

## **3B.12 PARKS AND RECREATION – WATER**

### **3B.12.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section provides a description of the existing park and recreation opportunities and facilities within the “Water” Study Area. In the context of the actions proposed as part of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives, emphasis is placed on portions of the “Water” Study Area where physical environmental changes would occur. As provided in Chapter 2, “Alternatives,” physical improvements proposed in Zone 4; whereas no physical improvements are proposed within Zones 1, 2, and 3. Zone 2 is also considered in this EIR/EIS from an operational standpoint in the context of the potential changes in flow that could occur within the Sacramento River as a result of long-term operation of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives.

#### **ZONE 4 OF THE “WATER” STUDY AREA**

There are numerous open space resources within and adjacent to Zone 4 of the “Water” Study Area. Open space uses are concentrated in areas north along the American River Parkway, at Mather Regional Park, agricultural areas to the east of Sunrise Boulevard (south of White Rock Road), and within the floodplains of Morrison and Laguna Creeks. Recreational corridors have been developed along the FSC and Laguna Creek. The FSC from Nimbus Dam to about Sloughhouse Road includes a paved, bike and pedestrian path open to the public year-round. The path is used for recreational bicycling, commuter bicycling, and walking. South of Sloughhouse Road, the FSC is not open to the public. The Folsom Lake State Recreational Area (SRA) is located to the north of Zone 4 of the “Water” Study Area; however, views from the SRA in the vicinity of Folsom Lake include eastern portions of the “Water” Study Area.

The Prairie City OHV Park is located within the eastern section of the “Water” Study Area, south of White Rock Road and west of Scott Road. Blodgett Reservoir is situated in the southeastern part of Zone 4 of the “Water” Study Area and provides recreational opportunities for residents south of Mather Field and within the Sunrise-Douglas Community. Other regional and local parks that provide significant open space opportunities include the Wildhawk Golf Course south of the Freeport Project bifurcation, Mather Sports Complex, and the Cordova Shooting Center.

#### **ZONE 2 OF THE “WATER” STUDY AREA**

The Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would operate from the Freeport Project diversion/intake on the Sacramento River and would withdraw water for M&I uses in the SPA. The Sacramento River supports a variety of recreational, water-dependent activities including boating and fishing, and recreational activities including camping, hiking, picnicking, and sightseeing, that are enhanced by the scenic value of the river.

Two private marinas are located within the immediate vicinity of the project area: the Alamar Marina and Metro Marina. The Alamar Marina is located at River Mile 70.5 on the eastside of the Sacramento River. This marina offers covered and non-covered boat docks, a fuel dock, and houseboat and jet ski rentals. The Metro Marina is located at River Mile 70.5 on the eastside of the river. This marina consists of 13 cover slips that can accommodate boats 30 feet in length. The spaces are rented out on a daily, monthly or yearly basis. There are also several public and private boat launches located along the river.

There are numerous other informal recreation sites located along the length of the Sacramento River where public access is readily available and vehicle parking can be accommodated. These sites usually support bank fishing that occur during the course of the year, depending on the presence of game fish in this river reach. One such site is the area immediately north of the Sacramento Weir, where vehicle parking can be accommodated and access to

the Sacramento River is readily available. Public river access is typically not promoted or allowed on private property along the Sacramento River.

### **3B.12.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

#### **FEDERAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS**

The following Federal plans, policies, regulations, and laws related to parks and recreation are relevant to the Off-site Water Facilities Alternatives, and are described in detail in Section 3A.12, “Parks and Recreation – Land:”

- ▶ Americans with Disabilities Act

#### **STATE PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS**

The following State plans, policies, regulations, and laws related to parks and recreation are relevant to the Off-site Water Facilities alternatives, and are described in detail in Section 3A.12, “Parks and Recreation – Land:”

- ▶ Folsom Lake State Recreational Area and Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park General Plan/ Resource Management Plan

#### **REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS**

The following local and regional plans, policies, regulations, and laws related to parks and recreation are relevant to the Off-site Water Facilities alternatives, and are described in detail in Section 3A.12, “Parks and Recreation – Land:”

- ▶ Sacramento County General Plan
- ▶ City of Folsom General Plan
- ▶ City of Folsom Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- ▶ American River Parkway Plan

#### **City of Rancho Cordova General Plan**

The following goals and policies of the City of Rancho Cordova General Plan (2006) are applicable to the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives under consideration.

