

**SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS
TRAILS MASTER PLAN – PHASE II**

INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PREPARED FOR:

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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NOVEMBER 2, 2017

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B	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Report
C	Biological Resources Technical Report
D	Cultural Resources Technical Report
E	Geology and Soils Technical Report
F	Hydrology and Water Quality Technical Report
G	Noise Technical Report
H	Traffic and Parking Assessment

Section 1

Project Description

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) proposes to adopt a multi-use trails master plan for two unincorporated areas within the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area and the San Fernando Valley Planning Area. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as established by statute (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 *et seq.*), requires that the environmental implications of an action by a local agency be estimated and evaluated before project approval. This Initial Study was prepared by the County of Los Angeles pursuant to CEQA, as amended (Division 13, California Public Resources Code) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Division 6, California Administrative Code). DPR proposes to complete the Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II (SSMTMP-P-II), ultimately to amend the Parks and Recreation Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 (County General Plan) to include the SSMTMP-P-II, which would guide future trail development and recommend improvements to existing trails. The proposed project would ultimately result in the construction and use of trails in public and private lands, some of which may involve the expenditure of public funds, and thus constitutes a project pursuant to CEQA. These trails would be located in the unincorporated territory of Los Angeles County; therefore, the County is the Lead Agency pursuant to CEQA.

1.1 PROJECT TITLE

Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

County of Los Angeles

1.3 PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON

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1.4 PROJECT LOCATION

The SSMTMP-P-II (proposed project) is located in the unincorporated territory of the northwestern portion of the County of Los Angeles, immediately east of the boundary with the County of Ventura (Figure 1.4-1, *Regional Vicinity Map*). The proposed project comprises an expansion of a 13-square-mile Phase II study area that was established in the Santa Susana Mountains Final Trails Master Plan (SSMFTMP).¹ The earlier study was made up of two areas: Phase I, generally located on the south-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains; and Phase II, generally located on the north-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains (Figure 1.4-2, *Local Vicinity Map*). The adopted trails master plan provided a detailed trails network for Phase I and identified potential surrounding trail connections for Phase II, but deferred trail planning for Phase II to a later date.

¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. May 2015. Santa Susana Mountains Final Trails Master Plan. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/115/FINAL%20Santa%20Susana%20Mountains%20Final%20Trails%20Master%20Plan%20May%202015.pdf>

