

4.11 Recreation

4.11.1 Existing Setting

As described within Section 2.4, *Regional and Project Vicinity*, the proposed Project is located adjacent to agricultural and low density residential uses. Beyond these adjacent uses the Project is located near the Los Padres National Forest and the associated backcountry trails.

4.11.2 Regulatory Setting

There are no federal regulations, authorities, or administering agencies that regulate land use, public access, or recreation that are specifically applicable to recreational resources with respect to the proposed Project site. The proposed Project is located within the Coastal Zone and is subject to the following state policies:

- The *California Coastal Act (§30000 et seq.)*, *Coastal Resources Planning and Management Policies*, include provisions (§30210 – 30223) for the protection and management of public access and coastal recreational resources.

County of Santa Barbara policies with requirements for recreation resources that apply to the proposed Project include components under the Local Coastal Program:

- *Coastal Land Use Plan (CLUP)* contains principal land use policies for development within the coastal zone in Santa Barbara County. This plan, pursuant to requirements of the California Coastal Act (Section 30108.5), contains the relevant portion of a local government's general plan, or local coastal element, which indicates the kinds, location, and intensity of land uses, the applicable resource protection and development policies, and a listing of implementing actions. The County's CLUP first came into effect in 1982, and has been updated several times since then.
- The *Santa Barbara County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Article II)* regulates development in the coastal zone. Sections 35-61, *Beach Development*, and 35-62, *Recreation and Visitor Serving Uses*, of the Zoning Ordinance pertain to the proposed Project. This also includes Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 26, Parks and Recreation, which contains rules and regulations pertaining to facility usage, traffic, animals, camping, special use areas, beach use and types of activities permitted in Santa Barbara County parks and recreation areas.

4.11.3 Impact Analysis

This section reviews the analysis and mitigation measures from the Scoping Document and MND and discusses the potential recreation resource impacts associated with the proposed Project. The proposed Project involves an increase of student and faculty populations which could impact access to local trails; these Project-related impacts to recreation resources are summarized in Table 4.11-1 below.

Table 4.11-1. Summary of Recreation Resources Impacts

Recreation Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Residual Significance
Impact REC-1. The proposed Project could lead to incremental use of local trails and regional recreational facilities.	MM REC-1	Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)

4.11.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

The County’s Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual does not contain significance thresholds for recreation. Therefore, recreation resource impacts are determined through use of the thresholds contained in the MND and the CEQA Guidelines for determining significance of impacts.

With respect to land use and planning, applicable sections of Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines state that a project would normally have a significant impact to recreation if it would:

- a. 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;
- b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment; or
- c. Terminate or interfere with the established recreational uses of an area.

As the proposed Project does not involve any new public recreational facilities, it would not generate an adverse physical impact on the environment.

4.11.3.2 Project Impacts

Impact REC-1. The proposed Project could lead to incremental use of local trails and regional recreational facilities.

The proposed Project would not result in any significant population increase and would generate no adverse impacts on the quality or quantity of existing public recreational opportunities, either in the Project vicinity or County-wide. While Cate School is generally surrounded by adjacent agricultural and low density residential uses, it is also near the Los Padres National Forest and associated trails. Students currently have the right to access backcountry trails north of the adjacent private property, Vedder Ranch, through an existing access easement. Despite this easement, the Vedders have recorded varying levels of trespass through the ranch outside of the dedicated easement corridor as students attempt to take short cuts through the ranch to access the upper trails. An increase in the student population residing on the campus could result in an associated incremental increase in trespassing on the Vedder Ranch property. This is not an impact on recreation so much as it is a neighborhood compatibility issue. Therefore, as a potential side effect of increased recreational access by students through Vedder Ranch, MM REC-1, *Enforcement of Student Trespassing Reduction*, is required to minimize land use conflicts. Impacts of the proposed Project on recreation resources are therefore *less than significant with mitigation (Class II)*.

4.11.3.3 Mitigation Measures

MM REC-1 ***Enforcement of Student Trespassing Reduction.*** *As part of orientation activities at the beginning of each new term, students should be informed that entry onto the Vedder Ranch is strictly prohibited except as allowed by the existing easement. Access to the*

upper backcountry trail may only be achieved via the dedicated easement for this purpose. In addition, students should be informed that Franklin Trail has no connection to the upper backcountry parcel, and the forging of new informal paths through the Vedder Ranch to access Franklin Trail is prohibited.

Plan Requirements and Timing. Prior to Zoning Clearance issuance for the first phase of development, Cate School shall provide a copy of the orientation materials provided to incoming students documenting inclusion of these advisories.

Monitoring. Santa Barbara County Planning and Development shall confirm submittal of the required documentation prior to Zoning Clearance issuance for the first phase of development.

4.11.3.4 Residual Impacts

With the incorporation of MM REC-1, *Enforcement of Student Trespassing Reduction*, residual impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

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