- ▶ **Policy OSPT.3.1:** Develop a trails system that provides for maximum connectivity, so that all trails are linked for greater use as recreational and travel routes.
- ▶ **Upper Laguna Creek Collaborative:** The Collaborative is advocating the planning, design, and development of a parkway along the Upper Laguna Creek. The City is participating in and supporting the effort of the Collaborative to develop a plan for Upper Laguna Creek. Future successes will be incorporated into the General Plan implementation documents such as the Trails Master Plan.

### **3B.12.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

#### **THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The thresholds for determining the significance of impacts for this analysis are based on the environmental checklist in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. These thresholds also encompass the factors taken into account under NEPA to determine the significance of an action in terms of its context and the intensity of its

impacts. For the purposes of this analysis, the City’s proposed Off-site Water Facilities would result significant environmental effects to recreational facilities if they would:

- ▶ cause a change in river flows or lake elevations that would result in substantial changes to existing recreational opportunities,
- ▶ locate project facilities that would result in a substantial short or long-term disruption of any existing recreational activities and/or facilities,
- ▶ cause an increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, or
- ▶ include the construction of new or expanded recreational facilities, which could result in adverse physical effects to the environment.

## **ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY**

The assessment of potential impacts to recreational opportunities or facilities focuses on evaluating whether the Off-site Water Facilities would impact (1) water-dependent (e.g., boating and swimming) and water-enhanced recreation opportunities along the Sacramento River and other major water supply reservoirs (i.e., Shasta, Folsom) and (2) recreation areas or facilities crossed by facilities proposed as part of the Off-site Water Facilities. Effects on recreation were evaluated in relation to potential construction and operational-related impacts. A long-term, operational effect could occur if a recreation opportunity is eliminated as a result of construction activities associated with a project facility.

## **ISSUES NOT DISCUSSED FURTHER IN THIS EIR/EIS**

**Increase Use of Parks and Recreational Facilities**—The Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would not result in land uses that could directly increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities. The Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would involve the acquisition of new surface water supplies for the SPA and the construction of supporting conveyance and treatment facilities to enable for the delivery of treated-water. Based on these actions, it is reasonable to conclude that the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would indirectly facilitate additional population growth within the SPA. These issues are addressed in more detail in Chapter 4, “Other Statutory Requirements,” under the discussion of “Growth-Inducement.” Given that the Off-site Water Facilities would not directly generate new population growth that could result in increases in the use of neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, no adverse impacts are expected. Therefore, this issue area is not discussed further.

**Construction of New Recreational Facilities**—Based on those actions described in Chapter 2, “Alternatives,” the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would not involve the construction of new or expanded recreational facilities, which could result in adverse physical effects to the environment. In this context, no adverse impacts are expected, and this issue area is not discussed further.

## **IMPACT ANALYSIS**

Impacts that would occur under each of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives are identified as follows:

NCP (No USACE Permit Alternative)

PA (Proposed Off-site Water Facility Alternative)

1 (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 1 – Raw Water Conveyance – Gerber/Grant Line Road Alignment and White Rock WTP)

1A (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 1A Raw Water Conveyance – Gerber/Grant Line Road Alignment Variation and White Rock WTP)

2 (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 2 Treated Water Conveyance – Douglas Road Alignment and Vineyard SWTP)

2A (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 2A Treated Water Conveyance – Excelsior Road Alignment Variation and Vineyard SWTP)

2B (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 2B Treated Water Conveyance – North Douglas Tanks Variation and Vineyard SWTP)

3 (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 3 Raw Water Conveyance – Excelsior Road Alignment and White Rock WTP)

3A (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 3A Raw Water Conveyance – Excelsior Road Alignment Variation and White Rock WTP)

4 (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 4 Raw Water Conveyance – Easton Valley Parkway Alignment and Folsom Boulevard WTP)

4A (Off-site Water Facility Alternative 4A Raw Water Conveyance – Easton Valley Parkway Alignment Variation and Folsom Boulevard WTP).