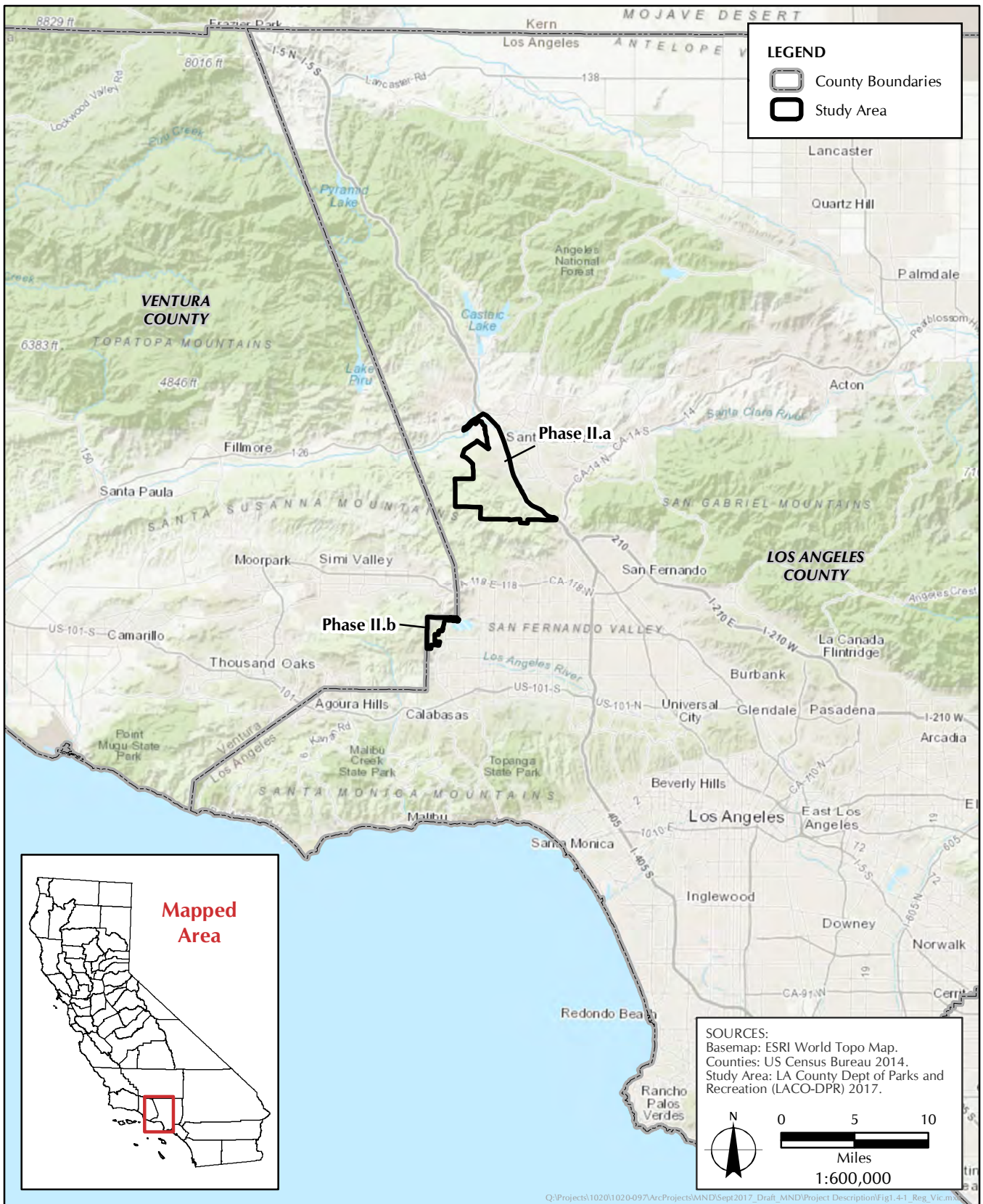


FIGURE 1.4-1
 Regional Vicinity Map

The area addressed as Phase II in the 2015 adopted plan will be evaluated as a portion of Phase II.a for the current investigation. In addition, the project study area was expanded to include approximately 9 square miles between the Phase II area and Henry Mayo Drive (State Route 126), generally known as Stevenson Ranch; as well as approximately 2 square miles, generally known as Woolsey Canyon/Dayton Canyon/Bell Canyon. The southern expansion area will be evaluated as Phase II.b.

The proposed project, including Phase II.a and Phase II.b, represents approximately 24 square miles (approximately 14,408 acres). The project study area appears on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series Val Verde, Newhall, Simi Valley East (Santa Susana), Oat Mountain, and Calabasas topographic quadrangles (Figure 1.4-3, *Topographic Map with USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Index*).

Phase II.a

The Phase II.a area is an approximately 22-square-mile area located in the north-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains and the Santa Clarita Valley. Phase II.a is composed of generally mountainous and valley terrain that abuts Henry Mayo Drive (State Route [SR] 126) to the north, the Interstate-5 freeway to the east, Phase I of the SSMFTMP area to the south, and the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area to the west (see Figure 1.4-2). The Phase II.a area, which is located in the County of Los Angeles Fifth Supervisorial District, includes a portion (Phase II) of the SSMFTMP Area. The community of Stevenson Ranch and Six Flags Magic Mountain are located within the Phase II.a area. The elevation of the Phase II.b area ranges from 946 feet above mean sea level (MSL) within the Santa Clara River near SR-126, to 3,430 feet above MSL in the southwestern corner of the Phase II.a area. Sand Rock Peak (2,511 feet above MSL) is located within the northwestern portion of the Phase II.a area.

Phase II.b

The Phase II.b area is an approximately 2-square-mile area located in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains, including Bell Canyon, Dayton Canyon, and Woolsey Canyon, west of San Fernando Valley. The Phase II.b area, which is also located in the County of Los Angeles Fifth Supervisorial District, is composed of generally mountainous and valley terrain that abuts Ventura County to the north and west and the City of Los Angeles to the east and south (see Figure 1.4-2). The elevation of the Phase II.b area ranges from 896 feet above MSL at the northeastern corner of the Phase II.b area near Chatsworth Reservoir, to 1,877 feet above MSL near the northwestern corner of the Phase II.b area. There are no named peaks within the Phase II.b area.

