APPENDIX G

RECREATION IMPACT ANALYSIS
RECREATION IMPACT ANALYSIS

GRIFFITH PARK CRYSTAL SPRINGS NEW BASEBALL FIELDS PROJECT

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

- **CEQA**: California Environmental Quality Act
- **City**: City of Los Angeles
- **DEIR**: draft environmental impact report
- **I-5**: Interstate 5
- **PC&M**: Planning, and Construction, and Maintenance
- **RAP**: Department of Recreation and Parks
- **SR-134**: State Route 134
Summary

The City of Los Angeles (City) is proposing to construct two youth baseball fields at one of three locations within Griffith Park. The purpose of this recreation impact analysis is to analyze the potential for project impacts related to recreation pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

After a review of plans and state and City CEQA significance thresholds, the findings for each of the three alternatives are as follows:

- **Alternative 1A**, which would involve the construction of two youth baseball fields in the northern portion of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, would result in less-than-significant impacts related to recreation.

- **Alternative 1B**, which would involve the construction of two youth baseball fields in the southern portion of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, would result in less-than-significant impacts related to recreation.

- **Alternative 2**, which would involve the construction of two youth baseball fields in North Atwater Park, would result in less-than-significant impacts related to recreation.
Introduction and Project Description

Introduction

The City of Los Angeles (City) is proposing the construction of two new youth baseball fields in one of three locations being considered within Griffith Park. An Initial Study was completed by the City in January 2013. The Initial Study concluded that additional technical studies and preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) be initiated. These studies are being prepared with the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of this recreation impact analysis is to analyze the potential for project impacts related to recreation.

Project Location and Setting

Location

The proposed project would be located in the Hollywood community of the city of Los Angeles and entirely within Griffith Park. The park is located northwest of downtown Los Angeles, just west of the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5 [I-5]), roughly between Los Feliz Boulevard on the south and the Ventura Freeway (State Route 134 [SR-134]) on the north (see Figure 1).

As shown in Figure 2, three locations are being considered for the proposed project. Alternative 1, Option A (Alternative 1A), would be located at 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, within the northeastern part of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area of the park. The Alternative 1A site, which covers approximately 4 acres, is northeast of Pote Field, south of Harding Municipal Golf Course, and west of I-5. Alternative 1, Option B (Alternative 1B), would also be located in the Crystal Springs Picnic Area but just southeast of Pote Field, on the grassy area across from the loop driveway and parking lot. Alternative 2 would be located in North Atwater Park, across from I-5 and the Los Angeles River.

Project Description

Alternatives

Two alternatives are being considered as part of this technical study. Alternative 1 would locate the proposed baseball fields within the Crystal Springs Picnic Area of the park and include two options (Option A and Option B) for placement of the fields. Alternative 2 would locate the baseball fields just across from I-5 and the Los Angeles River, within the North Atwater Park area of Griffith Park. The alternatives are described in more detail below.

Alternative 1, Option A – Crystal Springs North

The City is proposing to construct two youth baseball fields within the north Crystal Springs Picnic Area of Griffith Park. Each baseball field would include a home plate, bases, a pitcher’s mound, batters’ and catchers’ boxes, two dugouts (with two benches, approximately 20 seats each), two bleachers, 16-foot-high outfield/perimeter fencing, natural grass, warm-up areas, and a scoreboard (refer to Figure 3 for the conceptual project layout under Alternative 1A). Landscaping and an
Figure 1
Regional Location Map
Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering

Griffith Park Crystal Springs New Baseball Fields Project

Figure 2
Project Location Map
Figure 3
Alternative 1 Option A — Crystal Springs North

Source: City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, 2013.
irrigation system would also be installed. In addition, Alternative 1A would involve upgrades to the existing restroom facility. Restroom upgrades would be limited to interior remodeling and measures to increase access for those with disabilities.

Under this alternative, seven picnic tables would be relocated within or near the Crystal Springs Picnic Area. The northeast segment of the loop driveway, which currently supports vehicle circulation around the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, would be removed to accommodate the baseball fields (see Figure 3). As a result, five parking spaces would be removed and two “hammerhead” turning circles would be created, replacing the existing access loop.

**Alternative 1, Option B – Crystal Springs South**

The baseball fields proposed under Alternative 1B would include the same elements proposed under Alternative 1A. One baseball field would be located just southeast of Pote Field; the second would be located southeast of the first field, in the area across from the loop driveway and parking lot (see Figure 4). Alternative 1B would also involve upgrades to the existing restroom facility. Restroom upgrades would be limited to interior remodeling and measures to increase access for those with disabilities.

To accommodate this alternative, 56 picnic tables would be relocated within or near the Crystal Springs Picnic Area. No changes to existing circulation or parking are anticipated under this alternative.

**Alternative 2 – North Atwater Park**

Under Alternative 2, an existing softball field would be retrofitted to accommodate youth baseball and a new youth baseball field would be constructed (see Figure 5). The existing backstop, bleachers, and players’ benches would remain; the rest of the softball field would be upgraded. The new youth baseball field would be constructed just north of the existing softball field. The new bleachers, backstop, and players’ benches would match those of the existing field.

To accommodate this alternative, an existing basketball court and sand volleyball court would be removed. Unlike Alternative 1, Alternative 2 would not displace picnic tables, although new picnic tables would be added to the area as part of the project.

**Construction**

Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2015 and be completed in the summer of 2016 (approximately 12 months). Post-construction activities (e.g., finalizing as-built plans, training the maintenance and operations staff regarding the use of the scoreboard, irrigation systems, security lights, and other systems) would occur in the fall and winter of 2016–2017. The baseball fields would be fully operational in the spring of 2017.

