9C from 2000 SEIR 1278 is no longer applicable.</i>  No new mitigation is required.	Less than significant
<b>Potential Impact 3E-3.</b> Increase Population Such That the City Park Standards Would Be Exceeded	<i>MM PS-7 and MM PS-9 from 2000 SEIR 1278 are no longer applicable.</i>  No new mitigation is required.	Less than significant
<b>EAST ORANGE PLANNED COMMUNITY – AREA 1</b>		
<b>Potential Impact 3E-1.</b> Increase the Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities Such That Substantial Physical Deterioration of the Facilities Would Occur or Be Accelerated	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Significance after Mitigation
<b>Potential Impact 3E-2.</b> Include Recreational Facilities or Require the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities That Might Have an Adverse Physical Effect on the Environment	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant
<b>Potential Impact 3E-3.</b> Increase Population Such That the City Park Standards Would Be Exceeded	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant
<b>EAST ORANGE PLANNED COMMUNITY – AREAS 2 AND 3 AND REMAINING AREAS</b>		
<b>Potential Impact 3E-1.</b> 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	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant
<b>Potential Impact 3E-2.</b> Include Recreational Facilities or Require the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities That Might Have an Adverse Physical Effect on the Environment	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant
<b>Potential Impact 3E-3.</b> Increase Population Such That the City Park Standards Would Be Exceeded	No mitigation is required.	Less than significant

## 3E.2 Introduction

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed project on parks and recreation facilities and impacts on existing recreational users within the project vicinity. Several sources were consulted for information on existing and future parks and recreation resources and for regulatory standards, including: the County General Plan Recreation Element (1996); City General Plan Recreation Element (1996) and the Open Space and Conservation Element (1993); City Master Plan for Park Facilities, Recreation, and Community Services (City of Orange 1999); and the Silverado Modjeska Recreation and Parks District.

Public and agency comments received during the review of the notice of preparation and scoping meetings were considered during the analysis of impacts to recreational facilities. Comments related to recreation generally reflected a concern about locating trails away from arterial roadways, linking new trails with existing trails, the need for grade-separated crossings for all trails to ensure user safety, and impacts on existing parks and trails.

## 3E.3 Setting

The following section describes existing parks and recreation facilities.

## 3E.3.1 Regional Parkland and Recreation Facilities

See Table 3E-1 for a description and Figure 3E-1 for the location of regional parks and recreation facilities (i.e., bikeways and trails).

### 3E.3.1.1 Parkland

The Cleveland National Forest is the largest regional recreational facility within 5 miles of the project site.

The County has more than 27,000 acres of regional recreation opportunities, including 25 regional parks, 19 county beaches, three county harbors, and six regional historic sites or parks. In addition, more than 24,000 acres are proposed for public acquisition for regional recreation purposes, including four parks within a 5-mile radius of the project site: 1) Black Star Canyon Wilderness Park, 2) an extension to Irvine Regional Park that would connect to Santiago Oaks Regional Park, 3) Weir Canyon Wilderness Park, and 4) Limestone Canyon Regional Park (the largest and most significant proposed park) (County of Orange 2000).

As part of the 1991 Irrevocable Offer of Dedication by The Irvine Company, each phase of development within the Cities of Orange and Irvine triggers the dedication of management units within the proposed Limestone Canyon Regional Park dedication site. There are eight management units: Management Units I–III are related to phased development programs in Irvine; IV–VII are related to the East Orange area; and VIII is related to the construction of SR-241/261.

The County currently owns the approximately 1,600-acre Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park. The offer of dedication provided for 5,360 acres of land, including major portions of Limestone Canyon, Dripping Springs Meadow, Dripping Springs Canyon, Box Springs Canyon, Round Canyon, Upper Agua Chinon Wash, and the “sinks” (a geologic formation often found in limestone areas). This dedication provides mitigation for impacts to biological resources and would create a natural regional park.

Existing County recreational facilities are shown on Table 3E-1.

### 3E.3.1.2 Bikeways

Bikeways can be classified into three types:

- Class I Bikeway—Typically called bike paths, these provide for bicycle travel on a paved right-of-way completely separated from any street or highway. These are particularly popular with novice cyclists and avoided by experienced cyclists because they can become overly popular and crowded.
- Class II Bikeway—These are often referred to as bike lanes. They provide a striped and stenciled lane for one-way travel on a street or highway. When properly designed, bike lanes help improve the visibility of bicyclists.
- Class III Bikeway—Generally referred to as bike routes, these provide shared use with pedestrian or motor vehicle traffic and are identified only by signing. These are recommended where there is enough right-of-way for bicyclists and motorists to safely pass. (OCTA 2003).

Several areas of unincorporated Orange County are urban, such as the communities of Rossmoor, North Tustin/Lemon Heights, Midway City, and Aliso Viejo. Rural unincorporated county areas include

communities such as Trabuco Canyon, Silverado, Modjeska, and Santiago Canyon. Existing bikeway facilities outside of the incorporated cities include 30.25 miles of Class I Bikeways (bike paths), such as along the Santa Ana River, Coyote Creek, El Toro Road, and Santiago and Aliso Creeks. Existing Class II Bikeway (bike lane) facilities total 45.50 miles and include such streets as Aliso Viejo Road, Pacific Park Drive, Irvine and Orange Park Boulevards, Newport Avenue, and Oso and Antonio Parkways. Existing Class III Bikeways (bike routes) in unincorporated areas total 16 miles and include streets such as Portola Parkway, Santiago Canyon Road, and Laguna Canyon Road. (OCTA 2003).

### 3E.3.1.3 Riding and Hiking Trails

Regional riding and hiking trail typically include equestrian, pedestrian (i.e., walking, hiking, and jogging), and mountain biking (nonmotorized) use. Occasionally a specific trail may be restricted from one or more user groups due to features such as terrain, access, or trail width.

The countywide regional trail network has approximately 350 miles of existing and proposed trails. The county trails are intended to link harbors, beaches, parks, and other open space and recreation lands (County of Orange 2000).

## 3E.3.2 Local Parkland and Recreation Facilities

See Table 3E-1 for a description of local parks and recreation facilities (i.e., bikeways and trails). The City's trail map is shown on Figure 3E-2.

### 3E.3.2.1 Parkland

The City currently has 155.43 acres of City-owned and developed parkland (including two new parks developed since 1999), 23.5 acres not yet developed, and 22.95 acres in the form of joint-use school/city recreation facilities. Factoring in the joint-use facilities as a partial use (50 percent), these facilities represent 11.5 acres, for a total of 190.43 acres (City of Orange 1999). Figure 3E-2 shows the location of local park and recreation facilities. Parks within the City are categorized as follows:

#### ***Neighborhood Parks***

Neighborhood parks provide for daily recreation needs of residents in the immediate area and typically (dependent on location) include facilities such as: picnic areas, tot lots, hard court areas, multipurpose ball fields, and limited parking. The optimum size for a neighborhood park is between 4 and 10 acres, and they service an area usually within a 0.5- to 1-mile radius. Existing neighborhood and mini parks in the City include:

- Belmont Park (2.11 acres),
- El Modena Basin (7.37 acres),
- El Modena Park (9.32 acres),
- Handy Park (7.31 acres),
- La Veta Park (1.62 acres),
- Olive Park (8.02 acres),
- Pitcher Park (0.50 acres),
- Plaza Park (0.72 acres),
- Santa Fe Depot Park (0.44 acres),
- Santiago Hills Park (7.95 acres),
- Shaffer Park (7.32 acres), and
- Yorba Park (8.54 acres).

