3.15 Recreation and Parks

This section addresses the potential impacts to recreation associated with implementation of the proposed Project. This section includes: a description of the existing parks and recreational facilities in the proposed Project area; a summary of applicable regulations related to parks and recreation; and an evaluation of the potential impacts of the proposed Project related to recreational facilities in and around the proposed Project area. Impacts to recreation and parks are significant and unavoidable, even with implementation of mitigation measures for construction related noise and operational noise during special events. Nevertheless, all mitigation measures included in the Draft EIR would be implemented.

3.15.1 Environmental Setting

Project Area Setting

The proposed Project would be located within the 127-acre Silver Lake Reservoir Complex (SLRC). Approximately 3 acres of SLRC land, known as the Meadow, is operated and maintained by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department (RAP). The current Meadow is an open grassy area along the eastern side of the SLRC that is open to public access from dawn till dusk. In addition, RAP operates the existing Silver Lake Recreation Center and dog park, located along the southern side of the SLRC. The Silver Lake Recreation Center includes a recreation center, playground, and basketball courts. The existing dog park is located along the southern side of the SLRC to the east of the Silver Lake Recreation Center. Currently, there are two pathways shared with the public on the west side of Ivanhoe Reservoir and along the top of Silver Lake Dam. Approximately 4 acres of existing paved surfaces around the reservoirs’ perimeters are available for shared public use with LADWP. The entire SLRC is enclosed by a perimeter chain-link fence varying in height from 6 to 12 feet. Outside of the proposed impact area, along the northern side of the SLRC, is a nursery school and the Tesla Pocket Park. Refer to Figure 2-2 for the location of existing recreational facilities within the proposed Project area.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Los Angeles County

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (LADPR) owns, operates, and maintains nearly 182 parks and recreational facilities. The County’s parks and recreation system includes 73,214 acres of parks, lakes, trails, natural areas, and gardens and the world’s largest public golf course system. The County park system includes 9 regional parks (greater than 100 acres), 19 community regional parks (20 to 100 acres), 20 community parks 10 to 20 acres in size), 39 neighborhood parks (3 to 10 acres in size), 20 pocket parks (less than 3 acres in size)/park nodes (small pieces of open space that provide breaks to the urban landscape), 233 miles of horse and hiking trails, 20 golf courses, and 36 swimming pools (LADPR 2021).

The County parks system includes community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, and park nodes. Local parks serve neighborhoods within a maximum of a 2-mile radius of any one park. The regional park system includes regional parks, community regional parks, and special-use facilities (single-use facilities serving greater recreational or cultural needs). The parks in the
regional park system provide service for areas within a 20- to 25-mile radius. Other recreational facilities available to County residents include trails, multi-benefit parks, school sites, city parks and facilities, private recreational facilities, and greenways (County of Los Angeles 2015).

The County goal for the provision of parkland is 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the total population of Los Angeles County (County of Los Angeles 2015). Section 21.24.340 of the County Code has a standard of 3 acres of local and 5 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents (County of Los Angeles 2018).

**City of Los Angeles**

RAP stewards to over 16,000 acres of parkland, offering extensive recreational, social and cultural programs at 444 park sites in every Los Angeles neighborhood. The RAP maintains and operates hundreds of athletic fields, 422 playgrounds, 321 tennis courts, 184 recreation centers, 72 fitness areas, 62 swimming pools and aquatic centers, 30 senior centers, 26 skate parks, 13 golf courses, 12 museums, 9 dog parks, and 187 summer youth camps and helps support the Summer Night Lights gang reduction and community intervention program. The RAP employs 1,400 full time employees, 5,000 part-time/seasonal employees, and 35,000 volunteers and park partners (RAP 2022).

Within a 2-mile radius of the proposed Project area, there are a total of 50 recreational facilities primarily operated by either LADPR or RAP: 43 parks and open space areas; and 7 recreation centers. Three noteworthy recreational assets within the City near the proposed Project area are discussed in more detail below.

**Griffith Park**

Griffith Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the County is located one mile northwest of the proposed Project area and offers over 4,000 acres of green open space, as well as various activities including but not limited to hiking trails, two golf courses, horseback riding trails, soccer fields, baseball fields, children’s playgrounds, a merry-go-round, a zoo and a planetarium. Additionally, a large soccer field, public pool and a newly refurbished playground are located between the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex (SLRC) and Griffith Park on Riverside Drive (Chee Salette 2019).