Currently, it is anticipated that Pote Field and a portion of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area would remain open during construction of Alternative 1. Under Alternative 2, a portion of the North Atwater Park area would also remain open during construction.
Alternative 1 Option B — Crystal Springs South

Source: City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, 2013.
Figure 5
Alternative 2 - North Atwater Park

Source: City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, 2013.
The analysis in this document assumes that, unless otherwise stated, the project would be designed, constructed, and operated in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, ordinances, and formally adopted City standards, including, but not limited to:

- Los Angeles Municipal Code
- Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety Code
- Bureau of Engineering Standard Plans
- Urban Forest Program/Tree Care Manual
- Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction
- Work Area Traffic Control Handbook
- Additions and Amendments to the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction

**Regulatory Setting**

**State**

**Quimby Act**

The Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) was first established by the California Legislature in 1965. It set forth provisions in the State Subdivision Map Act for the dedication of parkland and/or payment of in-lieu fees as a condition of approval of certain types of residential development projects. The Quimby Act allows local agencies, such as the City of Los Angeles, to establish ordinances that require residential subdivision developers to pay impact fees, which can be used to purchase and develop land and/or recreational facilities.

To implement the Quimby Act, the City established the Subdivision Fees Trust (Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 17.12) in 1971. A separate park impact fee, the Zone Change Park Fee (Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33), which applies to the finalization of zoning changes for multi-unit residential projects, was established by the City in 1985. Fee schedules, collections, and administration under the Subdivision Fees Trust and the Zone Change Park Fee programs are identical. Together, these programs are colloquially referred to as the City’s “Quimby Code.” Most residential development projects that request a subdivision or zoning change within the city are required to either dedicate land for recreation and park purposes or pay an in-lieu fee (Quimby fees). The in-lieu fee is calculated on a per-unit (for condominiums) or per lot basis, with the amount of the fee dependent on the zoning of property.

The City’s Quimby Code is administered by the Planning, Construction, and Maintenance (PC&M) Branch of the Department of Recreation and Parks. PC&M is responsible for acquisition, development, improvement, and restoration of City parks, open spaces, and recreational and community facilities. Quimby fees can only be spent, and land can only be dedicated, within a service radius of 1 to 2 miles from the development that paid the fee, per the City’s Quimby Code. In addition, collected fees must be used to acquire new parkland or fund capital improvements at existing parks and may not be used to offset staff operation and maintenance costs.
Local

Proposition K

In 1996, Proposition K was passed. It created a citywide assessment district that will generate 25 million dollars each year for a period of 30 years. Funds generated from Proposition K assessments are to be used for capital improvement projects involving the acquisition, development, improvement, or restoration of park and recreational facilities in the city of Los Angeles. Through a separate process, a portion of the Proposition K funds will provide annual maintenance resources for such facilities. Proposition K requires almost 20 percent of the 750 million dollars assessment to be distributed over a 30-year period through an open and competitive process to eligible governmental agencies, City departments, and nonprofit organizations.

City of Los Angeles Charter

Section 590 of the City of Los Angeles Charter states that the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) has the power and duty to establish, construct, maintain, and control all City parks and other recreational facilities and properties. RAP has a dedicated revenue stream, through City taxes, of no less than 0.0325 percent of the assessed value of all property. These funds are controlled, appropriated, and expended by the Recreation and Parks Commission.

City of Los Angeles General Plan

Public Recreation Plan: Service Systems Element

The Public Recreation Plan includes standards and policies related to recreation (City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning 1980).

Standards

According to the Public Recreation Plan, a satisfactory recreation system must measure up to accepted standards in three respects. First, there must be sufficient land area set aside for recreation. Second, the recreation areas must be properly distributed in residential areas throughout the city. Third, there must be facilities to meet different recreational needs, including both active and passive recreation, and provisions for all age groups.

According to the plan, a Neighborhood Recreational Site should provide, at a minimum, 2 acres of land per 1,000 persons, should be a minimum of 5 acres in size (a minimum of 10 acres is considered to be ideal), and should serve neighborhoods within approximately 0.5 mile of the site. Community Recreational Sites should also provide at least 2 acres of land per 1,000 persons. However, they differ from Neighborhood Recreational Sites in that the minimum desirable acreage per site is 15 acres (a minimum of 20 acres is preferred) and the service radius of each site is approximately 2 miles. No standards for Regional Parks are explicitly stated in the plan; however, the plan states that such sites are generally more than 50 acres in size. Short- and intermediate-term standards for park availability found in the plan dictate that Neighborhood Parks should be provided at a rate of 1 acre per 1,000 persons, with a service radius of 1 mile. The short- and intermediate-term standard for Community Parks is 1 acre per 1,000 persons, with a service radius of 2 miles.
Policies

The policies below are from in the Public Recreation Plan: Service Systems Element.

- Recreational facilities and services should be provided for all segments of the population on the basis of present and future projected needs, local recreational standards, and the City’s ability to finance.
- Recreational use should be considered for available open space and unused or underused land, particularly publicly owned lands having the potential for multiple uses.

Hollywood Community Plan

In the city of Los Angeles, 35 community plans, coupled with the City's Framework Element, serve as the Land Use Element of the General Plan and guide long-term land use, growth, and development. The Hollywood Community Plan, which covers the entire geographical area of Griffith Park with the exception of North Atwater Park, was adopted by the City Council and signed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in late June 2012 (City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning 2012). It became effective on August 6, 2012. Goals and policies applicable to parks and recreational facilities identified in the Hollywood Community Plan are as follows:

- Goal LU.4: Improve open space, parks, and public spaces.
- Policy LU.4.0: Maintain and preserve Open Space designations within the Hollywood Community Plan Area.
- Policy LU.4.1: Develop new public green spaces and public plazas, where possible.
- Policy LU.4.1A: Designate parkland as Open Space as it is acquired by the Department of Recreation and Parks.
- Policy CF.5.51: Provide adequate park and recreation facilities that meet the recreational needs of existing and new residents of all age groups in the community.
- Policy CF.5.52: Conserve, maintain, and better utilize recreational facilities and park spaces.
- Policy CF.5.53: Maintain all open space designations within the Hollywood Community Plan Area. Designate parkland as Open Space as it is acquired by the Department of Recreation and Parks.
- Policy CF.5.55: Support the establishment of joint-use agreements with other public and private entities to increase recreational opportunities in Hollywood, including shared use of land owned by public agencies and private property owners.
- Policy CF.5.59: Promote the management, design, construction, and maintenance of public parks by the Department of Recreation and Parks to ensure that parks are adequately monitored, maintained, and illuminated at night, where appropriate.
- Policy CF.5.61: Utilize community input to assist the Department of Recreation and Parks in locating development opportunities for new parks. Prioritize recommendations of the Community-Wide Needs Assessment prepared by the Department of Recreation and Parks.
- Policy CF.5.64: Support plans to provide parkland on top of the [Department of Water and Power's] Headworks Reservoir in Griffith Park between the Ventura Freeway and Forest Lawn Drive and in future infrastructure projects, where appropriate.
Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan

North Atwater Park, although administratively part of Griffith Park, is located within the area of the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan, which was adopted in June 1999. Goals and policies applicable to parks and recreational facilities identified in the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan are as follows:

- **Goal 5:** Adequate recreation and park facilities to meet the needs of residents in the Plan area.
- **Policy 5-1.1:** Preserve the existing recreational facilities and park space.
- **Policy 5-1.2:** Increase accessibility to park land along the Arroyo Seco and potential parkland along the Los Angeles River.
- **Policy 5-1.3:** Maximize retention of utility company lands as open space and greenways.