1.5 PROJECT SPONSOR

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90020

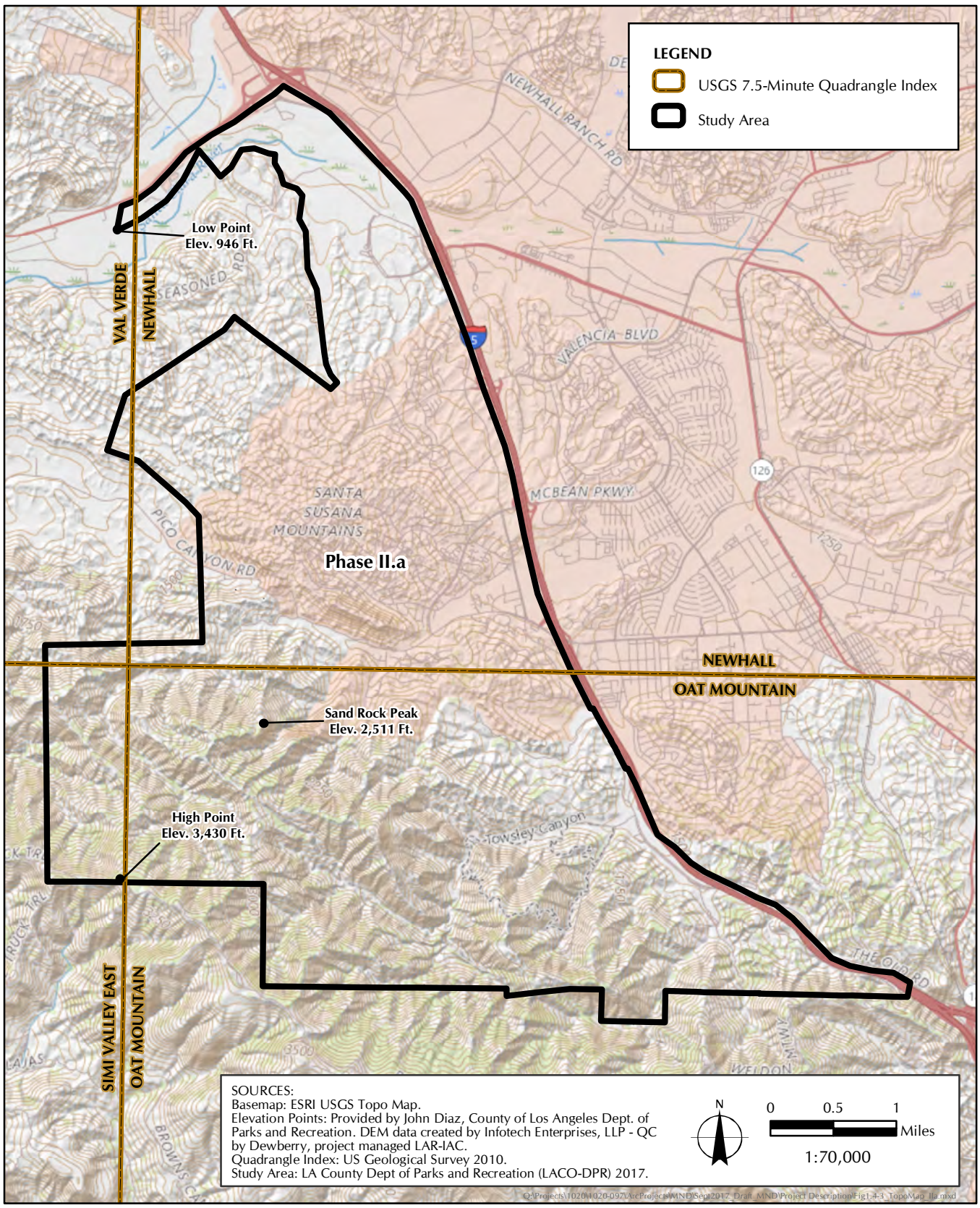


FIGURE 1.4-3a
 Topographic Map with USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Index