**Elysian and Echo Park**

Elysian Park, another major natural park, is located 1.5 miles southwest of the proposed Project area. Elysian Park which is approximately 765 acres and offers extensive hiking trails and houses the Los Angeles Dodgers Stadium. Echo Park, a smaller urban park with a large water feature used for recreation and habitat is located 1.5 miles to the south of the proposed Project area (Chee Salette 2019).

**Los Angeles River**

Approximately 0.5 mile north of the proposed Project area, the Los Angeles River provides opportunities for recreation and exercise in the form of a path along its western bank, where people run, bike, walk and observe wildlife in the Glendale Narrows area of the Los Angeles River (Chee Salette 2019).
Silver Lake-Echo Park-Elysian Valley Community

Nearly 35 percent of the Silver Lake-Echo Park-Elysian Valley Community Plan Area’s acreage is dedicated to parkland. In total, the Community Plan area has eight neighborhood parks and two community parks. Additionally, the Community Plan area contains the City’s oldest park, Elysian Park. The Community Plan details that the Community Plan area provides an opportunity to increase the area’s parkland to offer greenbelts and trail systems to connect and expand recreational facilities City-wide (City of Los Angeles 2004).

Existing Silver Lake Reservoir Complex

The existing SLRC is surrounded by recreational opportunities including a path that loops around the SLRC for strolling, walking pets, and jogging/running. Approximately three acres of SLRC-land is operated by RAP to maintain the existing Meadow and approximately four acres of the SLRC are owned and operated by RAP for the existing Silver Lake Recreation Center (Recreation Center) and Dog Park (Figure 2-2).

The Meadow

The existing 2.5-acre Meadow was envisioned by the 2000 Master Plan and was created in 2011. Prior to this time, there was a fence surrounding the SLRC which was relocated to open this area to the public. The existing Meadow is an unstructured green open space used for picnicking, walking, running, exercising, and lawn games. The northern edge of the existing Meadow features a native plant garden which is maintained by volunteers (Chee Salette 2019).

Dog Park

The existing 1.5-acre Dog Park is located within the southern portion of the proposed Project area and consists mainly of a sloped dirt field with minimal vegetation and shade. It has separate areas for small dogs and large dogs, and it is a popular amenity within the community (Chee Salette 2019).

Silver Lake Recreation Center

The existing Silver Lake Recreation Center (Recreation Center) is located within the southern portion of the proposed Project area adjacent to the existing Dog Park. The existing Recreation Center offers a wide range of activities throughout the year, including day camps in the summer and includes a polling place for most elections.

The existing Recreation Center contains a building facility with a small gymnasium, a children’s playground, and an outdoor basketball court located in a green park, which is partially enclosed by a fence.

3.15.2 Regulatory Framework

State

Public Park Preservation Act

The primary instrument for protecting and preserving parkland in California is the state Public Park Preservation Act. Under the California Public Resources Code, cities and counties may not acquire any real property that is in use as a public park for any non-park use unless compensation
or land, or both, is provided to replace the parkland acquired. This provides no net loss of parkland and facilities.

**Local**

**The City of Los Angeles Charter**

The City Charter established the RAP to construct, maintain, operate, and control all parks, recreational facilities, museums, observatories, municipal auditoriums, sports centers and all lands, waters, facilities or equipment set aside or dedicated for recreational purposes and public enjoyment within the City. The Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners oversees the RAP.

With regard to control and management of recreation and park lands, Section 594(c) of the City Charter provides that all lands set apart or dedicated as a public park shall forever remain for the use of the public inviolate. However, the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners may authorize the use of those lands for any park purpose and for other specified purposes.

**City of Los Angeles General Plan**

**Framework Element**

The City’s General Plan Framework Element (adopted in December 1996 and readopted in August 2001) (Framework Element) includes park and open space policies for the provision, management, and conservation of Los Angeles' open space resources while addressing the outdoor recreation needs of the City's residents, and is intended to guide the amendment of the General Plan's Open Space and Conservation Elements.

Chapter 6, Open Space and Conservation, of the Framework Element, contain policies and objectives that address the provision of parks within the City. The applicable policies to the proposed Project are as follows:

**Goal 6A:** An Integrated Citywide/regional public and private open space system that serves and is accessible by the City’s population and is unthreatened by encroachment from other land uses.

**Objective 6.1:** Protect the City's natural settings from the encroachment of urban development, allowing for the development, use, management, and maintenance of each component of the City's natural resources to contribute to the sustainability of the region.