Other Applicable Plans

Griffith Park Master Plan

Released in 1978, the Griffith Park Master Plan, although not formally adopted, is used to guide the future of Griffith Park (City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks 1978). Intended as a “comprehensive physical plan and management program that addresses both the problems of the present and the expectations of the future,” the document contains broadly defined objectives as well as specific projects, including an electric trolley along Crystal Springs Drive and Zoo Drive, entrance enhancements, and other capital projects. Although not all of the specific projects identified were implemented, the following overall objectives of the 1978 Griffith Park Master Plan are applicable:

1. **Enhance the beauty and the scale of the vast natural areas of the park where scenic and open space values should predominate.**
2. **Improve the visual and environmental quality of the developed recreation areas at the entries and around the perimeter of the park.**
3. **Make more efficient use of existing facilities and developed areas before using more open parklands for new facilities.**
4. **Continue and improve the established civic function of Griffith Park.**
5. **Improve the parkwide transportation system for more efficient movement of people and the potential recreation experience it can provide.**
6. **Give higher priority to essential park operations in future planning, especially those operations that enable the public to more closely relate to basic park values.**

Subsequent efforts to update the 1978 Griffith Park Master Plan have not moved forward to the adoption phase.

Draft Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan

A draft of the Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan was prepared and submitted to the City in 2008 (City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks 2008). Among the goals identified in the plan, which are pertinent to the project are the following:
• Promote native wildlife populations and habitat,
  o Identify and defend native vegetation and biological "hot spots;"
  o Clarify the location and usage of wildlife corridors;
• Minimize human/wildlife conflict,
  o Strengthen law enforcement,
  o Reduce "edge effects;"
  o Manage recreation to avoid conflicts with wildlife; and
• Promote environmental education among the park’s staff and park users.

**Draft Vision Plan for Griffith Park**

A Griffith Park Working Group made up of council district appointees, homeowner group representatives, neighborhood council members, and representatives of other organizations was convened to develop a Draft Vision Plan for Griffith Park, which was released for public review in 2013 by the Department of Recreation and Parks (City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks 2013). The intent of the effort was “to guide decisions made for Griffith Park until such a time that a full master plan can be developed and adopted” (p. 3). The provisions of the plan listed below are pertinent to the proposed project.

**Chapter 1**

A. Manage the entirety of the park consistent with the park’s Urban Wilderness identity.

4. Promote natural qualities, minimize new urban intrusions in the Wilderness Area, and provide for informal recreation.

8. Manage park programming and events in such a way as to minimize the impact on the Wilderness Area of the park.

**Chapter 2**

Chapter 2 of the Draft Vision Plan for Griffith Park does not contain formal goals and policies but does recognize the historical legacy of Colonel Griffith’s gift, the existing user groups, and the need for the equitable provision of active and passive recreational opportunities. The following introduction is therefore pertinent:

Foreseeing the day when parkland would be a limited resource, Colonel Griffith specifically enjoined that Griffith Park be a free public park in perpetuity so that “plain people” could enjoy the curative powers of open space—available to all. Over the years, human enjoyment of the park has developed largely in step with its benefactor’s vision: the park’s established user groups share with its donor an appreciation of its unique role as a respite from urban pressures through a mix of both passive and active recreational opportunities.

In planning for the future of the park, it is important to take into account its human dimension and recognize who its human visitors are and how, when, where, and why they make recreational use of the park. These users include hikers and walkers, picnickers, students, equestrians, bicyclists, runners, active sport participants (who play golf, soccer, baseball, tennis, volleyball, and basketball),
people who swim for sport and fitness, visitors to its museums and major attractions, patrons of
children’s camps, and individuals using the public space for meetings and activities. A detailed
statistical study of park users and a needs assessment for future uses should be undertaken in order
to guide park planning. Once an understanding is gained of the park’s human dimension, it can be
joined to an understanding of its plant and animal world to produce a plan for the park that is
compatible with Urban Wilderness Identity and equitably provides for its users.

In addition, Chapter 2 notes that more than one million people a year use Griffith Park for picnics and
family gatherings, such as birthdays, weddings, and quinceañeras celebrations. More than nine percent
of respondents in a recent study conducted at the park name picnicking as their preferred park
activity. The plan notes that more people come to Griffith Park for picnicking per year than to any
other park in the municipal system (p. 12). Related to the potential for picnicking facilities to be
displaced, the plan emphasizes that “because picnickers have no advocacy group that speaks
specifically for them, it is incumbent on park managers and the public to ensure that the needs of this
large user group are both represented and balanced with the needs of other park user groups” (p. 14).

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 further emphasizes the importance of picnic areas, stating that “any change of the existing
picnic areas should be preceded by an analysis of the current usage of these existing facilities”
(p. 37).