**Table 3E-1. Existing Recreational Facilities**

Resource	Acres	Facilities	Location
National Park Service			
Cleveland National Forest	422,731	26 developed campgrounds, off-highway vehicle trekking, hiking and mountain biking, horseback riding, picnicking, and pleasure driving along the Sunrise Scenic Highway. Additionally, the 200-inch telescope at Palomar Observatory located on top of Palomar Mountain.	Approximately 3 miles east of the easternmost project area; extends from Corona in the north to just north of Mexico (Great Outdoor Recreational 2004).
County of Orange			
The Nature Reserve of Orange County	38,738 acres of natural habitats, including 18,831 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat, 7,290 acres of chaparral, 6,104 acres of grasslands, 1,818 acres of riparian, and significant portions of eight other habitat types (Transportation Corridor Agencies 2004).	Hiking, mountain biking, trail running, bird watching, and equestrian use.  The Nature Reserve is a sanctuary for some of California’s rarest and most sensitive animals and plants. The NCCP planning process, completed in 1996, resulted in the creation of The Nature Reserve of Orange County. The reserve was created under the approved Central/Coastal NCCP/HCP. (USFWS 2004).  The Nature Reserve administers the endowment fund and oversees management of the reserve. (Transportation Corridor Agencies 2004).	The proposed project site is within the Central Orange County Planning Area (the central subarea) of the Central/Coastal NCCP.  The reserve area borders the proposed site on the north and south, and includes portions of Irvine Regional Park and Peters Canyon Regional Park.
Irvine Regional Park	477	Hiking, picnicking, bicycling, and equestrian use. The park also includes the Orange County Zoo.	Adjacent to and north of the Santiago Hills II Planned Community site. Located among a grove of heritage oak and sycamore trees. Santiago Creek bisects the park, and a pond with a stone-work waterfall and foot bridge is located in the center of the park. (Orange County Wild 2004a).
Peters Canyon Regional Park	354 acres of coastal sage scrub, riparian, freshwater marsh, and grassland habitats. The 55-acre Upper Peters Canyon Reservoir is home to resident and migrating waterfowl.	Hiking, mountain biking, trail running, bird watching, and equestrian use. Programs include nature hikes, bicycle tours, campfire programs, and a Junior Ranger program. Willows, sycamores, and black cottonwoods line the lake and Peters Canyon Creek, which meanders through the canyon. (Orange County Wild 2004b).	Along the west side of Jamboree Road, which forms the western edge of the Santiago Hills II Planned Community site.

Resource	Acres	Facilities	Location
Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park	Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park encompasses approximately 1,600 acres of riparian and oak woodland canyons, rolling grassland hills, and steep slopes of coastal sage scrub and chaparral.	The park is highlighted by scenic rock formations, including the beautiful Red Rock Canyon. There are three intermittent streams: Borrego, Serrano, and Aliso Creek meandering through the park. Remnants of the former cattle ranching days can be seen throughout the park. (County of Orange Harbors Beaches and Parks 2004a).	Between the Foothill Transportation Corridor (SR-241) on the west and Santiago Canyon Road on the east; south of the Limestone Canyon Regional Park dedication site.
Limestone Canyon Regional Park dedication site	The irrevocable offer of dedication for Limestone Canyon provided a commitment of 2,592 acres to permanent open space within the City of Orange Sphere of Influence (SEIR 1278 2000)	The 1989 Final Program EIR 1278 for the East Orange General Plan included the dedication of Limestone Canyon, which was to be phased with development in East Orange and the City of Irvine. This dedication will eventually provide additional park space with riding and hiking trails.	North of Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park. The park site is proposed to be dedicated to the County in phases by The Irvine Company as development occurs. (IRLR 2004).
Weir Canyon Regional Park	Approximately 200	Weir Canyon is marked by deep canyons and steep hillsides, and offers docent-led hikes and equestrian and mountain bike rides scheduled and conducted by The Nature Conservancy. (IRLR 2004).	West of the SR-241/261 along the eastern edge of Anaheim Hills.
Santiago Oaks Regional Park	350	<p>A park office, nature center, picnic grounds, nature trail, and a 6-acre orange grove are all found in this area. The park has a series of interconnecting trails suitable for equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikes. The park trails also provide access to the Anaheim Hills Trail System, which provides links to Weir Canyon Regional Park. (County of Orange Harbors Beaches and Parks 2004b).</p> <p>The area originally consisted of two purchases commonly known as the Blome and Rinker properties. The Rinker property was planted in 1959 with a variety of tree species. These have since matured, creating a specimen forest and excellent wildlife habitat. Santiago Creek offers typical riparian growth, including sycamores and willows flanked by oak woodlands. On the south bank lies the Blome property. (County of Orange Harbors Beaches and Parks 2004c).</p>	<p>Located adjacent to Santiago Creek.</p> <p>Santiago Canyon was a major thoroughfare for early settlers who settled in its side canyons— Baker, Black Star, Silverado, and Modjeska. Santiago Creek flows into Irvine Lake, which was formed in 1931 when a dam was built across lower Santiago Canyon. (IRLR 2004).</p>
<b>Other Recreation Opportunities</b>			
Irvine Ranch Land Reserve	50,000 acres. The reserve makes up more than half of the historic 93,000-acre Irvine Ranch.	IRLR began in 1897 with a gift of land from the Irvine Ranch owners to the County, which became Irvine Regional Park. IRLR consists of permanently protected open space for such activities as hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, and picnicking. The terrain varies from mountains	Stretches from Weir Canyon near SR-91 at the north end of Irvine Ranch, connects with the Cleveland National Forest along the northeast border of the ranch, continues south to include

Resource	Acres	Facilities	Location
		<p>to meadows to beaches.</p> <p>Since 1992, The Nature Conservancy has performed the stewardship role on Irvine Company-owned open space in IRLR. The Nature Conservancy’s role includes planning and managing the preservation and protection of the native habitat and species on the reserve, and coordinating appropriate public access to the reserve. The Nature Conservancy manages most of the open space in IRLR, including 50 miles of guided hiking, biking, and equestrian trails within the East Orange area. (IRLR 2004).</p>	<p>large regional open space systems in the northern and southern hillsides of Irvine, and extends to the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Crystal Cove State Park near Laguna Beach.</p> <p>Reserve areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Anaheim Wilderness Area,</li> <li>■ Bommer Canyon,</li> <li>■ Crystal Cove State Park,</li> <li>■ Fremont Canyon Wilderness,</li> <li>■ Irvine Lake,</li> <li>■ Irvine Regional Park,</li> <li>■ Laguna Coast Wilderness Park,</li> <li>■ Limestone Canyon Wilderness Area,</li> <li>■ Mason Regional Park,</li> <li>■ Peters Canyon Regional Park,</li> <li>■ San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary,</li> <li>■ Santiago Canyon,</li> <li>■ Upper Newport Bay, and</li> <li>■ Weir Canyon Wilderness Area. (IRLR 2004).</li> </ul>
North Ranch Area	11,000	<p>This area has been designated for protection through permanent, irrevocable conservation easements given to The Nature Conservancy. North Ranch lands are rich in biodiversity, supporting an array of wildlife, plants, geological formations, several complete watersheds, and significant wildlife linkages. This area encompasses Silverado, Modjeska, Blind, Fremont, and Baker Canyons. Most of the area is known as North Ranch; Laguna Canyon makes up the remaining area.</p>	<p>In the northern sphere of the Irvine Ranch area, North Ranch is located immediately adjacent to the Cleveland National Forest and The Nature Reserve; it stretches east from Gypsum Canyon to the Cleveland National Forest.</p>
Irvine Lake	700	<p>Facilities include camping, a launch ramp, boat rentals, a bait and tackle store, cafe, picnic area, barbeques, hot showers, and private boat storage. Irvine Lake is stocked weekly with rainbow trout beginning in November and continuing into May. Other fish species in the lake include trout (rainbow, brook, and brown), bass, catfish (blue and channel), crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, and sturgeon. (Irvine Lake 2004).</p> <p>The Irvine Company and the Serrano Irrigation District (today known as the Serrano Water District) began construction on the Irvine Lake dam in 1929. The construction was completed and the lake was filled in 1931 and opened to the public in 1941. Operated by Serrano Water District, which provides drinking water to Villa Park and some parts of Orange. (IRLR 2004).</p>	<p>Within the City Sphere of Influence and between East Orange Planned Community Areas 1 and 2.</p>

## ***Community Parks***

Community parks provide areas of diverse environmental conditions and typically (dependent on location) include facilities for active recreation such as: gymnasiums, performing arts, historical and cultural facilities, sports complexes, restrooms, swimming pools, tennis complexes, tot lots, and community-serving recreation buildings. Passive recreation areas include picnic areas, natural areas, and walking and hiking trails. The optimum size for a community park is between 15 and 40 acres, and they service an area usually within a 1- to 2- mile radius. Existing community parks in the City include:

- Eisenhower Park (16.46 acres),
- El Camino Real Park (18.67 acres),
- Grijalva Park (Phase I - 15.00 acres), and
- Hart Park (40.08 acres).