**Policy 6.1.2:** Coordinate City operations and development policies for the protection and conservation of open space resources, by:

- Encouraging City departments to take the lead in utilizing water re-use technology, including graywater and reclaimed water for public landscape maintenance purposes and such other purposes as may be feasible;

- Preserving habitat linkages, where feasible, to provide wildlife corridors and to protect natural animal ranges; and

- Preserving natural viewsheds, whenever possible, in hillside and coastal areas.
Open Space Element

The City’s Open Space Element (Open Space Element) was prepared in June 1973 to provide an official guide to the City Planning Commission, the City Council, the Mayor, and other governmental agencies and interested citizens for the identification, preservation, conservation, and acquisition of open space in the City. This document distinguishes open space areas as privately- or publicly-owned, and includes goals, objectives, policies, and programs directed towards the regulation of privately-owned lands both for the benefit of the public as a whole and for protection of individuals from the misuses of these lands. In addition, this document discusses the acquisition and use of publicly-owned lands and recommends further implementation of studies and actions to guide development of open space in the City. Furthermore, in order to address the standards and criteria of identifying open space, this document describes various contextual factors that may affect open space, including, but not limited to, recreation standards; scenic corridors; density and development; cultural or historical sites; safety, health, and social welfare; environmental and ecological balance; and unique sites.

The City’s General Plan Open Space Element update was formally initiated pursuant to a Council motion adopted on May 24, 2001 (Council File 96-1358) and has been undergoing revisions by the Department of City Planning. Until approval of the pending updates to the Open Space Element, the RAP is operating under the guidance of the Public Recreation Plan (PRP) discussed below.

Service Systems Element - Public Recreation Plan

As a part of the General Plan’s Service Systems Element, the PRP establishes policies and standards related to parks and recreational facilities in the City (City of Los Angeles 1980). The PRP was adopted in 1980 by the Los Angeles City Council and amended by City Council resolution in March 2016. The amendments modernize the PRP’s recommendations and provide for more flexibility and equity in the distribution of funds used for the acquisition and development of recreational resources. The PRP also addresses the need for publicly-accessible neighborhood, community, and regional recreational sites and facilities across the City. The PRP focuses on recreational site and facility planning in underserved neighborhoods with the fewest existing resources and the greatest number of potential users (i.e., where existing residential development generates the greatest demand), as well as areas where new subdivisions, intensification of existing residential development, or redevelopment of “blighted” residential areas creates new demand.

The amended PRP establishes general guidelines for neighborhood, community, and regional recreational sites and facilities that address general service radius and access as well as service levels relative to population within that radius. The PRP also states that the allocation of acreage for community and neighborhood parks should be based on the resident population within that general service radius. Toward this end, the amended PRP recommends the goals of 2.0 acres each of neighborhood and community recreational sites and facilities per 1,000 residents, and 6.0 acres of regional recreational sites and facilities per 1,000 residents. To determine existing service ratios, the RAP commonly uses the geographic area covered by the applicable Community Plan rather than the park service radius. The PRP does not establish requirements for individual development projects.
For a given neighborhood recreational site or facility, the amended PRP does not recommend a specific size, noting only that a school playground may partially serve this function (with up to one-half of its acreage counted toward the total acreage requirement [service level per capita]). The amended PRP does not define a specific service radius for neighborhood recreational sites and facilities, instead recommending that they should generally be within walking distance and not require users to cross a major arterial street or highway for access.

For community recreational sites and facilities, the amended PRP states that facilities may be of any size, but are generally larger than neighborhood parks, and a high school site may be counted toward half the acreage requirement/service level per capita. The amended PRP does not define a specific service radius for community recreational sites and facilities, instead recommending that they should generally be accessible within a relatively short bicycle, bus, or car trip, and easily accessible.

For regional recreational sites and facilities, the amended PRP states that facilities may be large urban recreational sites or smaller sites or facilities that draw visitors from across the City. The amended PRP does not define a specific service radius or further qualify access, stating only that the service radius should be that within a reasonable drive.

**Health and Wellness Element**

The *City’s Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles* lays the foundation to create healthier communities for all Angelenos. As an Element of the General Plan, it provides high-level policy vision, along with measurable objectives and implementation programs, to elevate health as a priority for the City’s future growth and development. Chapter 3 of the Health and Wellness Element, Bountiful Parks and Open Spaces, outlines policies and objectives to increase the availability of parks through park funding and allocation, park expansion, the Los Angeles River, park quality and recreation programs, park safety, local partnerships, water recreation, and active spaces. Specifically, the objectives include:

- Increase the number of neighborhood and community parks so that every Community Plan Area strives for 3 acres of neighborhood and community park space per 1000 residents (excluding regional parks and open spaces).
- Increase access to parks so that 75 percent of all residents are within a 0.25-mile walk of a park or open space facility.
- Increase the number of schools (public, private, and charter) that have shared use agreements for community use outside of normal school hours by 25 percent.
- Increase the miles of the Los Angeles River that are revitalized for natural open space and physical activity, particularly in low-income areas.
- Increase the number of parks that feature or incorporate universally-accessible features.
- Improve the percentage of citywide population meeting physical fitness standards per week so that 50 percent of the population meets physical activity guidelines.