2009 Citywide Community Needs Assessment

Prepared by RAP and accepted by RAP Board of Commissioners, the Citywide Community Needs
Assessment (City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks 2009) is considered to be an
early step in developing a Citywide Recreation and Parks Master/Strategic Plan and a Five-Year
Capital Improvement Plan. The objective of this Needs Assessment and the subsequent
master/strategic planning process is to develop strategies to help prioritize and address the
challenges the Department faces, such as:

- Acquiring additional recreation and park land and finding opportunities for the reuse of land already
  in the public domain
- Updating existing recreation facilities requiring improvements
- Preventing future maintenance problems through effective asset management of public amenities
- Offer positive recreational alternatives to an increasingly dense and urbanized population
- Identify key issues for the Department

A major element of the Needs Assessment is a prioritized list of facility/amenity needs and
recreation program needs for the residents of the city of Los Angeles. The Needs Assessment
evaluates both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data includes a statistically valid
community survey, which asked 2,925 Los Angeles residents to identify unmet needs and rank their
importance. Qualitative data includes resident and stakeholder feedback obtained in focus group
meetings, key leader interviews, and public forums.
Environmental Setting

Located between the Los Angeles communities of Silver Lake, Los Feliz, and Hollywood to the south; Atwater Village and the city of Glendale to the east; the city of Burbank to the north; and the Los Angeles community of Toluca Lake to the west, Griffith Park is the largest recreational and open space area in the City of Los Angeles. Griffith Park encompasses more than 4,200 acres of land, serving a variety of active and passive recreation functions. Three golf courses are located within the boundaries of the park, including the 18-hole Harding Municipal Golf Course and the 18-hole Wilson Municipal Golf Course, both of which are located on the east side of the park, adjacent to I-5, and the nine-hole Roosevelt Municipal Golf Course, located on the southern park boundary. Griffith Park also has an extensive 53-mile network of hiking and equestrian trails, made up of wide fire roads and narrower paths, most of which connect to undeveloped hillsides.

Actively managed portions of Griffith Park (i.e., areas that need regular maintenance, such as grass cutting, trash pick-up, etc.), aside from the golf courses, include the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, Park Center, Ferraro Athletic Fields, Griffith Park Dog Park, and North Atwater Park. Park Center features play equipment for children, picnic tables, barbecue pits, restrooms, four tennis courts, an open lawn, a merry-go-round, and equestrian and hiking trails. The Ferraro Athletic Fields complex is a 26-acre facility with five regulation and two practice soccer and rugby fields, which are available for City-sponsored and independent leagues by reservation. The Griffith Park Dog Park, located adjacent to the Ferraro Athletic Fields, is a 1.6-acre fenced area for off-leash dogs. The Crystal Springs Picnic Area and North Atwater Park are described in detail below.

In addition to the more traditional park environs, Griffith Park is also home to a number of cultural and scientific institutions, including the Griffith Observatory, Autry Museum of Western Heritage, the Hollywood Sign, Ferndell Nature Museum, Travel Town Museum, Greek Theatre, and a bird sanctuary. The Los Angeles Zoo and the Los Angeles Equestrian Center, although managed separately from Griffith Park itself, are geographically within the park’s boundaries.

Crystal Springs Picnic Area

The Crystal Springs Picnic Area is located between Crystal Springs Drive and I-5 on the eastern edge of Griffith Park. Surrounding land uses include a pedestrian and equestrian trail, I-5, and the Los Angeles River to the east; Wilson and Harding Municipal Golf Courses to the north; Park Center to the west; and undeveloped hillsides to the south (see Figure 6). Vehicular access to/from the site is available from Crystal Springs Drive, which extends north to Zoo Drive for I-5 and SR-134 access and south to the Los Feliz Boulevard entrance. A total of 265 parking spaces are provided at the Crystal Springs Picnic Area.

The Crystal Springs Picnic Area has four developed spaces, which are separated by a paved access loop that allows for circulation on the site. The first of these areas (Area 1 in Figure 6) is the Griffith Park Ranger Station and Visitors Center, located off of Crystal Springs Drive. The building includes office space for park rangers as well as an auditorium, which is available for public use by reservation.

The second area within the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, situated just east of the Griffith Park Ranger Station and Visitors Center, is Pote Field (Area 2 in Figure 6), which provides a regulation baseball diamond. The area beyond the outfield has natural turf and trees of varying sizes, most of which
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are 10 feet tall or less. A mobile storage unit that advertises bicycle rentals is set up in the parking area adjacent to right field. Pote Field is used by Los Angeles Community College baseball teams and several area high schools for practice and games.

The third area of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, located northeast and east of Pote Field, is the largest contiguous area. It contains all 119 of the site’s picnic tables, all of its outdoor grills, play equipment for children, a volleyball court, and restrooms (Area 3 in Figure 6). This section of the park also contains a sizable area of natural turf for passive recreation as well as a large number of mature trees.

The fourth area of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, located south of Area 3 (Area 4 in Figure 6), is a smaller grass-covered area with numerous trees wedged between the paved access loop, equestrian trail, and I-5. The only man-made elements on the triangular site are a small abandoned building at the southern tip of the grass field; small buildings located west of the field, assumed to be used by park personnel for equipment; and a ring of boulders that surround a dirt-covered space.

A total of 357 trees are found in the four areas that compose the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, a third of which are 10 feet tall or less. Just under a third are between 10 and 30 feet tall, and just over a third are more than 30 feet tall.

**North Atwater Park**

Officially part of Griffith Park, North Atwater Park, which is across from I-5 and the Los Angeles River, is approximately 0.25 mile from the Crystal Springs Picnic Area and the rest of Griffith Park (see Figure 6). The only access to North Atwater Park at present is from existing roadways on the east side of the Los Angeles River. Adjacent land uses include the Central Recreation District maintenance yard and headquarters to the north and east, equestrian facilities to the east and south, and the Los Angeles River to the west. Aside from the industrial and equestrian uses immediately surrounding the park, the area to the east is primarily residential in character and developed with a high density of single-family homes.

The park contains a baseball/softball field, a regulation outdoor basketball court, play equipment for children, a volleyball court, and restrooms. The Marshall High School softball team uses the field at North Atwater Park for practice and games. In addition, a recently completed expansion of the park, in the area toward the Los Angeles River, includes an approximately 3-acre open space with picnic areas, native landscaping, walking paths, and an outdoor children’s classroom space. Plans to connect North Atwater Park to the rest of Griffith Park by constructing a bridge across the Los Angeles River would allow cyclists, pedestrians, and horseback riders to connect to the Los Angeles River Bike Path. Upon crossing the proposed bridge from North Atwater Park to the Bike Path, users would be able to access the rest of Griffith Park through a tunnel beneath I-5.