## ***Special-use Recreational Facilities***

Special-use recreational facilities provide activity areas for the community and surrounding areas, and include joint-use park/school or public/private partnerships, such as recreation/competitive swimming or skating. Other facilities may include: performing arts, historic and cultural facilities, fairs, rodeos, sports tournaments, shows and special events, and open space activities (such as hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and picnicking). Special-use recreational facilities vary in size depending on the use. They do not have a typical service area but draw people citywide. Existing special-use facilities in the City include:

- Senior Citizens Center,
- Community Gardens,
- Sycamore School Commission/Picnic Shelter,
- Kellefer Park (joint use) (4.95 acres), and
- McPherson Athletic Facility (joint use) (18 acres).

The Orange Unified School District and the City have a joint-use agreement to utilize school recreation facilities. Joint-use facilities are open to the public during non-school hours, weekends, and vacations.

Additionally, the City owns undeveloped parkland, including:

- Cerro Villa (26.50 acres),
- Hart Park Extension (12 acres), and
- Serrano Heights Park (4 acres). (City of Orange 1999).

### **3E.3.2.2 Bikeways**

The City has a developed network of bicycle facilities. Class III Bikeways, totaling 2.25 miles, can be found along portions of Glassell Street and Taft Avenue. Numerous Class II Bikeway facilities are located along portions of many streets, including Chapman and Walnut Avenues, Cambridge Street, and Santiago Boulevard. Class II facilities total 22 miles in the City. There are several short Class I Bikeway segments in the City, including those along Santiago Creek, Wanda Road, Rancho Santiago Boulevard, and Jamboree Road. The Santa Ana River Bikeway also runs through portions of the City. These Class I

facilities total 7.8 miles. The City has one bicycle parking facility, located at the Orange Metrolink Station (OCTA 2003).

### **3E.3.2.3 Riding and Hiking Trails**

Fifteen miles of riding and hiking trails are located throughout the City. Figure 3E-2 shows existing and proposed City trails.

## **3E.3.3 Regulatory Setting**

The following discussion identifies regional and local City policies and regulations applicable to the project site. It also explains how those policies and regulations are reflected in citywide and local park demand and supply.

### **3E.3.3.1 Regional Regulatory Setting**

#### ***Silverado Modjeska Recreation and Parks District***

Portions of the East Orange Planned Community Area 2 site and all of the East Orange Planned Community Area 3 site are within the Silverado-Modjeska Parks and Recreation District. The Silverado-Modjeska Parks and Recreation District is an independent special district created by the County Board of Supervisors on March 22, 1961 (Resolution 61-305, pursuant to Chapter 4, Division 5 of the State Public Resources Code). The district provides local and regional recreation and parks services within its boundaries, including operation of two community centers, two community parks, a children's center, and maintenance of riding and hiking trails. It is currently working to plan and implement conservation and recreation activities in upper Santiago Creek and its tributaries (Hunt pers. comm.). The district is staffed by volunteers who are currently working on a master plan. They are operating under the current goals and policies outlined in the County Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails.

As part of its consideration of an annexation request, LAFCO will determine whether the special district or the City would most effectively serve the project. In extending the City limits, LAFCO will ensure that services are provided by either the City or special district as best suited.

LAFCO is in the midst of preparing its state-mandated municipal services review to identify a 20-year vision plan for services within the cities and special districts. As part of this review, LAFCO will be looking at the role of the Silverado-Modjeska Parks and Recreation District.

#### ***State Subdivision Map Act***

The State Subdivision Map Act (California Government Code Section 66400 et seq.) sets forth procedures regarding the subdivision of land and requiring dedications of land or in-lieu fees as conditions of approving a subdivision. Provisions in the Subdivision Map Act for parkland are set forth in California Government Code Section 66477, referred to as the Quimby Act. This act allows local agencies, such as the City, to establish ordinances requiring residential subdivision developers to dedicate land and/or pay in-lieu fees for parkland and/or recreational facilities. The required dedication and/or fee is based upon the residential density, parkland cost, and other factors. The Quimby Act was first established in 1965 by the California legislature. This legislation was in response to California's

increased rate of urbanization and the need to preserve open space and provide parks and recreation facilities for California's growing communities. The Quimby Act provides that where a city has adopted a park or recreation land dedication or in-lieu fee requirement under its subdivision ordinance, the amount of the dedication cannot exceed 3 acres of neighborhood and community park per 1,000 residents of the proposed subdivision. Further, if improvements to the land are included, the cost of those improvements is counted toward the dedication.

## ***County of Orange General Plan***

The County's requirements would not apply to land that is annexed to the City. Nonetheless, the recreation policies and regulations of the County are discussed below for information purposes. Land annexed to the City would be subject to City policies and regulations, as described later.

### **Chapter IV. Transportation Element**

#### ***Component Two: Bikeways Plan***

As part of the County General Plan, the bikeways plan is taken from the initial Master Plan of Countywide Bikeways, which was adopted in 1971. The bikeways plan designates various classes of bike routes throughout the County. One of the primary considerations of this plan is to provide continuity throughout the County and to provide consistency between countywide and local jurisdiction bikeway plans. The Circulation Element of the County General Plan contains a bikeway plan that utilizes the countywide classification system and links to County routes.

County bikeways are divided into three classes:

- Class I Bikeways are paved bike trails that are physically separated from a roadway and designated primarily for the use of bicycles. Crossflows by pedestrians and motorists are to be minimized. These bikeways typically serve corridors not served by streets and highways, or where sufficient right-of-way exists to construct a separate facility parallel to the roadway. They often serve to bridge gaps in the system caused by manmade or natural barriers, and often use abandoned railroad rights-of-way, utility easements, flood control channels, parks, and similar linear open space corridors.
- Class II Bikeways feature a striped lane on the paved area of a road; parking is prohibited in this lane. Where sufficient pavement width exists, these lanes may be located between a parking lane and the outside motor vehicle travel lane. Typical width of these lanes is 8 feet, measured from curb face. Additional width should be provided where parking is anticipated. A minimum width of 5 feet is acceptable if the travel way is constrained to facilitate additional turn lanes. Bike lanes are one-way facilities intended to be ridden in the same direction as adjacent motor vehicle flow.
- Class III Bikeways are typically identified by green and white "Bike Route" signs. No special lane designations are required for this type of bikeway, and parking may be permitted. Bike traffic may share either the roadway or sidewalk. In either case, bicycle usage is considered secondary. Bike routes are established as a means to connect otherwise discontinuous segments of Class I or II bikeways.

### **Chapter VII. Recreation Element**

#### ***Local Parks Component: Local Parks Master Plan***

The Local Parks Master Plan establishes goals, objectives, and policies and provides implementation programs to meet the local recreation needs of unincorporated Orange County areas. Along with the Local Park Code, the plan provides for comprehensive park planning and programming.

The Local Park Code requires 2.5 acres of land per 1,000 persons when residential dwelling units are proposed. The code also allows for the payment of in-lieu fees of a combined provision of parkland and payment of fees when the community is better served by parkland near the property served. County parkland is divided into local, mini, view/lookout, neighborhood, and community parks.

***Regional Riding and Hiking Trails Component: Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails***

The Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails includes an inventory of existing and proposed trails, and standards and criteria for the provision of new trails. This plan also provides policies and programs to implement the future development and operation of the countywide trails system.