The impacts for each alternative are compared relative to the PA at the end of each impact conclusion (i.e., similar, greater, lesser).

**IMPACT**      **Temporary Disruptions to Existing Recreational Facilities and Opportunities.** *Implementation of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives could temporarily disrupt trail, golf course, or park facility access.*  
3B.12-1

NCP, PA, 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 3, 3A, 4, and 4A

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Construction of the Off-site Water Facilities under each of the alternatives would involve crossing the FSC, which could temporarily disrupt the use of the FSC multiuse trail. In addition, Off-site Water Facility Alternatives 2, 2A, 3, 3A, 4, and 4A would traverse through Mather Regional Park, thereby potentially disrupting trail, golf course, or park facility access. Therefore, disruptions to local recreation facilities as a result of the Off-site Water Facilities construction under Alternatives PA, 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 3, 3A, 4, and 4A would result in **potentially significant, direct** impacts. **No indirect** impacts would occur. *[Similar]*

**Mitigation Measure 3B.12-1: Provide for Continued Recreational Access as Identified in Mitigation Measure 3.14-1a.**

As part of the Traffic Control Plan identified in Mitigation Measure 3.14-1a, the City shall ensure that trail access is maintained throughout the construction period through the use of detours. Proper signage shall be included in multiple locations, where necessary, to provide advance notice to hikers and equestrian riders of up-comings construction activities.

**Implementation:** City of Folsom Utilities Department

**Timing:** Prior to and during construction activities

**Enforcement:** 1. For structural improvements that would be located within unincorporated Sacramento County: Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department.

2. For structural improvements that would be located within the City of Rancho Cordova: City of Rancho Cordova Planning Department.

## 2B

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Off-site Water Facility Alternative 2B would be constructed to the east of the FSC and Mather Regional Park and is not expected to result in the obstruction of recreational trail access. As a result, **no impacts** to existing recreational facilities or opportunities are expected from construction of the Off-site Water Facilities under Alternative 2B. *[Lesser]*

Because Mitigation Measure 3B.12-1 would require the public to be notified of the duration of roadway construction, detour routes would be established either through the construction site or on adjacent public streets, and access would be restored to preconstruction conditions, therefore, impacts on recreational facilities would be reduced to a **less-than-significant** level.

Mitigation Measure: No mitigation measures are required.

**IMPACT**      **Effects to Water-Oriented Recreational Facilities and Opportunities.** *Implementation of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would not cause an adverse change in river flows or lake elevations that could result in substantial changes to existing recreational opportunities.*

**3B.12-2**

NCP, PA, 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 3, 3A, 4, and 4A

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Section 3B.9, “Hydrology and Water Quality – Water” provides a detailed discussion of the potential impacts to flows within the Sacramento River as a result of the Off-site Water Facilities’ operations. As described in Chapter 2, “Alternatives,” all of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would involve an assignment of CVP water from NCMWC to the City that would then be diverted through the Freeport Project intake. This change in point of diversion would result in water being diverted further south, approximately 20 miles, as compared to existing conditions. As described in Section 3B.9.3, this operational change would result in a negligible change in the frequency with which flows in the Sacramento River are within a range suitable for water-dependent recreation during the peak recreation season (May to September). In addition, based on CALSIM modeling, the reduced demand during the late summer months would likely benefit water recreational activities by a minor addition in river flows. Based on these circumstances, **direct** impacts to river recreation would be **less than significant**. **No indirect** impacts would result. *[Similar]*

Likewise, the Off-site Water Facilities would result in negligible changes in the frequency with which the surface elevations of Shasta and Trinity Reservoirs would fall below levels identified as important water-dependent recreation thresholds. This finding is primary due to reduction in releases that would occur under the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives during the late summer months thereby adding slighting to surface elevations within the reservoirs. Additionally, the increases in releases during the winter and spring months are expected to be more than compensated for by high inflows to the reservoirs during these months. In the context of these findings, these **direct** impacts are considered **less than significant**. **No indirect** impacts would occur. *[Similar]*

Mitigation Measure: No mitigation measures are required.

### 3B.12.4 RESIDUAL SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

After implementation of applicable mitigation measures, including 3B.12-1, impacts from implementation of the Off-site Water Facility Alternatives would all be less than significant.

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