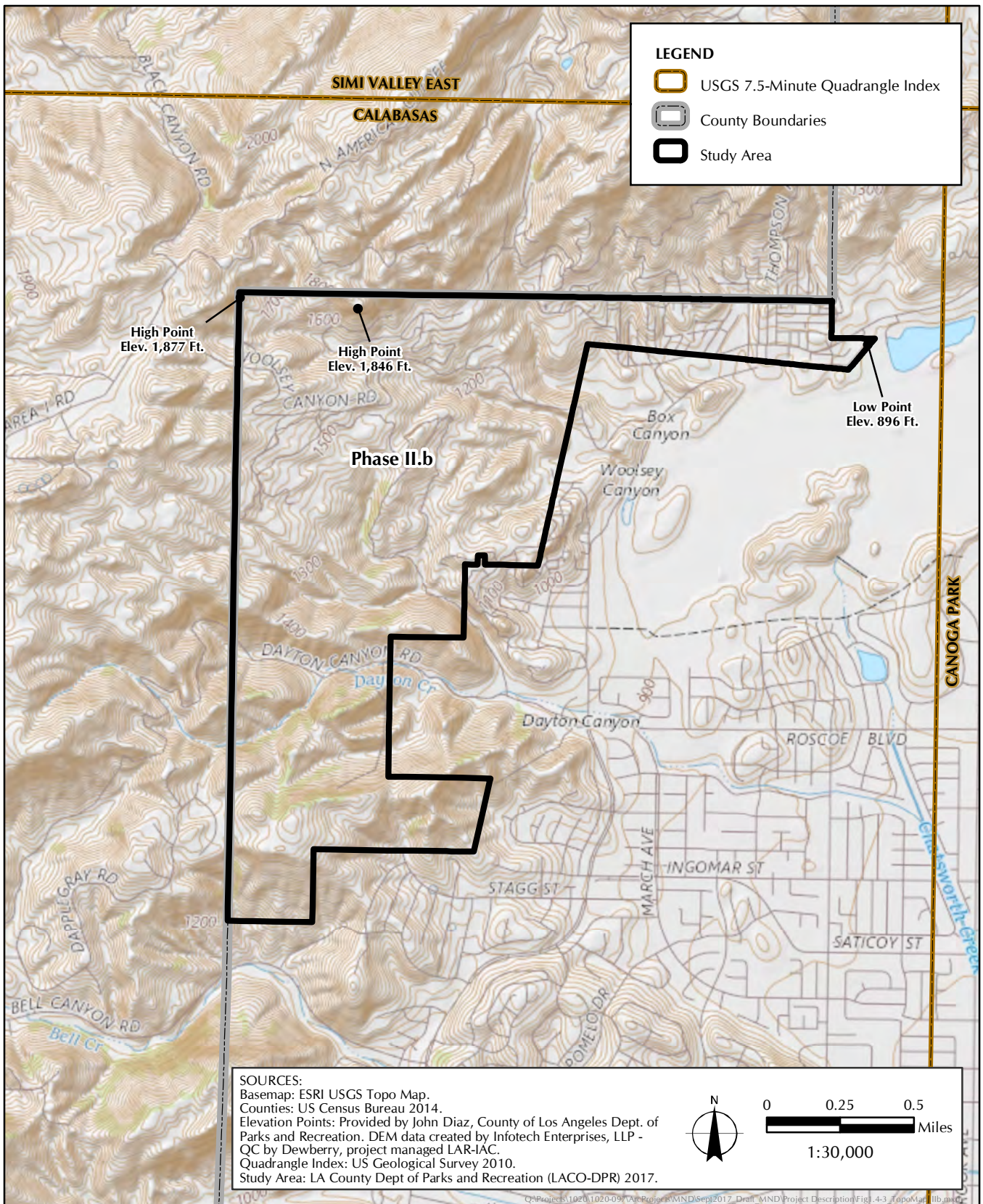


FIGURE 1.4-3b
 Topographic Map with USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Index

1.6 GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION

The project study area, located within the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area and San Fernando Valley Planning Area, is generally bordered to the north and east by the City of Santa Clarita (administered by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan),² to the south and east by the City of Los Angeles including the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Community Plan area, and to the west by the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Area and by Ventura County (administered by the Ventura County General Plan). The Northwest San Fernando Valley Subarea (NWSFV Subarea) of the adopted SSMFTMP area within the City of Los Angeles and Ventura County property divide the project study area. Portions of the project study area are subject to the provisions of Specific Plans and the County of Los Angeles Rural Outdoor Lighting District Ordinance.^{3,4} Approximately 0.6 square mile (387 acres) within the northern portion of the Phase II.a area is located within the jurisdiction of the Castaic Area Community Standards District. Approximately 10.3 square miles (47 percent) of the Phase II.a area and the entire 2-square-mile Phase II.b area are located within the jurisdiction of the County of Los Angeles Rural Outdoor Lighting District (Figure 1.6-1, *County of Los Angeles Rural Outdoor Lighting District and Community Standards District Boundaries*). The County land use designations for the project study area are predominantly Rural Land 10 (RL10), Parks and Recreation (OS-PR) (Table 1.6-1, *Project Study Area Land Use Designations*; and Figure 1.6-2, *Los Angeles County Land Use Designations*). Trails are compatible with all of the County's land use designations for the project study area.

² Note: A portion of the City of Santa Clarita is located within the Phase II.a area in the Towsley Canyon area.

³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 27 May 2003. Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/newhall_ranch_specific_plan/

⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 28 September 2012. Ordinance No. 2012-0047. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/ord_outdoor-lighting.pdf

