

4.14 RECREATION

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) presents an analysis of the proposed project's effect on existing and the demand for new recreational facilities. Information presented in the setting and analysis subsections was obtained from Alameda County and the City of Tracy.

4.14.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Currently, approximately 35 acres of the approximately 83-acre site are developed with a paved racetrack, pit/paddock area, grandstand, and other supporting infrastructure. The existing motorsports park is defined as a recreational facility by Alameda County. There are no other similar facilities in Alameda County or in neighboring Contra Costa County.

The nearest local parks to the project site are in the cities of Livermore and Tracy. The two nearest neighborhood parks in the City of Livermore are Bill Clark Park and Christensen Park. The closest regional park to the project site is Brushy Peak Regional Preserve, located approximately 8 miles west of the project site.

The closest neighborhood park in the City of Tracy is Ceciliani Park, approximately 6 miles to the east of the project site. The closest mini park is Bailor Hennan Park in the City of Tracy, located approximately 6 miles to the east of the project site.

The closest state park is Bethany Reservoir State Recreational Area. This state park is located approximately 4 miles northwest of the project site. Additionally, the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area is located approximately 8 miles south of the project site.

4.14.2 REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The Altamont Motorsports Park (AMP) is considered a recreational use in accordance with provisions of the Alameda County General Ordinance Code (Section 17.04.010).

4.14.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

4.14.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

The proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would:

- 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; or

- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.14.3.2 Methodology

This section evaluates the potential impacts to recreational facilities as a result of project implementation. Information presented is based on data from Alameda County and the City of Tracy.

4.14.3.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Potential Impact 4.14-1: Would the 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?

Currently, there are no individuals residing on the project site. The proposed project would introduce two caretaker residences to the site, with an expected population of 5.5 people. While the AMP is considered a recreational facility by Alameda County, it does not include any of the features of a park that would be considered typical of a neighborhood or regional park such as picnic facilities, sports, fields, playgrounds, etc. As such, future residents of the two caretaker residences would be expected to travel to other park facilities for recreational opportunities. The addition of up to 5.5 users to any of the existing area parks will not represent a significant increase to any of the parks' overall usage that would in turn result in a substantial physical deterioration of the park or an accelerated deterioration. Because of the distances involved, it is unlikely that the occupants of the caretaker residences would use local parks with any frequency or at all.

Attendance at any spectator event could range up to 7,500 people, plus an additional 500 people who are drivers, crew, employees, and vendors. Based on observations at other motorsports facilities, it is unlikely that any of these individuals would travel from the project site to recreate at any of the area park facilities. This is due to the nature of activity at AMP, which is itself a recreational facility.

Therefore, the project would not result in an increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated and this is not considered an impact.

Conclusion: No impact

Mitigation: None required

Potential Impact 4.14-2: Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

While a recreational use by definition of Alameda County, AMP does not include recreational opportunities typical of a public-use park. The proposed project would not provide for the expansion of the recreational facilities (principally the race tracks) at the site, and therefore there would be no associated effect.

The proposed addition of two caretaker residences, with a projected potential population of 5.5 people, would not alter the site or area's demand for the construction of new park facilities.

Therefore, the project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment and this is not considered an impact.

Conclusion: No impact

Mitigation: None required