***Regional Recreation Facilities Component: Master Plan of Regional Recreation Facilities***

The Master Plan of Regional Recreation Facilities provides a countywide regional recreation network of facilities to meet the major recreation needs of current and future residents of the County. These facilities include harbors, public beaches, regional parks, wilderness areas, and historic sites.

### ***Natural Communities Conservation Plan***

The study area for the Santiago Hills II and the East Orange Planned Communities is included in the Central/Coastal NCCP. The Central/Coastal NCCP/HCP and its associated implementation agreement and EIS/EIR were approved on July 17, 1996, for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive approach to habitat conservation in the County. The plan outlines a reserve area and associated implementation agreement that establishes additional funding, adaptive management, and impact minimization measures to protect target species and habitat. The implementation agreement was signed by USFWS, CDFG, and participating landowners and cities. Both the City and The Irvine Company are signatories to this agreement. The 37,000-acre reserve borders the proposed site on the north and south, and includes portions of Irvine Regional Park and Peters Canyon Regional Park. The reserve is administered by The Nature Reserve, which includes representatives of the City, USFWS, CDFG, The Irvine Company, and local environmental groups.

### ***OCTA Commuter Bikeways Strategic Plan***

OCTA adopted the 2001 Commuter Bikeways Strategic Plan on August 27, 2001. The plan was originally written in 1995 and was intended to create a comprehensive blueprint of the existing bikeways in the County, as well as propose new facilities to complete a network of bikeways. The plan is provided to each city and the County to adopt, if they so choose. The City has adopted a plan consistent with the 2001 Commuter Bikeways Strategic Plan.

Through the cooperation of the cities and the County, an inventory was taken of existing bikeways, and priority corridors for new bikeways were identified. Prioritization of the proposed bikeways, as identified in the plan, was based on several factors, including input from each city and the County, gap closure in the existing network, and connectivity to other transportation modes. The plan is expected to be implemented over the next 20 years by local jurisdictions. In the project vicinity, the plan shows a Class III Bikeway along Santiago Canyon Road from Jamboree Road on the north to El Toro Road on the south. It also shows a Class II Bikeway along Jamboree and Tustin Ranch roads, and a Class I Bikeway from the north end of Peters Canyon Regional Park to Chapman Avenue and within Irvine Regional Park. (OCTA 2004).

### **3E.3.3.2 Local Regulatory Setting**

#### ***East Orange General Plan (December 1989)***

The East Orange General Plan of 1989 states that parklands will be provided in accordance with the City's park policy. A combination of active and passive neighborhood parks, as well as a sports park, are called for in the East Orange study area. The precise locations and sizes of future parks are to be defined in conjunction with the approval of specific development plans. Due to the proximity of the existing and proposed natural and/or active regional parks along with the extent of scenic open space preserved in the immediate areas of the East Orange study area, the emphasis of park planning is to be on active neighborhood and sports park facilities.

#### ***City of Orange General Plan (August 1989)***

##### **Circulation Element Bikeway Master Plan**

The focus of this plan is on recreational bicyclists and commuters who use "road bikes" (bicycles that have narrow, smooth tires intended for travel on roads, versus "mountain bikes" (which have wider tires and are intended for trail riding). This plan states, "Efforts are made wherever possible to provide bikeways separate from the roadway so that cyclists may be protected from fumes and fast moving vehicles." The City Bikeway Master Plan only includes two classes of bikeway: Class I—off-road routes (separated from streets) and Class II—on-road routes (delineated by painted stripes). No City bikeways are planned for the project area; however, the plan shows a County Class I Bikeway from the northernmost extent of the Santiago Creek Trail traversing north of Irvine Regional Park, and a County Class II Bikeway along Santiago Canyon Road.

#### ***City of Orange Recreational Trails Master Plan***

The Recreational Trails Master Plan is a comprehensive long-range planning document for trail alignments and standards. In contrast to the City Bikeway Master Plan, the Recreational Trails Master Plan was designed for a broader spectrum of users, including trail bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and equestrians. The trail routes are designed to link wherever possible with the routes designated in the Bicycle Master Plan; however, recreation trails are not suitable for street bikes because of the soft surface trail tread.

#### ***City of Orange Master Plan for Park Facilities, Recreation, and Community Services (1999)***

The City Master Plan for Park Facilities, Recreation, and Community Services (1999) provides information regarding the amount and characteristics of recreational resources within the City, citywide recreation demand and needs, and recommendations regarding the type and number of recreational facilities.

The purpose of the master plan is to provide a strategic plan for development of new recreation facilities and for renovation of existing City parks and recreation facilities. The plan also addresses preservation of open space and development of future programs.

Master plan goals relevant to the proposed project include:

- develop additional sports practice fields, and
- develop additional lighted sports fields.

### ***City of Orange Park Standards***

According to the City Master Plan for Park Facilities, Recreation, and Community Services (1999), “[I]t is intended that implementation of the Master Plan and subsequent decisions based on it will lead the City to the ratio goal of 3 acres of parkland for every 1000 residents.”

In 1999, when the master plan was adopted, the City had 136.43 acres of City-owned and developed parkland, 42.5 acres not yet developed, and 22.95 acres in the form of joint-use school/city recreation facilities. Factoring in the joint-use facilities as a partial use (50 percent), these facilities represent 11.5 acres, for a total of 190.43 acres. Based on a population of 125,065 in 1999, the City had 1.54 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. (City of Orange 1999).

Since 1999, the population in the City has increased by 9,458, to 134,523 in 2003 (California State University, Fullerton, Center for Demographic Research 2003). The City has also developed 19 acres of new parkland, including 15 acres at Grijalva Park (Phase I), which opened in April 2003, and 4 acres at Serrano Heights, which will open in 2004 (Galera pers. comm.). However, the total acres of parkland remains the same because the 19 acres would move from the park “not yet developed” to the “developed parkland” category. As a result, the City currently has 155.43 acres of City-owned and developed parkland, and 23.5 acres not yet developed, for a total of 190.43 acres of parkland. The current ratio of parkland to residents is 1.42 acres per 1,000 residents.

Applying that ratio to the current population of the City would require a total of roughly 404 acres of developed parkland. The City has a deficit of approximately 214 acres of developed parkland. Constitutional limits on regulatory “takings,” as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court, essentially prohibit the City from requiring that developers contribute parkland or recreational facilities at a rate that exceeds their proportional contribution to the overall demand. Accordingly, the existing deficit cannot be made up through conditions of approval on future projects since their contributions are limited to the new demand they are creating.

## **3E.4 Impacts and Mitigation**

### **3E.4.1 Methodology**

The impacts analysis for the project was considered using three distinct approaches. For Santiago Hills II Planned Community, which has a previously certified environmental document (2000 SEIR 1278), the analysis addresses only substantial changes in the revised Santiago Hills II Planned Community project from that previously approved, substantial changes in the setting or regulatory setting related to the Santiago Hills II Planned Community study area, or new information related to the Santiago Hills II Planned Community study area that was not known at the time that 2000 SEIR 1278 was certified. Such changes are addressed in the impacts analysis and mitigation included if necessary. In addition, mitigation measures from the 2000 SEIR 1278 are considered, with a determination as to whether these

mitigation measures would be applicable to the revised project or no longer applicable (because the impact would not occur or because the previous mitigation has already been implemented).

For the proposed East Orange Planned Community Area 1 activities, a project-level impact analysis is included in this environmental document, because tentative tract maps have been submitted, therefore allowing this level of analysis. For the proposed East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3 activities along with remaining areas, a program-level analysis of potential impacts was undertaken, reflecting the conceptual level of planning that has occurred to date.

The existing amount of neighborhood and community park facilities is based on information in the City's Master Plan for Park Facilities, Recreation, and Community Services (1999). A 5-mile radius is used to define the area that would be affected by the project demand for parks.

Based on California State University Fullerton's Center for Demographic Research's "Orange County Facts and Figures" (2003), the City has 3.09 persons per household. The projected population at buildout of the proposed project is estimated to be 5,061 persons for Santiago Hills II Planned Community (1,638 dwelling units) and 7,262 persons for the East Orange Planned Community (2,350 dwelling units). See Section 3F, Population and Housing, for more details about estimated population.