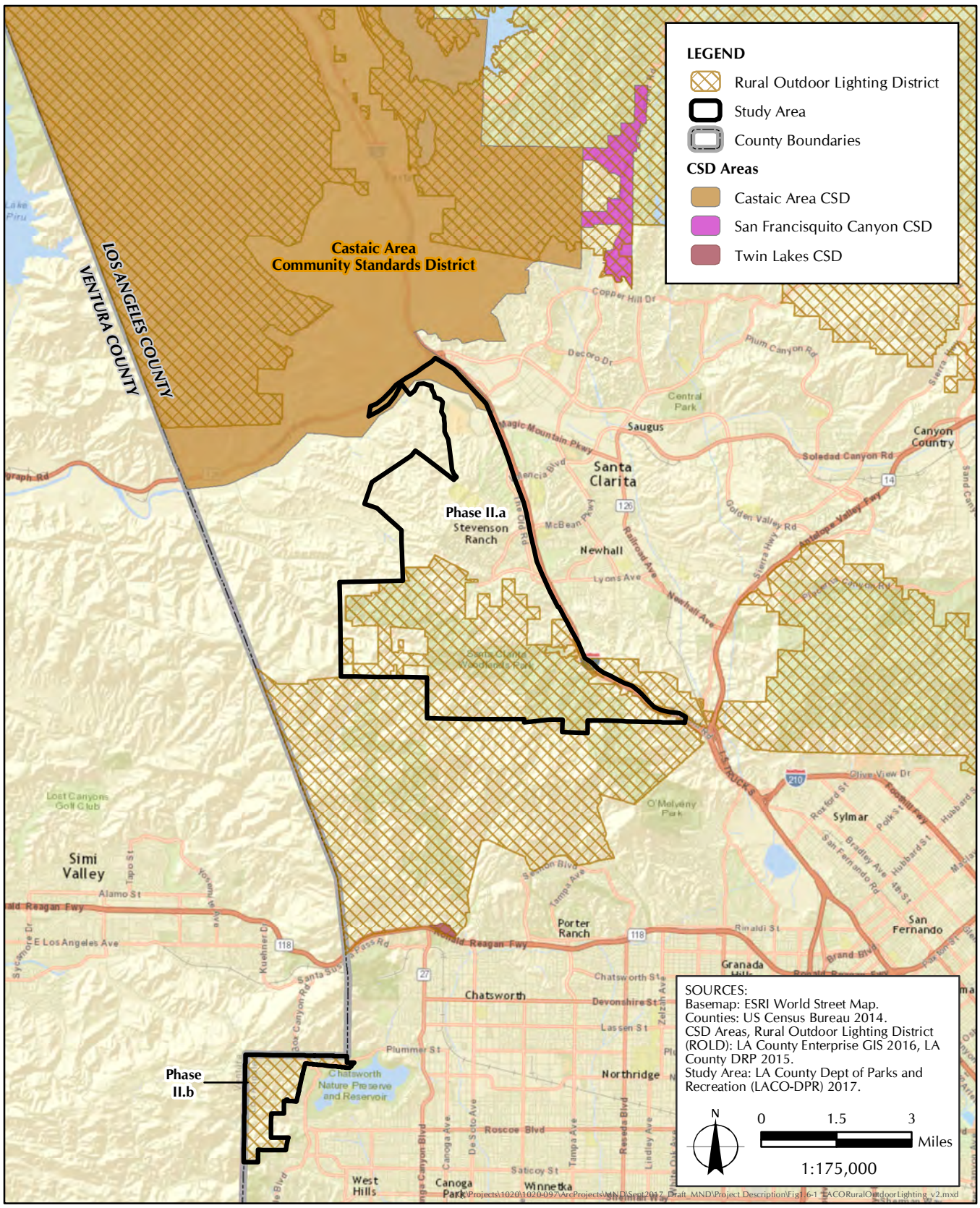


FIGURE 1.6-1
 Los Angeles County Rural Outdoor Lighting District and Community Standards District Boundaries