A total of 64 trees are found in North Atwater Park, 14 percent of which are 10 feet tall or less, just under a third are between 10 and 30 feet tall, and just over half are more than 30 feet tall.
Environmental Impact Analysis

Methodology

Potential impacts were determined by studying project plans and aerial imagery and conducting site visits to determine the extent to which existing recreational resources would be affected by the proposed project. In addition, the proposed project was evaluated with respect to its potential to conflict with existing plans and policies.

Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project would have a significant impact related to recreational resources if:

a. 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;

b. The project would include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment; or

c. The project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for parks.

In addition to the thresholds identified in Appendix G, the L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide holds that the determination of significance shall be made on a case-by-case basis after considering the following factors:

a. The net population increase resulting from the proposed project;

b. The demand for recreation and park services anticipated at the time of project buildout compared with the expected level of service available. Consider, as applicable, scheduled improvements to recreation and park services (renovation, expansion, or addition) and the project’s proportional contribution to the demand; and

b. Whether the project includes features that would reduce the demand for recreation and park services (e.g., on-site recreation facilities, land dedication, or direct financial support to the Department of Recreation and Parks).

Construction Impacts

Alternative 1

Option A

Under Alternative 1A, seven picnic tables in the northern portion of the main picnic area (Area 3 in Figure 6) would be removed from the site of the new baseball fields at the start of construction activities. These tables would be relocated elsewhere in the Crystal Springs Picnic Area prior to the completion of construction activities, but it is unknown at what point during the construction period
the relocation would occur and when the displaced tables would be available for use by picnickers. Although these seven tables would be temporarily unavailable to picnickers, the Crystal Springs Picnic Area contains 119 additional picnic tables that would be available for use in the interim. The Crystal Springs Picnic Area would be fully accessible during the construction period, with the exception of the construction sites for the youth baseball fields, which would be fenced and off limits to park-goers. Full circulation around the paved access loop would not be possible during the construction period because two cul-de-sacs would be created in the northeastern portion of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area; the cul-de-sacs would remain during project operation. The creation of the northern cul-de-sac would permanently remove five parking spaces, and staging for construction may require additional parking spaces to be temporarily occupied by construction vehicles and equipment. The reduction in parking spaces is not expected to reduce access for park-goers because only a small fraction (1.9 percent) of the 265 existing parking spaces in the area would be unavailable during the construction period.

**Park Use**

State CEQA threshold A and City CEQA threshold B (identified in the Thresholds of Significance section above) relate to a project’s potential to increase use of recreational facilities. During the construction of Alternative 1A, use of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area may decrease because potential park-goers may choose to go to other recreational facilities that are not under construction. The seven picnic tables that would be temporarily displaced would reduce the amount of space available to picnickers, but that inconvenience is not anticipated to drive away all park visitors. In addition, potential noise and air quality effects stemming from the use of heavy machinery during the construction period may temporarily deter park visitors from going to the Crystal Springs Picnic Area. Noise and air quality impacts are addressed in stand-alone technical reports prepared for this project (see the noise impact analysis and the air quality analysis). Following the completion of construction, however, park use is expected to increase with the addition of a new user group (i.e., youth baseball). Temporary impacts associated with changes in park use during the construction period would be less than significant.

**Construction of Facilities as a Result of Increased Demand**

State CEQA thresholds B and C and City CEQA thresholds A and C (identified above) address the secondary effects of a project’s potential to affect population growth (i.e., whether growth would require the construction of new recreational facilities). These thresholds also take into consideration the physical impacts that would result from new recreational facilities, if required. No net population growth in the surrounding area would occur as a result of construction activities because workers would commute to the site on a daily basis, and the project does not include housing. Given that the project would involve modification of an existing recreational facility that would not reduce the amount of area available for recreational purposes and population growth would not occur as a result of construction, additional recreational or governmental facilities would not be necessary. Therefore, no impacts related to construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities or other governmental facilities would occur as a result of construction of Alternative 1A.

**Option B**

Under Alternative 1B, 56 of the 119 total picnic tables would be removed from the site of the new baseball fields at the start of construction activities. These tables, which are currently located in the southwestern portion of the main picnic area (Area 3 in Figure 6), would be relocated within
the Crystal Springs Picnic Area prior to the completion of construction activities, but it is unknown at what point during the construction period the relocation would occur and when the displaced tables would be available for use by picnickers. Although these 56 tables would be temporarily unavailable to picnickers, the Crystal Springs Picnic Area contains 63 additional picnic tables that would be available for use in the interim. The Crystal Springs Picnic Area would be fully accessible during the construction period, with the exception of the construction sites for the youth baseball fields, which would be fenced and off limits to park-goers. Full circulation around the paved access loop would be possible during the construction period. Staging for construction may require parking spaces to be temporarily occupied by construction vehicles and equipment. The possible reduction in parking spaces, however, is not expected to reduce access for park-goers because only a small fraction of the 265 existing parking spaces in the area would be temporarily unavailable during the construction period.

**Park Use**

State CEQA threshold A and City CEQA threshold B (identified above) relate to a project’s potential to increase use of recreational facilities. During the construction of Alternative 1B, use of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area may decrease because potential park-goers may choose to go to other recreational facilities that are not under construction. The 56 picnic tables that would be temporarily displaced would reduce the amount of space available to picnickers, but that inconvenience is not anticipated to drive away all park visitors. In addition, potential noise and air quality effects stemming from the use of heavy machinery during the construction period may temporarily deter visitors from going to the Crystal Springs Picnic Area. Noise and air quality impacts are addressed in stand-alone technical reports prepared for this project (see the noise impact analysis and the air quality analysis). Following the completion of construction, however, park use is expected to increase with the addition of a new user group (i.e., youth baseball). Temporary impacts associated with changes in park use during the construction period would be less than significant.

**Construction of Facilities as a Result of Increased Demand**

No net population growth in the surrounding area would occur as a result of construction activities because workers would commute to the site on a daily basis, and the project does not include housing. Given that the project would involve modification of an existing recreational facility that would not reduce the amount of area available for recreational purposes and population growth would not occur as a result of construction, additional recreational or governmental facilities would not be necessary. Therefore, no impacts related to construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities or other governmental facilities would occur as a result of construction of Alternative 1B.