The aesthetic impacts of the proposed project on recreationalists are addressed under Section 3I, Visual Resources, of this Draft SEIR/EIR.

The analysis of park and recreation impacts is based on the standards set out in the City Master Plan for Park Facilities, Recreation, and Community Services (1999). The 1999 standard of 3 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents has been used to quantify parkland demands. This is the threshold of significance for determining at which point parks would be subject to deterioration or when new facilities are required. The City is using the Quimby Act as the basis for determining the amount of dedication required. As part of the requirement, the City will be weighing the value of park improvements along with dedication of land.

## 3E.4.2 Thresholds of Significance

The project would result in a significant impact to recreation if the project would:

- increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities 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, or
- increase population such that the City park standards would be exceeded.

For the purposes of this analysis, increased use of existing parks is determined based on the ability of the project to provide parkland on site at a ratio of 3 acres per 1,000 new residents, or to make appropriate payment of Quimby Act fees.

### 3E.4.3 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Project

As shown in Table 3E-2, 38.9 acres of parkland is proposed to be provided as part of the project for the Santiago Hills II and East Orange Planned Communities. The total population generated by the proposed project is estimated at 11,640, which translates into a demand for 34.9 acres of parkland.

**Table 3E-2.** Parkland Dedication

Development Area	Proposed Dwelling Units	Estimated Population	Proposed Parkland Dedication (acres)	Required Parkland Dedication (acres)
2004 Santiago Hills II Planned Community	1,510	4,704	8.6	14.1
East Orange Planned Community Area 1	1,024	3,123	30.3	9.4
East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3	1,250	3,660	0	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>11,640</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>34.9</b>

#### 3E.4.3.1 Santiago Hills II Planned Community

##### ***Potential Impact 3E-1 Increase the Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities Such That Substantial Physical Deterioration of the Facilities Would Occur or Be Accelerated***

###### **2000 SEIR 1278**

2000 SEIR 1278 analyzed approximately 34 acres of passive parkland. Population projections for 2000 SEIR 1278 were estimated at 5,000. Using the City's standard parkland-to-population ratio of 3 acres per 1,000 residents, the project would have require 15 acres of developed parkland, which the 2000 SEIR 1278 met. However, the document concluded that the project did not provide adequate active sports park opportunities.

###### **Revised Santiago Hills II Planned Community**

The current proposal includes a total of 8.6 acres of parkland, 25.4 acres less than approved in 2000. The projected population at buildout of the Santiago Hills II Planned Community (not including the affordable housing portion discussed below) is estimated to be 4,704 persons and would require 14.11 acres of parks or the equivalent to satisfy the City's park requirements. The combination of public parkland and credit for private facilities currently proposed in the Santiago Hills II Planned Community totals 11.00 acres of land. While this amount is 3.11 acres short of the 14.11-acre requirement, the applicant has committed in the draft Development Agreement between the City and the applicant to provide improved private parks (which receive partial credit, in accordance with City Ordinance) and to fully improve the public neighborhood parks on a schedule to be set out in the subdivision maps. In addition, East Orange Planned Community Area 1 includes an approximately 20-acre sports park, which is 22.43 acres in excess of the East Orange Planned Community Area 1 requirement. To ensure that the parkland requirements are met even if East Orange Planned Community Area 1 is not built, The Irvine Company has agreed in the draft Development Agreement to provide a letter of credit to the City for \$3.0 million, returnable once the sports park in East Orange Planned Community Area 1 is rough graded. This letter of credit is to ensure that if the sports park is not built, the City would have sufficient funds to purchase additional parkland or

make other improvements to fully satisfy the park requirements for the Santiago Hills II Planned Community.

Within the Santiago Hills II Planned Community, the City is including a 128-unit affordable housing project. The City of Orange's Zoning Ordinance specifically allows a waiver of development fees (including for parks).

Therefore, because the project would provide adequate parks, substantial physical deterioration of existing parks outside the development would not occur and impacts would be considered less than significant. This conclusion is consistent with conclusions presented in 2000 SEIR 1278; there is no new or more severe impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation is required.

### **Residual Impacts**

No mitigation is required and impacts would be less than significant.

## **Potential Impact 3E-2 Include Recreational Facilities or Require the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities That Might Have an Adverse Physical Effect on the Environment**

### **2000 SEIR 1278**

#### ***Regional Parks***

No impacts to Peters Canyon and Irvine Regional Parks were found in 2000 SEIR 1278 because visibility of the development from the parks would not affect the use or character of the parks.

#### ***Regional Riding and Hiking Trails***

Proposed trails in the project analyzed in 2000 SEIR 1278 included the reconstruction to full standards of the temporary trail parallel to Jamboree Road from Irvine Park Road to north of Canyon View Avenue (see Figure 2-12 in Chapter 2). This trail would provide connectivity to trails in Peters Canyon Regional Park. This trail was consistent with the City's Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails. A portion of the trail would not be constructed to full standards. Although it was determined not to be a significant impact, the following mitigation measure was included.

***MM PS-9A.*** *During the final tract map approval, every effort will be made to ensure that the regional riding and hiking trail is constructed to full standards. To ensure that the County is kept abreast of this issue, if the trail cannot be designed to full standard due to environmental and permitting constraints, the project applicant shall work with the County to develop a mutually acceptable design. After construction the trail shall be dedicated to the County.*

The proposed route for the trail connection from Canyon View Avenue to Handy Creek Road would have traversed Peters Canyon Regional Park, requiring approval from the County. If approval was not obtained, significant impacts would have occurred, as the project would not achieve planned recreation facilities and would be inconsistent the City General Plan. Significant impacts would also have occurred if the entire trail were constructed along the east side of Jamboree Road instead of crossing Jamboree

Road at Canyon View Avenue to avoid existing wetland habitat. The following mitigation measure was included in 2000 SEIR 1278 to reduce this impact.

**MM PS-8.** *Prior to approval of tentative tract maps for Sectors M and N, adjacent to Handy Creek Road, the project proponent shall coordinate with the County of Orange and the City to establish a viable route for the community trail that provides connectivity of the Canyon View Trail with a trail along Handy Creek Road.*

To avoid impacts to equestrians crossing Jamboree Road, the following mitigation measure from 2000 SEIR 1278 was included.

**MM PS-9D.** *As conditions on appropriate tentative tract maps, The Irvine Company shall be responsible for modifying signals at arterial highway intersections located along the trails within the project boundary to allow the signals to be actuated by a mounted equestrian.*

The following mitigation measure was included to ensure timely dedication of easements for recreation facilities.

**MM PS-9B.** *Dedication of Recreation Easements to the County of Orange for the Peters Canyon Regional Riding and Hiking Trail, and Class I Bikeway along Jamboree Road will be made by the project applicant, at applicable subdivision levels of approval within the City of Orange, subject to the approval of the Manager, County PFRD/Harbors, Beaches and Parks.*

The following mitigation measure was included to buffer the extension of Santiago Canyon Road from Irvine Regional Park.

**MM PS-9C.** *Upon completion of the grading of Santiago Canyon Road to full arterial standards and recordation of the final subdivision map for Sector G, Sector A will be dedicated to the County for regional park purposes; however, a temporary easement will be provided to allow the construction of Santiago Canyon Road to ultimate width.*

### ***Bikeways***

2000 SEIR 1278 provided for the ultimate construction of regional bikeways within the project area. The Santiago Canyon Road Class II Bikeway would terminate at SR-241/261 until construction of the toll road was complete. An alternative route along Chapman Avenue would be provided. 2000 SEIR 1278 also proposed that an “off-road bikeway along the west side of Jamboree Road [from Santiago Canyon Road to Chapman Avenue] would be constructed to County of Orange Standards for a Class I Bikeway adjacent to the proposed retail center.” No significant impacts to bikeways were found.

### **Revised Santiago Hills II Planned Community**

No new regulations related to parks and recreation have been adopted since 2000 SEIR 1278 was certified in September 2000.