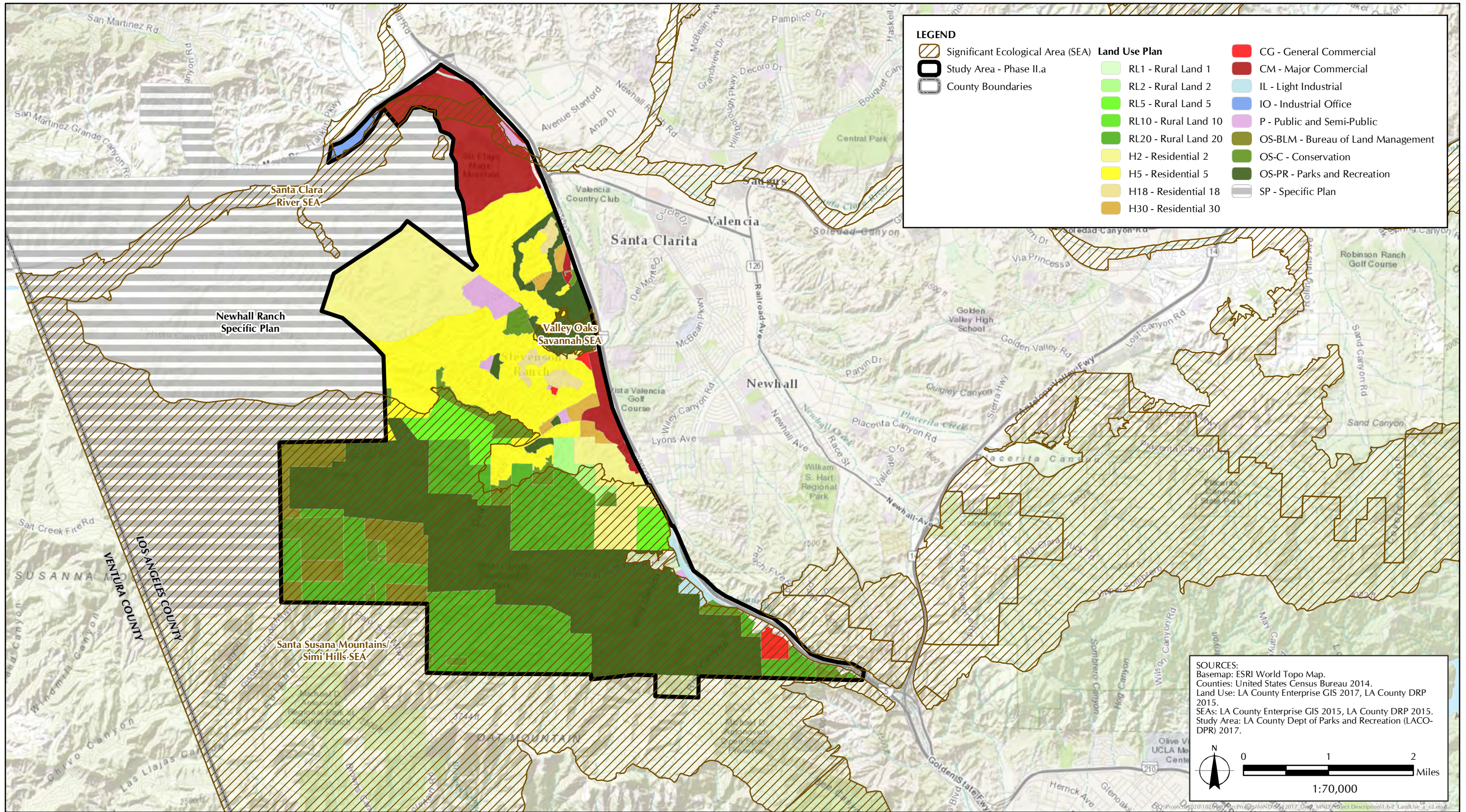


FIGURE 1.6-2a
 Los Angeles County Land Use Designations (Phase II.a)