**Alternative 2**

Under Alternative 2, the existing softball field, basketball court, and sand volleyball court at North Atwater Park would not be available for use during the construction period. Existing users of these facilities, including the Marshall High School softball team, would need to find alternative facilities during and after construction. The Marshall High School softball team would most likely need to find an alternative site for practice and games following the completion of construction because the new field would have Little League field dimensions, which differ from high school softball field dimensions. The following facilities have baseball/softball fields and are located within 4 miles of the project site:
• Marshall High School: There are two co-located fields on the Marshall High School campus.

• Bellevue Recreation Center: Located 2 miles south of Marshall High School; Bellevue Recreation Center has two baseball/softball fields.

• Lemon Grove Recreation Center: Located 3.5 miles southwest of Marshall High School; Lemon Grove Recreation Center has a single baseball/softball field.

• Elysian Heights Park: Located approximately 6.2 miles southeast of Marshall High School by freeway; Elysian Heights Park has two baseball/softball fields.

Informal consultation with a representative of the Bellevue Recreation Center revealed that there might be field availability that would meet the needs of the softball team displaced from North Atwater Park under Alternative 2 and that this facility has been used by Marshall High School in the past. With respect to the volleyball court that would be displaced from North Atwater Park under Alternative 2, the sand volleyball court at the Crystal Springs Picnic Area would continue to be available for use. Users of the basketball court who would be displaced would be able to use a half-court at Chevy Chase Park, located 0.25 mile east of North Atwater Park; two half-courts located 1.5 miles to the east at Palmer Park in Glendale; and a full court at Bellevue Recreation Center, 4 miles to the south. Park-goers would be able to access the children’s play equipment and the recently completed expansion area adjacent to the Los Angeles River during the construction period, but the construction sites for the youth baseball fields would be fenced and off limits. It is not expected that parking areas would be disrupted during the construction period.

Park Use

State CEQA threshold A and City CEQA threshold B (identified above) relate to a project’s potential to increase use of recreational facilities. During the construction of Alternative 2, use of North Atwater Park may decrease because potential park-goers may choose to go to other recreational facilities that are not under construction. Potential noise and air quality effects stemming from the use of heavy machinery during the construction period may temporarily deter visitors from going to North Atwater Park. Noise and air quality impacts are addressed in stand-alone technical reports prepared for this project (see the noise impact analysis and the air quality analysis). Following the completion of construction, however, park use is expected to increase with the addition of a new user group (i.e., youth baseball). Temporary impacts associated with changes in park use during the construction period would be less than significant.

Construction of Facilities as a Result of Increased Demand

State CEQA thresholds B and C and City CEQA thresholds A and C (identified above) address the secondary effects of a project’s potential to affect population growth (i.e., whether growth would require the construction of new recreational facilities). These thresholds also take into consideration the physical impacts that would result from new recreational facilities, if required. No net population growth in the surrounding area would occur as a result of construction activities because workers would commute to the site on a daily basis, and the project does not include housing. Given that the project would involve modification of an existing recreational facility that would not reduce the amount of area available for recreational purposes and population growth would not occur as a result of construction, additional recreational or governmental facilities would not be necessary. In addition, it appears that the Marshall High School softball team could be accommodated at other facilities in the area, which would avoid the need to construct a new facility. Displaced users of the volleyball and basketball courts could be
accommodated at nearby facilities as well. Therefore, no impacts related to construction or the expansion of additional recreational facilities or other governmental facilities would occur as a result of construction of Alternative 2.

**Operational Impacts**

**Alternative 1**

**Option A**

Alternative 1A would place two youth baseball fields in the northern portion of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area (Area 3 in Figure 6), resulting in the conversion of this portion of the park from passive recreation uses to active recreation uses. The placement of the fields would require the displacement of seven picnic tables, all of which would be relocated to a different area of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area. In addition to the removal of picnic tables from the area, Alternative 1A would require the removal of 32 mature trees and 12 young oak trees. The trees would be replaced at a ratio of at least two trees for every one removed, with preference given to new tree locations near existing locations.

The eastern field would require the creation of two cul-de-sacs along the field’s right and left outfields. This would prevent vehicles from being able to navigate what is currently a contiguous access loop. Neither the cul-de-sacs nor the field would affect the existing pedestrian and equestrian trail because there would be a 10-foot clearance between the outfield fence and the trail’s fence.

The availability of specific forms of recreation would change under Alternative 1A because there would be a reduction in area available for picnicking and other passive recreation as a result of the provision of two youth baseball fields. CEQA’s significance thresholds related to recreational facilities address the potential for increased use or premature deterioration of recreational facilities due to population growth that could occur as a result of project implementation. In addition, the thresholds address the potential for physical impacts to occur as a result of construction or expansion of recreational facilities required by the project. The thresholds do not address the conversion of recreational facilities from one type of recreation to another, which is what would occur under Alternative 1A (i.e., conversion of a passive recreational facility to an active recreational facility). A discussion of Alternative 1A as it relates to City and state significance thresholds follows.

**Park Use**

State CEQA threshold A and City CEQA threshold B (identified above) relate to a project’s potential to increase use of recreational facilities. Following the completion of construction, use of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area is expected to increase because youth baseball players and their families would use the on-site baseball fields in addition to existing user groups. Because no picnic tables would be permanently displaced by the fields, the number of picnickers at the site is not anticipated to decrease. Although increased park use would occur, the growth would be from baseball field users and spectators, and primarily at the baseball facilities, which are designed to accommodate such use. Therefore, the anticipated increase in park use occurring as a result of operation of Alternative 1A would not cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities, and impacts would be less than significant.
Construction of Facilities as a Result of Increased Demand

State CEQA thresholds B and C and City CEQA thresholds A and C (identified above) address the secondary effects of a project's potential to affect population growth (i.e., whether growth would require the construction of new recreational facilities). These thresholds also take into consideration the physical impacts that would result from new recreational facilities, if required. Generally, only projects that are expected to increase the population of an area necessitate the construction or expansion of recreational or other governmental facilities. Because there is no housing component and Alternative 1A would modify an existing park by creating two youth baseball fields without displacing existing facilities, no construction or expansion would be needed. Maintenance equipment for the fields is expected to be housed on-site in existing buildings and not require the construction of additional structures. No impact related to the need to construct additional recreational facilities as a result of the project would occur.