Impacts associated with the construction of project parks are discussed under the noise, air quality, aesthetics, traffic, and water quality sections of this Draft SEIR/EIR.

### ***Regional Parks***

In the Santiago Hills II Planned Community study area, the proposed open space and conservation element amendments are designed to add approximately 35 acres to the area zoned as open space adjacent to Irvine Regional Park. Because tentative tract maps are now complete, the exact location of

development is known. With this information, critical analysis of view impacts from Irvine Regional Park has occurred. View impacts for recreationalists at the park are not considered significant because development would not be visible. See Section 3I, Visual Resources, for a detailed analysis of potential visual impacts. Impacts on existing regional parks are considered less than significant. This conclusion is consistent with conclusions presented in 2000 SEIR 1278; there is no new or more severe impact.

### ***Local Parks***

No County- or City-owned parks or recreation facilities are currently located on the project site. Santiago Hills II Planned Community would increase the City's population by an estimated 4,704 people, which is about 61 more than the previously approved in 2000 SEIR 1278 (plus an estimated 357 in the City's affordable housing project). 2000 SEIR 1278 found that the project approved at that time would have a less-than-significant effect on existing parks and recreation facilities. The additional population would not result in new or more severe significant impacts to existing or planned recreational opportunities, particularly in light of the overall recreational opportunities that would be available at buildout of Santiago Hills II Planned Community. Impacts associated with the provision of parks are considered to be less than significant. This conclusion is consistent with conclusions presented in 2000 SEIR 1278; there is no new or more severe impact.

### ***Regional Riding and Hiking Trails***

The Santiago Hills II Planned Community project includes additional connections with Irvine Regional Park not included in 2000 SEIR 1278 (see Figure 2-12 in Chapter 2). The Handy Creek/Jamboree Road off-road riding and hiking trail segment remains a part of the proposed project; however, the alignment has been moved from the west side of Jamboree Road (inside Peters Canyon Regional Park) to the east side of Jamboree Road. The current project avoids crossing Jamboree Road in two locations to connect to the Handy Creek Road underpass.

This trail was included in the 2000 SEIR 1278 to provide a link between the 24-acre park to the east and Peters Canyon Regional Park. The current plan eliminates the 24-acre park, but the trail remains. This trail now ends at the Handy Creek underpass, with IRLR to the east. Additionally, the new riding and hiking trail alignment traverses the wetlands that were avoided under 2000 SEIR 1278. This would be considered a significant impact on biological resources unless mitigation measures are incorporated to reduce these impacts. This issue is addressed in Section 3D, Biological Resources, which outlines a wetlands mitigation plan that mitigates wetlands impacts resulting from the trail alignment.

Because the new trail fulfills the requirement set forth in MM PS-8, this mitigation measure has been fulfilled. Additionally, the riding and hiking trail would be constructed to full width; therefore, MM PS-9A has been fulfilled by being incorporated into the project. Santiago Canyon Road extension has been deleted from Santiago Hills II Planned Development; therefore, MM PS-9C, (mitigation for a buffer between Irvine Regional Park and the new roadway) is no longer required. The dedication for Peters Canyon Regional Park is no longer required as outlined in MM PS-9B; however, the timing for the dedication of the Class I Bikeway is still valid. This impact is considered less than significant. MM PS 9D is still applicable to the proposed project.

### ***Bikeways***

The Santiago Hills II project includes the following changes.

- The riding and hiking trail adjacent to Jamboree Road would be realigned to follow a north/south-trending street inside the Santiago Hills II Planned Community area. The trail would run from Jamboree Road on the south to Irvine Regional Park on the north. This change would not result in additional impacts.

- Deletion of the Class II Bikeway (bike lane) would correspond to the deletion of the Santiago Canyon Road extension in the northern portion of Santiago Hills II Planned Community adjacent to Irvine Regional Park. The Class II Bikeway would change to a riding and hiking trail and would follow the new local collector (Street “A”) to the east over the toll road. The portion of the trail that crosses over the toll road would be a Class II Bikeway and would be narrower than the trail on either side. This trail would include a connection to Irvine Regional Park. This change would not result in additional impacts.

Bikeway impacts are considered to be less than significant. This conclusion is consistent with conclusions presented in 2000 SEIR 1278; there is no new or more severe impact.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No new mitigation is required.

### **Residual Impacts**

No new mitigation is required and residual impacts would be less than significant.

## **Potential Impact 3E-3 Increase Population Such That the City Park Standards Would Be Exceeded**

### **2000 SEIR 1278**

2000 SEIR 1278 proposed two local parks (5 acres each) and a community park (24 acres), for a total of 34 acres. The park ratio would be met; however, the 9 developable acres within the community park could not be developed for active sports, thereby limiting the function of the park. Although determined to be not significant, the City considered this to be a locally adverse impact because the recreation needs of the City would not be met. The following mitigation measures were included in 2000 SEIR 1278 to reduce this impact.

*MM PS-7. Plans for adequate provision and development of local parks within the project site shall be addressed in the zoning and specific plans for East Orange.*

*MM PS-9. During the final tract map approval, every effort will be made to ensure that the regional riding and hiking trail is constructed to full standards. To ensure that the County is kept abreast of this issue, if the trail cannot be designed to full standard due to environmental and permitting constraints, the project applicant shall work with the County to develop a mutually acceptable design. After construction, the trail shall be dedicated to the County. Prior to approval of the first “B” tentative map for Santiago Hills II, the Irvine Company shall develop a program for providing parkland that would meet the City’s need for active sports facilities. The program can involve improvements that would be made in subsequent phases of the [East Orange General Plan], but would ensure that the sports facilities would be included in Planning Area 1 of the [East Orange General Plan].*

### **Revised Santiago Hills II Planned Community**

The combination of public parkland and credit for private facilities currently proposed in Santiago Hills II Planned Community totals 11.00 acres of land. The public parks include a 4.6-acre neighborhood park and a 4.0-acre neighborhood park adjacent to the school site. Neighborhood parks typically include facilities such as picnic areas, tot lots, hard court areas, multipurpose ball fields, and limited parking. As

part of the proposed project, the 4.76-acre neighborhood park would not include hard court areas or ball fields, and would be categorized as a passive park. This park would not have nighttime lighting. The park adjacent to the school is anticipated to be a joint-use facility that would include a baseball diamond and a soccer/football field, and would be lighted for night play. This park would be fenced and gated and closed after the last event of the day. The City Community Services Department coordinates schedules and access to fields.

Because the Santiago Hills II Planned Community project includes adequate sports park facilities, MM PS-7 and MM PS-9 from 2000 SEIR 1278 are no longer required. Recreational impacts are considered less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

No new mitigation is required.

### ***Residual Impacts***

Impacts would be less than significant.

## **3E.4.3.2 East Orange Planned Community Area 1**

For the East Orange Planned Community, this CEQA analysis analyzes parks and recreation impacts resulting from the proposed development. East Orange Planned Community Area 1, which includes a tentative tract map, is analyzed at a project level of detail. East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3 and remaining areas are analyzed at a more programmatic level. Because the proposed bikeways and riding and hiking trails are linear and traverse the entire project area, the analysis is covered under East Orange Planned Community Area 1.

### ***Neighborhood Parks***

The East Orange Planned Community Area 1 proposal includes two neighborhood parks (3.3 acres and 6.0 acres) and a 1-acre "paseo" (not counted in total developed parkland acres). Neighborhood parks typically include facilities such as picnic areas, tot lots, hard court areas, multipurpose ball fields, and limited parking. However, the parks proposed for East Orange Planned Community Area 1 would not include hard court areas, multipurpose ball fields, or parking. Because they do not include designated areas for active sports (courts and fields) they are considered "passive" parks. These parks are not expected to have nighttime lighting. Neighborhood parks in the City are not typically fenced or gated, but do have a 10:00 p.m. closing time. People found in the park after 10:00 p.m. would be subject to arrest.