**Community Plan**

The City of Los Angeles maintains 35 community plans, one for each of its Community Plan Areas. The community plans establish neighborhood-specific goals and implementation strategies
to achieve the broad objectives laid out in the City of Los Angeles General Plan. Together, the 35 community plans compose the General Plan’s Land Use Element, which plays an important role in maintaining the City of Los Angeles’s recreation needs. The proposed Project falls within the Silver Lake-Echo Park-Elysian Valley Community Plan. Goals, objectives and policies within the Community Plan applicable to the proposed Project are outlined below.

**Goal 4**: Adequate recreation and park facilities which meet the needs of the residents in the plan area and create links to existing facilities to expand recreational opportunities Citywide.

**Objective 4-1**: To conserve, maintain and better use existing recreation and park facilities.

**Policy 4-1.1**: Preserve the existing recreational facilities and park space.

**Program**: By maintaining the Open Space zone and land use designation, existing parks and recreational facilities are protected.

**Policy 4-1.2**: Preserve and encourage acquisition, development and funding of new recreational facilities and park space with the goal of creating greenways and trail systems.

**Program**: Encourage City departments to reuse and/or convert unused or underused publicly owned land and facilities for recreation and open space facilities, whenever feasible.

**Goal 5**: A community with sufficient open space in balance with new development to serve the recreational, environmental and health needs of the community.

**Objective 5-1**: Preserve existing and develop new open space resources.

**Policy 5-1.1**: Encourage the retention of passive and visual open space which provides a balance to the urban development of the Plan area

**Policy 5-1.2**: Accommodate active parklands and other open space.

**Objective 5-2**: Provide/ensure access to new recreational resources and open space developed throughout the Plan area, including trails and facilities along the Los Angeles River, and new parks.

**Policy 5-2.1**: Ensure that there is public access to any new open space and recreational facilities in the Plan Area, especially the Los Angeles River.

The Project’s consistency with the Silver Lake-Echo Park-Elysian Valley Community Plan objectives and policies are evaluated in Section 3.11, *Land Use*, Table 3.11-1.

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

In 2009, RAP commissioned an update of the last Recreation and Parks Needs Assessment from 1999 as a preliminary step in developing a citywide park master plan and five-year capital improvement plan. The report provides an inventory of existing facilities, defines geographic areas of need and recommended facilities to serve specific populations, and identifies priorities
for additional parks and recreation facilities. The report provides a more current assessment of conditions and future needs compared to the PRP, while the PRP recommends the ratios of park acreage per person used in the analysis.

The Citywide Community Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment) divides the RAP’s jurisdiction (the City) into seven geographic districts. The geographic district in which the Silver Lake-Elysian Valley-Echo Park Community Plan area is located in the East Los Angeles district. According to the Needs Assessment, significant variation exists related to prioritized facility and program rankings, which are based on the levels of demand in the City’s seven different geographical areas. In East Los Angeles, of the 26 recreational uses ranked by the RAP, walking and biking trails are ranked No. 1, small neighborhood parks are ranked No. 2, nature trails are ranked No. 14, indoor gyms are ranked No. 6, outdoor tennis courts are ranked No. 11, outdoor swimming pools are ranked No. 5, nature/environment centers are ranked No. 13, golf courses/driving ranges are ranked No. 22, youth soccer fields are ranked No. 20, and adult soccer fields are ranked No. 25 (RAP 2009).

**50 Parks Initiative**

In response to the 2009 Citywide Community Needs Assessment, the RAP developed the 50 Parks Initiative with the purpose of substantially increasing the number of parks and facilities available across the City, with a specific focus on densely populated neighborhoods and communities that lack sufficient open space and recreational services.