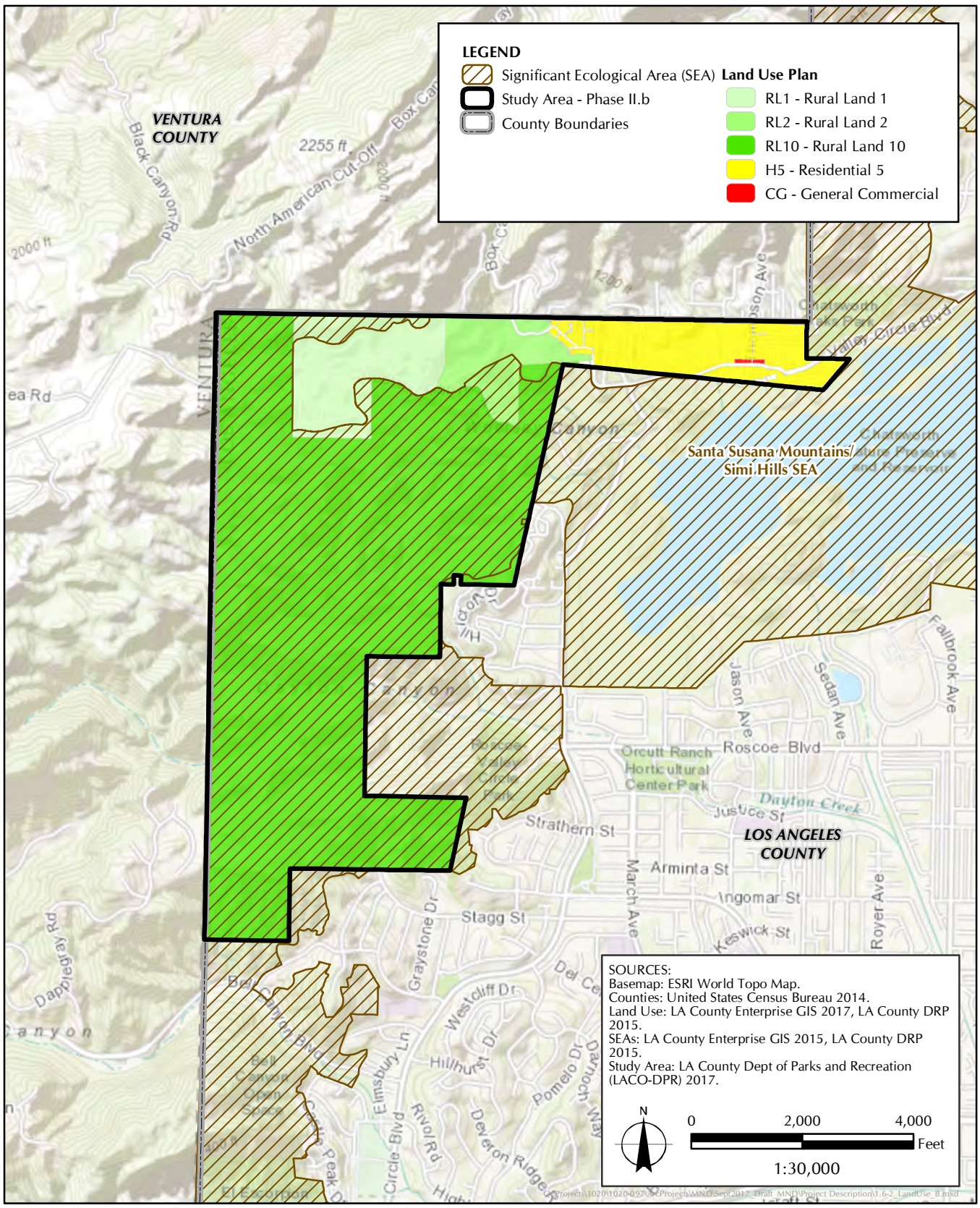


FIGURE 1.6-2b
 Los Angeles County Land Use Designations

**TABLE 1.6-1
PROJECT STUDY AREA LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**

County of Los Angeles Land Use Designation¹	Square Miles in Phase II.a Area²	Square Miles in Phase II.b Area³	Total Square Miles in Project Study Area	Compatible with Trails?^{1,2}
OS-PR – Parks and Recreation	6.0	0	6.0	Yes – Use for public and private parks and golf courses includes multi-purpose trails; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
RL1 – Rural Land 1	0.004	0.2	0.204	Yes – Equestrian uses, private recreation, and public facilities are allowable uses; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
RL2 – Rural Land 2	0.2	0.1	0.3	Yes – Equestrian uses, private recreation, and public facilities are allowable uses; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
RL5 – Rural Land 5	0.6	0	0.6	Yes – Equestrian uses, private recreation, and public facilities are allowable uses; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
RL10 – Rural Land 10	0.01	1.5	1.51	Yes – Equestrian uses, private recreation, and public facilities are allowable uses; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
RL20 – Rural Land 20	3.8	0	3.8	Yes – Equestrian uses, private recreation, and public facilities are allowable uses; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
H2 – Residential 2	2.2	0	3.3	Yes – Density-controlled development is encouraged to preserve open space for protection of natural features or resources; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
H5 – Residential 5	3.3	0.2	3.5	Yes – Density-controlled development is encouraged to preserve open space for protection of natural features or resources; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
H18 – Residential 18	0.2	0	0.2	Yes – Specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
H30 – Residential 30	0.2	0	0.2	Yes – Specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
CG – General Commercial	0.1	0.001	0.101	Yes – Specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
CM – Major Commercial	1.6	0	1.6	Yes – Specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
IL – Light Industrial	1.1	0	1.1	Yes – Specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.

**TABLE 1.6-1
PROJECT STUDY AREA LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**

County of Los Angeles Land Use Designation ¹	Square Miles in Phase II.a Area ²	Square Miles in Phase II.b Area ³	Total Square Miles in Project Study Area	Compatible with Trails? ^{1,2}
IO – Industrial Office	0.1	0	0.1	Yes – Specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
P – Public and Semi-Public	0.3	0	0.3	Yes – Not described in Area Plan
OS-BLM – Bureau of Land Management	0.9	0	0.9	Yes – Use for land owned by BLM; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
OS-C – Conservation	1.1	0	1.1	Yes – Use for passive recreation; specific allowable uses and development standards shall be determined by underlying zoning designation.
City of Santa Clarita OS – Open Space ⁴	0.1	0	0.1	Yes – The open space and recreation land use category includes local and regional parks and multi-use trails. ⁵

SOURCES:

¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. County of Los Angeles General Plan 2035. Chapter 6: Land Use Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf

² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 27 November 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Chapter 2: Land Use. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-ch-02-landuse.pdf

³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. n.d. GIS-NET3 Public Mapping Application. Planning & Zoning Information for Unincorporated LA County. Available at: http://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html

⁴ City of Santa Clarita. November 2016. City of Santa Clarita General Plan. Available at: <http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6975>

⁵ City of Santa Clarita. June 2011. City of Santa Clarita General Plan. Land Use Element. Available at: <http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/2%20-%20Land%20Use%20Element.pdf>