Option B

Alternative 1B would place two youth baseball fields in the southern portion of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area (Areas 3 and 4 in Figure 6), resulting in the conversion of this portion of the park from passive recreation uses to active recreation uses. The placement of the fields would require the displacement of 56 picnic tables, all of which would be relocated to a different area of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area. In addition to the removal of picnic tables from the area, Alternative 1B would require the removal of several trees. All trees would be replaced or relocated at a ratio of at least two trees for every one removed, with preference given to new tree locations near existing locations.

The availability of specific forms of recreation would change under Alternative 1B because there would be a reduction in area available for picnicking and other passive recreation as a result of the provision of the two youth baseball fields. The CEQA thresholds do not specifically address the conversion of recreational facilities from one type of recreation to another, which is what would occur under Alternative 1B (i.e., conversion of a passive recreational facility to an active recreational facility). A discussion of Alternative 1B as it relates to the City and state significance thresholds follows.

Park Use

State CEQA threshold A and City CEQA threshold B (identified above) relate to a project's potential to increase use of recreational facilities. Following the completion of construction, use of the Crystal Springs Picnic Area is expected to increase because youth baseball players and their families would use the on-site baseball fields in addition to existing user groups. Because no picnic tables would be permanently displaced by the fields, the number of picnickers at the site is not anticipated to decrease. Although increased park use would occur, the growth would be from the baseball field users and spectators, and primarily at the baseball facilities, which are designed to accommodate such use. Therefore, the anticipated increase in park use occurring as a result of operation of Alternative 1B would not cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing recreational facilities, and impacts would be less than significant.

Construction of Facilities as a Result of Increased Demand

State CEQA thresholds B and C and City CEQA thresholds A and C (identified above) address the secondary effects of a project's potential to affect population growth (i.e., whether growth would require the construction of new recreational facilities). These thresholds also take into consideration the physical impacts that would result from new recreational facilities, if required.
Generally, only projects that are expected to increase the population of an area necessitate the construction or expansion of recreational or other governmental facilities. Because there is no housing component and Alternative 1B would modify an existing park by creating two youth baseball fields without displacing existing facilities, no construction or expansion of new recreational facilities would be needed. Maintenance equipment for the fields is expected to be housed on-site in existing buildings and not require the construction of additional structures. No impact related to the need to construct additional recreational facilities as a result of Alternative 1B would occur.

**Alternative 2**

Alternative 2 would retrofit an existing softball field for youth baseball use and place an additional youth baseball field in North Atwater Park (see Figure 5). The retrofit of the existing field would require the Marshall High School softball team to find a new place to practice and play games because the team uses the existing field. Given the availability of baseball/softball fields at Marshall High School, Bellevue Recreation Center, Lemon Grove Recreation Center, and Elysian Heights Park, it appears that existing facilities in the area could accommodate the Marshall High School softball team. Construction of the new baseball field would remove an existing basketball court and sand volleyball court, neither of which would be replaced.

In addition to the removal of basketball and volleyball courts from the area, Alternative 2 would require the removal of approximately 15 trees. All trees would be replaced or relocated at a ratio of at least two trees for every one removed, with preference given to new tree locations near existing locations.

The availability of specific forms of active recreation would change under Alternative 2 because basketball and volleyball activities would be displaced by the youth baseball fields. CEQA’s significance thresholds related to recreational facilities address the potential for increased use or premature deterioration of recreational facilities due to population growth. In addition, the thresholds address the potential for physical impacts to occur as a result of construction or expansion of recreational facilities required by the project. The thresholds do not address the conversion of recreational facilities from one type of recreation to another, which is what would occur under Alternative 2 (i.e., conversion of basketball and volleyball courts to a youth baseball field). A discussion of Alternative 2 as it relates to the City and state significance thresholds follows.

**Park Use**

State CEQA threshold A and City CEQA threshold B (identified above) relate to a project’s potential to increase use of recreational facilities. Following the completion of construction, use of North Atwater Park is expected to increase because youth baseball players and their families would use the on-site baseball fields in addition to existing user groups. Although increased park use would occur, the growth would be from the baseball field users and spectators, and primarily at the baseball facilities, which are designed to accommodate such use. Therefore, the anticipated increase in park use occurring as a result of operation of Alternative 2 would not cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of recreational facilities, and impacts would be less than significant.
**Construction of Facilities as a Result of Increased Demand**

State CEQA thresholds B and C and City CEQA thresholds A and C (identified above) address the secondary effects of a project’s potential to affect population growth (i.e., whether growth would require the construction of new recreational facilities). These thresholds also take into consideration the physical impacts that would result from new recreational facilities, if required.

Generally, only projects that are expected to increase the population of an area necessitate the construction or expansion of recreational or other governmental facilities. Because there is no housing component and Alternative 2 would modify an existing park by creating two youth baseball fields, no construction or expansion of recreational facilities would be needed. The Marshall High School softball team would be impacted by implementation of Alternative 2, but it appears that the team could be accommodated at other facilities in the area (see the construction impacts discussion), which would avoid the need to construct a new facility. Maintenance equipment for the fields is expected to be housed on-site in existing buildings and not require the construction of additional structures. No impact related to the need to construct additional recreational facilities as a result of Alternative 2 would occur.

**Consistency with Plans and Policies**

For the purposes of evaluating the potential of the project to conflict with existing plans and policies, the proposed alternatives were evaluated together because each would involve the construction and operation of two youth baseball fields in existing park settings. Where differences in the alternatives would result in differences in the findings related to consistency with existing plans and polices, these differences are specified, as appropriate.

**City of Los Angeles General Plan**

**Public Recreation Plan: Service Systems Element**

**Standards**

The proposed project would not change the overall availability of recreation in the city because there would be no net change in park acreage under the proposed project. Griffith Park would continue to be a major recreational draw and maintain its status as a Regional Park. There would, however, be changes in the availability of specific types of recreational facilities, as identified above.

**Policies**

The provision of youth baseball fields would provide recreational facilities for a user group that is not currently served at Griffith Park (i.e., youth baseball), which has the potential to increase the overall diversity of users. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with the Public Recreation Plan: Service Systems Element.