**Park Proud LA Strategic Plan 2018–2022**

The Park Proud LA Strategic Plan (Parks Strategic Plan) is the most recent strategic plan for the RAP, effective from 2018 until 2022. The Strategic Plan highlights critical work that needs to be accomplished over the next several years to ensure that the City has an accessible, equitable, and first class park system. The Strategic Plan reflects chief priorities of the RAP, confronts new and existing challenges, and lays the framework to pursue new opportunities. Within the Strategic Plan, there are over two dozen outcomes organized under the following seven high-level priority goals:

- Provide safe and accessible parks;
- Offer affordable and equitable recreation programming;
- Create and maintain world class parks and facilities;
- Actively engage communities;
- Ensure an environmentally sustainable park system;
- Build financial strength and innovative partnerships; and
- Maintain a diverse and dynamic workforce.
3.15.3 Significance Thresholds and Criteria

The significance criteria used to evaluate the proposed Project impacts to recreation and parks are based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed Project would have a significant impact if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, or other performance objectives for parks. (Refer to Impact 3.15-1)

- 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. (Refer to Impact 3.15-2)

- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. (Refer to Impact 3.15-3)

In addition, an evaluation was conducted using screening criteria included in the City’s 2006 L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide: Your Resource for Preparing CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles (L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide). The evaluation concluded that none of the thresholds related to Recreation and Parks were triggered by the proposed Project. As a result, further analysis using the 2006 L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide thresholds is not required for this topic.

Methodology

The analysis of parks and recreation impacts is typically based on an estimate of residential population increase that could potentially place additional demand on existing park and recreation facilities. The proposed Project would not contain a residential component that would increase the use of existing parks and recreational uses. However, the proposed Project would include the addition of new recreational facilities and a temporary impact to the existing recreational and park facilities within the SLRC during construction activities.

The analysis evaluates the following three distinctive thresholds: (1) the need to construct new facilities to maintain service ratios or other performance objectives for parks, (2) the deterioration of existing public park facilities due to increased demand, and (3) whether the construction and operation of a new facility would cause environmental impacts. The analysis of impacts to parks and recreational facilities identifies the potential demand that would be generated by the proposed Project and the potential for that additional demand to result in the need for expansion of existing and/or new facilities, the deterioration of existing facilities, or result in environmental impacts associated with the construction of new facilities. The analysis also considers the extent to which Project-provided park and recreational facilities would fulfill City goals and policies and reduce demand for such facilities. In addition, the environmental analysis in this section was prepared in consultation with RAP (Personal communication 2022).
3.15.4 Project Design Features

No specific Project Design Features are proposed with regard to parks and recreation beyond the open space and recreational amenities being constructed or improved by the proposed Project as described in Section 2, Project Description.

3.15.5 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

New Park Facility

Impact 3.15-1: Would the proposed Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives for parks?

Construction

The proposed Project would not require the addition of new residential units. The proposed Project would enhance existing public park facilities and construct new public park facilities. The proposed Project’s construction workers would be drawn from an existing regional labor pool whose workers move between construction projects on a short-term basis without requiring relocation. Workers traveling to or from work, or during a lunch break, may utilize a park that is outside of their residential neighborhood. Such park use would be incidental and typical of conditions throughout the region. Such variations would occur on a short-term basis. Therefore, there would be no notable increase in park usage at the parks serving the area due to the Project’s construction workers. There would be no need for the construction of additional park facilities to accommodate the construction worker population.

The existing on-site uses, walking paths, the Meadow, Recreation Center Facility, and Dog Park, would be vacated throughout construction during varying phases of construction, and on-site facilities would not be available to park users. Each of these SLRC components could be removed from public access for a year or more as improvements are made. This temporary access restriction would inconvenience local use, but would be temporary and necessary to improve the facilities for future generations of recreational users. Accordingly, displaced users of the walking paths, the Meadow, the Recreation Center Facility, and the Dog Park would potentially increase demand at other facilities. There are numerous parks located throughout Los Angeles County and within the City of Los Angeles.

Construction activities would occur all at once or in stages, with different park zones constructed at different times. In order to analyze the worst-case scenario during proposed Project and offsite improvements construction, the analysis within this EIR assumes a 2-phased approach, with the shortest construction duration occurring within an overall 5-year period. The following park zones are assumed to be constructed simultaneously within two groupings, where the second grouping would be constructed sequentially after the first: 1) Ivanhoe Reservoir (Ivanhoe Overlook), the Eucalyptus Grove, Habitat Islands, the Knoll, the Meadow (1st half) and 2) the East and West Narrows, the South Valley, Ivanhoe Reservoir (Ivanhoe Spillway and Promenade), and the Meadow (2nd half). Construction in the South Valley park zone would occur for
approximately 18 months. These two phases would be constructed within approximately 2.5 years each. During this period, much of the South Valley park zone would be closed to the public.