### ***Sports Park***

An approximately 20-acre lighted sports park is proposed along the southern perimeter of East Orange Planned Community Area 1 near the intersection of Santiago Canyon Road and proposed Street "A." The sports park would be designed to cater to the existing population, which resides in the developed communities in the vicinity, and the anticipated population of the Santiago Hills II and East Orange Planned Communities. The sports park's proposed location takes into consideration the interface between the sports park and adjacent residential neighborhoods in East Orange Planned Community Area 1, as

well as ease of vehicular access from other communities in the East Orange vicinity. Approximately 300 parking spaces would be provided at the park.

A preliminary conceptual design of the proposed sports park prepared by the City includes the following components: three baseball fields, two soccer fields, basketball courts, a concession stand, several playground areas, and bathroom facilities. Lights would be provided over the fields to allow evening sporting activities. Sports parks in the City are not typically fenced or gated, but they do have a 10:00 p.m. closing time. People found in the park after 10:00 p.m. would be subject to arrest. The City Community Services Department coordinates schedules and access to fields.

Possible design features of the sports park would include the following:

- The sports fields would be approximately 125 feet from the proposed neighborhoods adjacent to the park.
- A dense landscape planting zone along the park boundary, including evergreen leaf trees, coniferous trees, shrubs, and groundcovers, would provide a natural method of dust filtration, a visual buffer and backdrop to the park, and a physical barrier between the park and the proposed residential units.
- Nighttime lighting would be oriented inward to minimize intrusion into the surrounding area (see Section 3I, Visual Resources).

### ***Proposed Bikeways***

The project proposes upgrading the existing County Class III Bikeway along Santiago Canyon Road to a Class II Bikeway. Santiago Canyon Road would be widened to a 4-lane primary road (street parking prohibited) and would include additional width for a Class II Bikeway.

### ***Proposed Riding and Hiking Trails***

The project also proposes a revision to the County Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails. Instead of the proposed County trail connecting to Irvine Regional Park from the north via the east side of Irvine Lake and Santiago Creek, it would be rerouted to follow Santiago Canyon Road and Street "A," then cross over the toll road before connecting to the Irvine Regional Park from the south. The western half of the trail is generally in the same location as the proposed County trail; however, the new trail would traverse the south side of Santiago Canyon Road instead of the north side (see Figure 2-13a in Chapter 2).

The topographic and environmental conditions through which this trail would pass are extremely constrained. To achieve reasonably safe gradients, reduce environmental impacts, and minimize grading, a minimum-width cross section would be used in portions of the trail. The trail adjacent to Street "A" would be constructed at the same time as the street. The trail would cross Santiago Canyon Road near the entrance to Irvine Lake and continue on existing truck trails south of Santiago Canyon Road. The trail would continue back up to Santiago Canyon Road where it would cross near the southern end of the project boundary, then run along the north side of the road for about 2,000 feet. The trail would end near Santiago Creek, where it would connect to future proposed county trails. The trail and associated street-level crossings would be constructed at the same time as the Santiago Canyon Road widening (see Section 3J, Traffic and Circulation, for details on this roadway).

A "Haul Road Bridge Option" is also being considered for this trail (see Figure 2-13b in Chapter 2). This option would also require a revision to the County Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails.

The trail would stay on the north side of Santiago Canyon Road beyond the entrance to Irvine Lake and continue on existing truck trails to the existing haul road bridge that crosses Santiago Canyon Road. The trail would continue across the bridge onto the existing truck trail south of Santiago Canyon Road, where it would connect to future proposed County trails.

### ***Potential Impact 3E-1 Increase the Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities Such That Substantial Physical Deterioration of the Facilities Would Occur or Be Accelerated***

#### **Parks**

East Orange Planned Community Area 1 would include the construction of 1,024 units and house approximately 3,123 people. The increase in population would result in an increase in the general use of local and regional recreational facilities. Additional use would also increase wear and tear to facilities, which in turn would add to maintenance costs and shorten some timelines for facility renovations. Increased demand for recreational programs would also be created by increased population, which would also increase the overall cost to deliver those services.

East Orange Planned Community Area 1 would provide adequate parklands (30.3 acres in three parks: 20.1, 6.3, and 3.9 acres); therefore, existing parks are not expected to experience substantial physical deterioration. Additionally, the development of East Orange Planned Community Area 1 would trigger dedication of Limestone Canyon Management Unit IV, which would be a benefit. This dedication would not count toward the project's contribution to parkland dedication.

#### **Bikeways**

Increased population in East Orange Planned Community Area 1 would increase the use of bikeways in the area. The only existing bikeway in the project vicinity is a Class III Bikeway along Santiago Canyon Road. This bikeway would be improved to a Class II Bikeway; however, that would not occur until most of the development in East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3 is complete. The existing Class III Bikeway would not be damaged by an increase in use.

The City Bikeway Master Plan (part of the Circulation Element of the City General Plan) describes the need to provide safe and efficient travelways for bicyclists, and the proposed Class II Bikeway would be consistent with this need.

#### **Riding and Hiking Trails**

Development of the project would increase the use of existing riding and hiking trails. This increase in use would not be significant and would not be expected to deteriorate the trails. Impacts would be less than significant. In addition, the project would implement the County's Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails, with revisions for safety and to reduce environmental impacts, which would be a positive benefit of the project on trails.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

### ***Residual Impacts***

No mitigation is required and residual impacts would be less than significant.

## ***Potential Impact 3E-2 Include Recreational Facilities or Require the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities That Might Have an Adverse Physical Effect on the Environment***

### **Parks**

Development of East Orange Planned Community Area 1 would include the construction of 30.3 acres of parkland. As described throughout Chapter 3 of this Draft SEIR/EIR, construction and operational activities on the project site would have a potential adverse impact on various resources. Potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of project parks are discussed under the noise, air quality, biology, aesthetics, traffic, and water quality sections of this Draft SEIR/EIR. Impacts to The Nature Reserve “Reserve Lands” are also addressed in those sections.

East Orange Planned Community Area 1 development would not be visible or would be screened from recreation facilities, including Irvine Regional Park and Irvine Lake. As discussed in Section 3I, Visual Resources, impacts would be less than significant.

### **Bikeways**

The County MPAH is proposed for revision as a result of changes in land use for the Santiago Hills II and East Orange Planned Communities. Removal of several roadways, such as North Lake Road, Blue Diamond Haul Road, Culver Loop, and Handy Creek Road, would alter bikeway routes in the project vicinity (see Section 3J, Traffic and Circulation). Although fewer alternative onstreet routes would be available, these revisions would not impact current or future street cyclists because the proposed project would provide a Class II Bikeway (improved from a Class III Bikeway) connection along Santiago Canyon Road from the east end of the City Sphere of Influence boundary to onstreet bikeways in the City. Santiago Canyon Road would be widened to a four-lane primary road (street parking prohibited) and would include additional width for a Class II Bikeway. This new bikeway would be an improvement to the existing Class III Bikeway (bike route) on Santiago Canyon Road. The standard minimum bikeway width on streets where street parking is prohibited is 3 feet. This new Class II Bikeway is not a proposed County bikeway and is voluntarily included as part of the proposed project.

The County has designated a Class I Bikeway (Santiago Creek Bikeway). This bikeway is proposed to begin at Broadway in Santa Ana and connect with Santiago Canyon Road at Black Star Canyon Road. This regional bikeway is proposed to be aligned along the north side of Santiago Creek as it leaves Irvine Regional Park. The route would then follow along the north edge of Irvine Lake until it would reach Black Star Canyon Road. The County refers to this trail as an “important commuter and recreational bikeway [that] will serve users between downtown cities and the Silverado-Modjeska area, as well as future residents of the East Orange Planned Community” (Neely pers. comm.). However, implementation of improvements to provide a commuter and recreation bikeway has been precluded by the NCCP. Due to these environmental factors, the project does not propose to implement this bikeway, but is providing other bikeways, as discussed above. This is considered a less-than-significant impact.