**Hollywood Community Plan**

All of the goals and polices identified in the Hollywood Community Plan aim to maintain and improve existing recreational resources and develop new recreational resources. The proposed project would maintain the net acreage of Griffith Park while providing opportunities for youth baseball. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the Hollywood Community Plan but, rather, would support the plan.
Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan

All of the recreation-related goals and polices identified in the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan aim to maintain and improve existing recreational resources and develop new recreational resources. The proposed project would maintain the net acreage of Griffith Park (including North Atwater Park) while providing opportunities for youth baseball. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan but, rather, would support the plan.

Other Plans

Griffith Park Master Plan

Goals 3 and 4 of the 1978 Griffith Park Master Plan are the only goals in the plan that are directly applicable to the proposed project (Goals 1, 2, 5, and 6 are only indirectly related). Goal 3 of the Griffith Park Master Plan calls for more efficient use of existing facilities and developed areas before using more open parkland for new facilities, which the proposed project would do by virtue of its respective locations within developed areas of Griffith Park. Goal 4 specifies that the civic function of Griffith Park should be perpetuated and improved. The proposed project would provide facilities for a new group of users who are not currently served by Griffith Park facilities while continuing to serve existing park users. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with the Griffith Park Master Plan.

Draft Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan

The only directly applicable goal of the Draft Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan relates to efforts to minimize human/wildlife conflicts. Given that the possible locations for the proposed project are in already developed portions of Griffith Park and not near undeveloped areas that are likely to serve as wildlife habitat, the proposed project would not conflict with efforts to minimize human/wildlife conflict.

Draft Vision Plan for Griffith Park

The main goals of the Draft Vision Plan for Griffith Park related to the proposed project have to do with minimizing impacts from developed portions of the park on natural, undeveloped areas of the park as well as recognizing and considering the interests of the various groups of park users, including picnickers. As noted in the Draft Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan discussion, the possible locations for the proposed project are in already developed portions of Griffith Park and not near undeveloped areas that are likely to serve as wildlife habitat, thereby minimizing impacts on natural areas. Although the proposed project would result in the displacement of picnic areas under Alternatives 1A and 1B, the subsequent relocation of picnic facilities would allow for the provision of both youth baseball fields and picnic areas. Alternative 2 would remove a sand volleyball court and basketball court, neither of which would be replaced. However, Alternative 2 would construct two youth baseball fields at North Atwater Park; therefore, only a change in the specific types of recreational facilities at this location would occur. Overall, the proposed project would not conflict with the Draft Vision Plan for Griffith Park.
2009 Citywide Community Needs Assessment

As previously discussed, the Needs Assessment was prepared as an early step in the development of Citywide Recreation and Parks Master/Strategic Plan and a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. The Needs Assessment provides a prioritized list of facility/amenity needs and recreation program needs for the residents of the city of Los Angeles.

Alternative 1A would involve the temporary displacement of seven picnic tables, all of which would be replaced prior to the completion of the construction of the baseball fields. Alternative 1B would temporarily displace 56 picnic tables, which would all be replaced. Both Alternatives 1A and 1B would reduce the amount of area dedicated to passive recreation, but the construction of youth baseball fields under these alternatives would not permanently displace any higher-priority facility types identified in the Needs Assessment. Therefore, Alternatives 1A and 1B would not conflict with the Needs Assessment.

Alternative 2 could potentially conflict with the Needs Assessment because the new youth baseball field located to the north of the existing baseball field at North Atwater Park would displace a basketball court and a volleyball court. Both the outdoor basketball court and volleyball court are identified as higher priorities the youth baseball field in the Needs Assessment. Therefore, the removal of the basketball court and volleyball court could potentially conflict with the Needs Assessment.

Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines or the L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide were identified. No mitigation measures would be required.

Significant Unavoidable Impacts

There would be no significant unavoidable impacts associated with the proposed project.

Cumulative Impacts

With the exception of the proposed North Atwater Crossing (also known as the North Atwater Multi-Modal Bridge over the Los Angeles River), a performing arts center at the Old Zoo, and the Headworks Reservoir Project, there are no projects within or adjacent to Griffith Park.

The North Atwater Crossing, an equestrian, bike, and pedestrian bridge over the Los Angeles River located south of North Atwater Park, would provide additional non-motorized Griffith Park access between North Atwater Park, the Los Angeles River Bike Path, and the Crystal Springs Picnic Area. The bridge is not anticipated to have a level of use that would cause or accelerate deterioration of the area’s recreational resources. Because the North Atwater Crossing would not cause or accelerate deterioration of recreational resources and the alternatives would have less-than-significant impacts with respect to recreation, the impact of these two projects in concert with one another would not be cumulatively considerable.
The proposed performing arts center and related undergrounding of power lines would be located at the Old Zoo. An environmental study has not yet been completed for the proposed performing arts center and, therefore, impacts to recreational resources have not been formally evaluated. The anticipated cumulative impact of the performing arts center combined with the less-than-significant impact of the alternatives would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts to recreational resources, as they would not accelerate deterioration. However, this conclusion is not certain until the performing arts center project is formally analyzed. Nonetheless, the proposed alternatives’ contribution to a cumulative impact would not be cumulatively considerable.

The Headworks Reservoir Project would involve the construction and operation of two buried concrete reservoirs with a 54- and 56-million-gallon storage capacity covered with 2 to 3 feet of soil and native vegetation, a 4-megawatt hydroelectric power plant, a flow regulating station with a flow capacity of 250 cubic feet per second, and a trunk line 96 inches in diameter and 600 feet long with a 3000-foot tunneling portion. The site would be available for passive recreation uses, which, when complete, would give park users additional recreational options. The creation of new recreational options at the Headworks site has the potential to distribute the number of visitors to the Griffith Park area over a wider geographical area, thereby reducing the deterioration of any individual area. Therefore, the Headworks Reservoir Project in combination with the less-than-significant impact of the alternatives would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact to recreation.

Taken together, the combination of the proposed alternatives, the North Atwater Crossing Project, the Old Zoo performing arts center, and the Headworks Reservoir Project would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts on Griffith Park as a recreational resource.
References


City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. 2009. *Citywide Community Needs Assessment*.