Detailed construction durations specific to each park zone are shown on Table 2-3. Construction activities could temporarily limit the use of existing recreational facilities within the SLRC such as the existing Meadow, Dog Park, Recreation Center, and walking paths. Such temporary limits on access (as described above) to the existing recreational facilities within the SLRC may create increased demand on other parks and recreational resources near the proposed Project area. Parks such as Griffith Park, Elysian Park, Echo Park, and walking paths along the Los Angeles River may see an increase in visitorship due to the temporary closure of existing recreational facilities within the SLRC. In addition, Recreation Centers in the vicinity, such as Elysian Valley and Lafayette Park and Dog Parks at Griffith Park and downtown Los Angeles may also see an increase in visitorship during construction. However, these impacts would be temporary in nature, since at the completion of construction, demand within the proposed Project area would be expected to increase and demand at nearby recreational facilities/parks would be returned to their existing conditions. Current visitorship of the existing recreational facilities within the SLRC, which functions as a community park, could be accommodated at any of the 42 local and regional parks within a 2-mile radius of the proposed Project area as discussed in Section 3.15.1, Existing Setting and shown on Figure 3.15-1. Demand from relocated users of the current SLRC park facilities would be displaced over several parks within the surrounding areas and would not focus on any one nearby park facility. Therefore, it is anticipated that relocated users would not exceed the design capacity of the affected facilities and RAP would continue to be able to maintain adequate service ratios within those facilities.

The addition of the proposed Project’s construction workers and the relocation of recreational visitors during Project construction would not require the need for new or physically-altered government facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios. Additionally, as no new recreational facilities would be constructed to replace recreation opportunities during construction, the impact would be less than significant. As described above, during construction, recreational visitors could be accommodated at any of the 42 local and regional parks within a 2-mile radius of the proposed Project area. Increased usage at neighboring parks during construction at the SLRC would be temporary and distributed among several parks in the surrounding area and not focused on any one facility. As such, impacts to public parks and recreational facilities during Project construction would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:
None Required

Significance Determination:
Less than Significant Impact
Figure 3.15-1
Map of Neighborhood, Community, and Regional Parks

1. Barnsdall Park
2. Bellevue Recreation Center
3. Cerritos Park
4. Drew Street Park
5. Echo Park
6. Echo Park Community Center
7. Echo Park Deep Pool
8. Elyria Canyon Park
9. Elysian Park
10. Elysian Valley Gateway Park
11. Elysian Valley Rec Center
12. Everett Park
13. Glassell Park and Rec Center
14. Glenhurst Park
15. Griffith Park (City of Los Angeles)
16. Griffith Park Central Service Yard
17. Juntos Park
18. Lake Street Park
19. Lartissa Parkway
20. Laurel and Hardy Park
21. Lilac Terrace Park
22. Los Angeles River & Trail
23. Los Feliz Golf Course
24. Madison Avenue Park
25. Madison West Park
26. Marsh Park
27. Marsh Street Skate Park
28. Natural Park
29. North Atwater Park
30. Occidental Parkway
31. Oso Park
32. Patton Street Park
33. Rio de Los Angeles SP
34. Rockwood Community Park
35. Silver Lake Meadows Park
36. Silver Lake Reservoir
37. Steelhead Park
38. Sunnynook Park
39. Tommy Lasorda Field of Dreams
40. Unidad Park
41. Unnamed site - Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
42. Vermont Parkway (City of Los Angeles)

SOURCE: ESRI, 2022; County of Los Angeles, 2022; ESA, 2022.
Operation

The Project would not include a residential component and, thus, would have no impact on existing public parks and recreational facilities caused by population increase. The proposed Project would substantially increase public park spaces for the nearby neighborhood and broader community through the expansion of the existing recreational facilities within the SLRC, such as the usable public space within the existing Meadow, expansion and improvement of the Dog Park, and expansion and improvement of the Silver Lake Recreation Center facilities along the proposed South Valley park zone. The proposed Project would reconfigure and expand the Meadow’s existing 3.4 acres of open lawn and shade trees, into approximately 7.5 acres, by incorporating additional acreage to the west. The proposed Project would also allow for use of local schools and other educational centers through access to docent-led activities and use of the proposed Education Center. Once constructed, with removal of the perimeter chain link fence, and with the addition of several new park and recreational amenities within each of the seven proposed park zones (see Figure 2-4), visitorship demand is expected to increase at the SLRC facilities. It is assumed that the proposed Project would allow for an increase visitorship of approximately 390 park visitors daily (see Tables 2-7 and 2-8). The proposed Project would also allow for large, scheduled public events, including outdoor concerts, movie nights, or luncheons, and requiring amplified sound. It is anticipated that up to approximately 600 visitors would attend such events, with a mixture of approximately 70 percent of attendees coming from the immediate neighborhood by walking or other non-vehicle means, and 30 percent driving in to attend the event. However, the proposed facilities are all being expanded and improved and would be able to accommodate an increase in visitorship with the addition of habitat terraces, a lookout, shade pavilion, and promenade at the Ivanhoe Reservoir; promenade overlook, seating terraces, and promenade at the Eucalyptus Grove; promenade, seating terraces, overlook, and adult fitness area in the East and West Narrows; walking paths at the Knoll; seating terraces, walking paths, picnic grove, informal play area, promenade, and Education Center at the Meadow; and new Multi-purpose Facility at the South Valley (Figure 2-4). In addition, operations associated with the proposed Project would be expected to result in an increase in staffing of approximately five full-time employees for proposed park operations and maintenance activities, and security. This increase in staffing would be minimal and would not substantially increase population growth within the proposed Project area or surrounding areas. The proposed Project would not require the need for new or physically-altered government facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios. Impacts to public parks and recreational facilities during Project operation would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required

Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact
Neighborhood and Regional Parks

Impact 3.15-2: Would the proposed Project 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?

Construction

The proposed Project would not include a residential component and not substantially increase population within the proposed Project area, as the construction workforce would be intermittent with a maximum of approximately 335 workers which would be accommodated within the existing and future labor market in the County of Los Angeles. Construction employment within the proposed Project area is not anticipated to generate population growth (see Section 3.13, Population and Housing) within the region such that it would add a substantial strain on neighborhood and regional park facilities.

As discussed above under Impact 3.15-1, there are numerous parks located throughout Los Angeles County and within the City of Los Angeles that could accommodate displaced recreational users during construction. Construction activities would occur all at once or in stages, with different park zones constructed at different times. Construction activities could temporarily limit the use of existing recreational facilities within the SLRC such as the Meadow (existing), Dog Park, Recreation Center, and walking paths. Such temporary limits on access to the existing recreational facilities within the SLRC may create increased demand on other parks and recreational resources near the proposed Project area. Increased visitorship at other nearby park facilities would be temporary in nature, since at the completion of construction, demand within the proposed Project area would be expected to increase and demand at nearby recreational facilities/parks would be returned to their existing conditions.

Local alternative recreational opportunities would be available during proposed Project construction closures and the proposed Project would not include construction of additional housing units or create a substantial increase in employment opportunities within the region. As such, construction of the proposed Project would not result in substantial physical deterioration of any park facility, and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required

Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact

Operation

As discussed under Impact 3.15-1, the proposed Project would not include a residential component that would increase demand on existing neighborhood, community, or regional parks and result in the substantial physical deterioration of existing parks or accelerate the physical deterioration of existing parks. In addition, as described in detail under Impact 3.15-1, above, the proposed Project would provide enhanced and new recreational uses for the public within the proposed Project area.
Once constructed, with removal of the perimeter chain link fence, and with the addition of several new park and recreational amenities within each of the seven proposed park zones (see Figure 2-4), visitorship demand is expected to increase at the SLRC facilities. It is assumed that the proposed Project would allow for an increase visitorship of approximately 390 park visitors daily (see Tables 2-7 and 2-8). Enhanced and expanded public park facilities and offsite improvements would be able to accommodate an increase in visitorship. Operations associated with the proposed Project would be expected to result in an increase in staffing of approximately five full-time employees for proposed park operations and maintenance activities, and security. This increase in staffing would not substantially increase population growth within the proposed Project area or surrounding areas. The proposed Project would not 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. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:
None Required

Significance Determination:
Less than Significant Impact

Recreational Facilities

Impact 3.15-3: Would the proposed Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Construction

The proposed Project is a park enhancement and expansion project as described in Section 2, Project Description, which would improve and expand existing recreational facilities within the SLRC including the Meadow, Dog Park, and Recreation Center, and add facilities throughout the seven proposed park zones. Since the proposed Project is itself a recreational facility, the impacts associated with construction are analyzed throughout Chapter 3, Environmental Setting, Impact Analysis, and Mitigation Measures of this Draft EIR. The proposed Project would result in construction impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, paleontological resources, tribal cultural resources, and utilities. With the implementation of mitigation measures, construction impacts would be less than significant with the exception of noise. As discussed in Section 3.12, Noise, construction noise would result in a significant and unavoidable impact even after mitigation.

Mitigation Measures:
Implementation of all Mitigation Measures listed in Executive Summary Table ES-4 related to construction.