### **Riding and Hiking Trails**

A County-planned trail is located in the vicinity of the project development areas. The Santiago Creek Trail is a County master-planned regional riding and hiking trail. It is proposed to extend from Cannon Street in Orange eastward and connect with the Aliso Creek Trail at Cook’s Corner. The trail would be aligned along the south side of Santiago Creek as it leaves Irvine Regional Park, then follow the south side of Irvine Lake to Black Star Canyon Road. Currently this trail location is on private land and is not accessible to the public.

As part of the project, the developer is requesting a revision to this trail as proposed in the County Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails. Instead of the proposed County trail connecting to Irvine Regional Park from the north via the east side of Irvine Lake and Santiago Creek, it would be rerouted to follow Santiago Canyon Road and Street "A," then cross over the toll road before connecting to Irvine Regional Park from the south. The western half of the trail is generally in the same location as the proposed County trail, south of Santiago Canyon Road. The revised route would serve to connect Irvine Regional Park with future trails to the west of the City's Sphere of Influence boundary. Although the revised route would not be as remote as the County-planned trail, it essentially provides the same connection to existing and planned trails outside the project area. Additionally, the new route would cross Santiago Canyon Road in two locations, each with signalized crossings (one with a grade-separated crossing if the Haul Road Bridge Option is implemented). Impacts would be less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

### ***Residual Impacts***

No mitigation is required and impacts would be less than significant.

### ***Potential Impact 3E-3 Increase Population Such That the City Park Standards Would Be Exceeded***

The City requires that 3 acres of property for each 1,000 residents be devoted to local park and recreational purposes. In accordance with the parkland dedication requirements provided in the City Master Plan for Park Facilities, Recreation, and Community Services, the proposed project would be required to provide 9.37 acres of parkland. East Orange Planned Community Area 1 includes 10.2 acres of neighborhood parkland and 20.1 acres of community parkland (sports park). East Orange Planned Community Area 1 includes common open space areas and recreational opportunities that would be accessible to the general public. Project demand for parkland would be met; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

### ***Residual Impacts***

No mitigation is required and impacts would be less than significant.

### **3E.4.3.3 East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3 and Remaining Areas**

No neighborhood or community parkland, or bikeways or riding and hiking trails are proposed for East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3 (see East Orange Planned Community Area 1 for bikeways and trails). Excess community parkland credit from East Orange Planned Community Area 1 fulfills

parkland credit requirements for East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3. In addition, park credit of 1.8 acres is provided (using City ordinance formulas) by agreeing to construct full improvements to private parks proposed for East Orange Planned Community Area 2. These private park improvements include a private recreation center, passive park, and trailside linear park. East Orange Planned Community Area 2 and the remaining areas (348 acres) would provide commercial recreational uses, including: locations for a 150-acre, 18-hole golf course facility; recreational activities related to Irvine Lake, such as an expanded or new marina facility; and a resort facility with a 100-room lodge/inn.

The proposed commercial recreational uses are located adjacent to the northeastern boundary of Irvine Lake on the site of a mining operation. There currently are commercial recreational uses adjacent to Irvine Lake, allowing for activities such as fishing, boating, and camping. The proposed project anticipates the continuation of existing recreational activities and provides an opportunity for additional recreational activities. Any further recreational uses allowed on and around Irvine Lake would be determined by Serrano Water District, The Irvine Company, and IRWD. The East Orange Planned Community includes a commercial recreation designation along portions of Irvine Lake, which would allow for the potential implementation of a marina, boat docks, a lodge/inn, and other water-oriented uses.

There are four commercial recreation zones within East Orange Planned Community Area 2. The commercial recreation zones are identified as Sectors 8 and 9. The purpose and intent of the proposed project area's commercial recreation zones is to provide for existing and future commercial uses that focus on outdoor recreation complimentary to Irvine Lake in Sectors 8, 9A, and 9B. Sector 8 is 192 acres, is the largest of the commercial recreation zones, and is exclusively reserved for the following uses:

- a minimum of 1.5 acres is reserved for a lodge/inn with a maximum of 100 overnight accommodations;
- a minimum of 2 acres is reserved for a marina and water-related recreational facilities, such as boating docks and fishing ponds for boating and fishing activities, and
- a minimum of 150 acres is reserved for an 18-hole golf course open to the public.

Temporary uses, site development standards, and other permitted uses subject to a conditional use permit are subject to the East Orange Planned Community Development Standards.

Sectors 9A and 9B combined are 20 acres, and are located between the southern edge of Irvine Lake and Santiago Canyon Road. Permitted uses for these sectors include marinas, fishing piers, fishing ponds, boat docks, boat rentals, and similar water-related recreation facilities. Such facilities are currently located in Sectors 9A and 9B. Several permitted uses in Sector 9B are only permitted provided that the uses and construction impacts caused by such uses are located entirely within the area physically disturbed by an existing use.

As part of the proposed development, an additional 6-acre commercial recreational location (Sector 10) is proposed near the intersection of Jeffrey Road and Santiago Canyon Road. Uses for this area would also be governed by the East Orange Planned Community Development Standards, and detailed plans for specific uses would be submitted in conjunction with future map applications.

***Impact 3E-1 Increase the Use of Existing Neighborhood and Regional Parks or Other Recreational Facilities Such That Substantial Physical Deterioration of the Facilities Would Occur or Be Accelerated***

East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3 and remaining areas would result in an additional 1,250 residential units, which would increase population by approximately 3,813 people. Increases in population would result in an increase in the general use of local and regional recreational facilities. Additional use also increases wear and tear to facilities, which in turn adds to maintenance costs and shortens some timelines for facility renovations. An increase in residents also increases the demand for recreational programs and the overall costs to deliver them. The project provides adequate parklands; therefore, existing parks are not expected to experience substantial physical deterioration. Impacts would be less than significant.

***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

***Residual Impacts***

No mitigation is required and residual impacts would be less than significant.

***Potential Impact 3E-2 Include Recreational Facilities or Require the Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities That Might Have an Adverse Physical Effect on the Environment***

Development of East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3 and remaining areas would provide commercial recreational opportunities, including a marina and resort. These facilities are considered a benefit to the availability of recreational opportunities in the area; however, they also result in environmental impacts. As described throughout Chapter 3 of this Draft SEIR/EIR, construction and operational activities on the project site would have a potential adverse impact on various resources. These potential impacts would be the same as those described throughout this document for the residential development.

Impacts to trails and bikeways would be similar to those described for East Orange Planned Community Area 1 and would be less than significant.

***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

***Residual Impacts***

No mitigation is required and residual impacts would be less than significant.

### ***Potential Impact 3E-3 Increase Population Such That the City Park Standards Would be Exceeded***

East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3 and remaining areas would result in an additional 1,250 residential units, which would increase population by approximately 3,813 people. Based on City standards, this translates to a demand for approximately 11.4 acres of developed parkland. No public parkland is being proposed in East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3. However, an approximately 20-acre community park is being proposed within East Orange Planned Community Area 1. This developed parkland would meet the demand for parks generated by East Orange Planned Community Areas 2 and 3, in addition to the that for East Orange Planned Community Area 1. Overall project demand for parkland would be met; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

### ***Residual Impacts***

No mitigation is required and residual impacts would be less than significant.

### **3E.4.3.4 MPAH Amendments**

The proposed MPAH amendments would delete and downgrade roads in the MPAH. It would not have an impact on recreational resources.

### **3E.4.3.5 Cumulative Impacts**

The proposed project, together with other projects, would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts on parks and recreational facilities in the surrounding area. The increase in population in the area would contribute to further urbanization and growth in eastern Orange County. Adherence to each of the City's parkland dedication standards would mitigate impacts on existing parks and recreation regionally on a project-by-project basis.

The City does not currently have sufficient parkland to meet its adopted standards. Although there is a cumulatively considerable shortage of parkland within the City, the project, as proposed (including Santiago Hills II and East Orange Planned Communities), would contribute its fair share of the parkland necessary to accommodate future development within the City, as identified by the City's parkland dedication standards. Therefore, the project would not contribute to the cumulative impact on park facilities.

The project would not contribute to a cumulative impact. Therefore, the proposed project's contribution to cumulative impacts would not be significant.