Significance Determination:
Significant and Unavoidable related to construction noise. It is not feasible to install noise barriers with height sufficient to block the line-of-sight for all noise-sensitive receptors located at higher elevation residential units due to barrier foundation and wind load restrictions. Because there could be receptors elevated above the construction work sites
throughout the Project area within the upper levels of a noise-sensitive receptor building, construction noise would represent a temporary noise increase in excess of standards for receptors identified in Section 3.12, Noise and would be a significant and unavoidable impact.

**Operation**

The proposed Project would redesign the SLRC into proposed park zones for recreational use; thereby increasing the quantity and quality of recreational facilities within the community. The proposed Project’s physical impacts on the environment associated with operations are analyzed within Chapter 3, Environmental Setting, Impact Analysis, and Mitigation Measures of this Draft EIR. The proposed Project would result in impacts related to air quality, biological resources, and transportation. With the implementation of mitigation measures, operational impacts would be less than significant with the exception of noise impacts associated with public events. As discussed in Section 3.12, Noise, operational noise would result in a significant and unavoidable impact even after mitigation. Impacts to noise during public events would remain significant and unavoidable.

**Mitigation Measures:**

Implementation of all Mitigation Measures listed in Executive Summary Table ES-4 related to operations and maintenance.

**Significance Determination:**

Significant and Unavoidable related to Operational Noise during special events. While Mitigation Measure NOISE-4, Special Event Permit – Amplified Sound would require a special event permit and establish guidelines for speaker placement and directionality, operating hours, and the use of temporary noise barriers, blankets, or baffles may be required on either side of and behind speakers to limit the amount of excess noise reaching nearby sensitive receptors, noise from the amplified speaker system for special events may still temporarily exceed the significance threshold at sensitive receptors near to the amplified speaker system. Because special events may include outdoor concerts, movie nights, luncheons, or other similar types of events that draw members of the community, it may not be feasible to reduce the volume of the amplified speaker system to a level below the significance threshold while still retaining a sufficient volume level for people in the Meadow park zone to adequately hear and enjoy the special event. Therefore, while Mitigation Measure NOISE-4 would minimize sound from the amplified speaker systems for special events to the extent feasible, noise impacts would be significant and unavoidable even after mitigation is applied.

**Cumulative Impact**

**Impact 3.15-4:** Would the proposed Project construction and operation, when considered with related projects in the geographic scope, result in a cumulatively considerable impact to recreation and parks?

Cumulative impacts on recreation could result when past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects combine to increase demand on recreation facilities such that additional facilities must be constructed to maintain acceptable levels of service, and the construction of such facilities would result in a physical impact on the environment. Table 3-2 identifies thirteen
related projects that are planned or are under construction within the Project area include mixed-use developments, a childcare facility, residential and commercial uses. The RAP calculates its availability of park space according to residential density, as opposed to employees or visitors to an area. Most park visits originate from people’s homes and residents tend to prefer using local parks out of convenience. Typically, employees in an area are engaged in their work during the day and do not contribute notable demand for parks. Given the RAP methodology for evaluating park services, this cumulative analysis on parks and recreation focuses on the related projects that propose residential uses.

The related projects would cumulatively generate the need for additional parks and recreational facilities. The increase in cumulative development, which includes a net increase in 835 dwelling units, and an increase in commercial/retail uses and other non-residential uses, would generate an increase in service population and a demand for park and recreational uses. However, the proposed Project would not contribute to the need for new facilities. Therefore, the project’s contribution would not cause a cumulatively considerable addition to the effects on parks and recreation from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. As such, cumulative impacts on parks and recreational facilities would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:**
None Required

**Significance Determination:**
Less than Significant Impact

### 3.15.6 Summary of Impacts

Table 3.15-1 summarizes the impact significance determinations and lists mitigation measures related to parks and recreation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Mitigation Measure</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.15-1: New Park Facility</td>
<td>None Required</td>
<td>LTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15-2: Neighborhood and Regional Parks</td>
<td>None Required</td>
<td>LTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15-3: Recreational Facilities</td>
<td>All mitigation measures listed in the Executive Summary Table ES-4 related to construction and operations</td>
<td>SU during construction (due to construction Noise and groundborne vibration-human annoyance) and during operation (due to Special Events Noise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15-3: Cumulative</td>
<td>None Required</td>
<td>LTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**
NI = No Impact, no mitigation proposed
LTS = Less than Significant, no mitigation proposed
LTSM = Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
SU = Significant and Unavoidable
3.15.7 References


Personal communication, City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, June 2022.