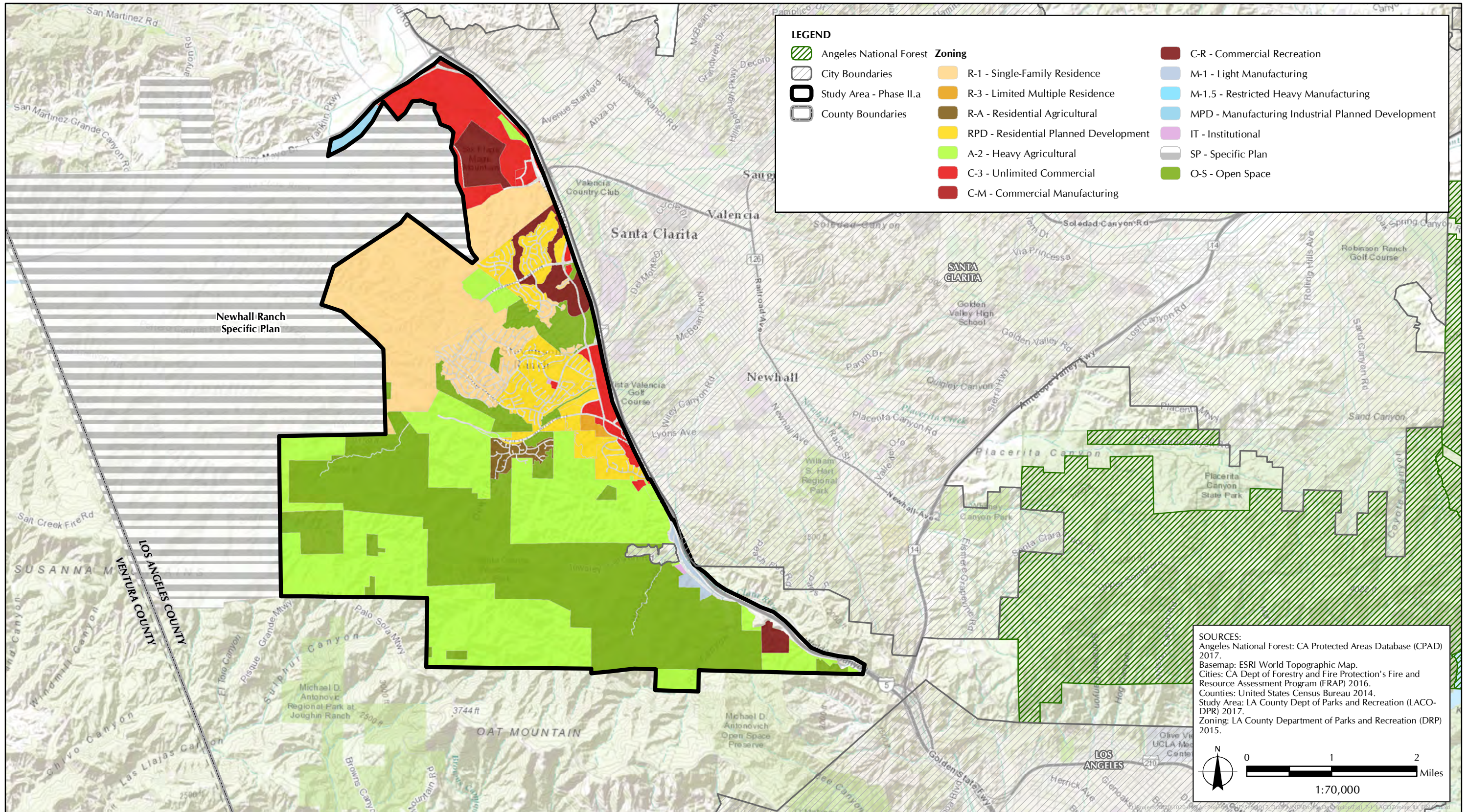
The County of Los Angeles General Plan 2035 identifies three Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) that overlap with the project study area and have been adopted to preserve the area’s ecological integrity (see Figure 1.6-2):⁵

1. Approximately 0.4 square miles of the Santa Clara River SEA (Phase II.a area)
2. Approximately 0.3 square miles of the Valley Oaks Savannah SEA (Phase II.a area)
3. Approximately 13.9 square miles of the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills SEA (12.4 square miles in Phase II.a and 1.5 square miles in Phase II.b)

1.7 ZONING

The County zoning designations for the project study area are predominantly Open Space (OS), Light Agricultural (A-1), Heavy Agricultural, (A-2), and Single-Family Residence (R-1), with other residential zones, manufacturing zones, commercial zones, and institutional zones also comprising portions of the project study area (Table 1.7-1, *Proposed Project Area Zoning Designations*; and Figure 1.7-1, *Los Angeles County Zoning Designations*).

⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. February 2015. County of Los Angeles General Plan 2035. Figure 9.3: Significant Ecological Areas and Coastal Resource Areas Policy Map. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_2014-FIG_9-3_significant_ecological_areas.pdf



 **FIGURE 1.7-1a**
 Los Angeles County Zoning Designations (Phase II.a)

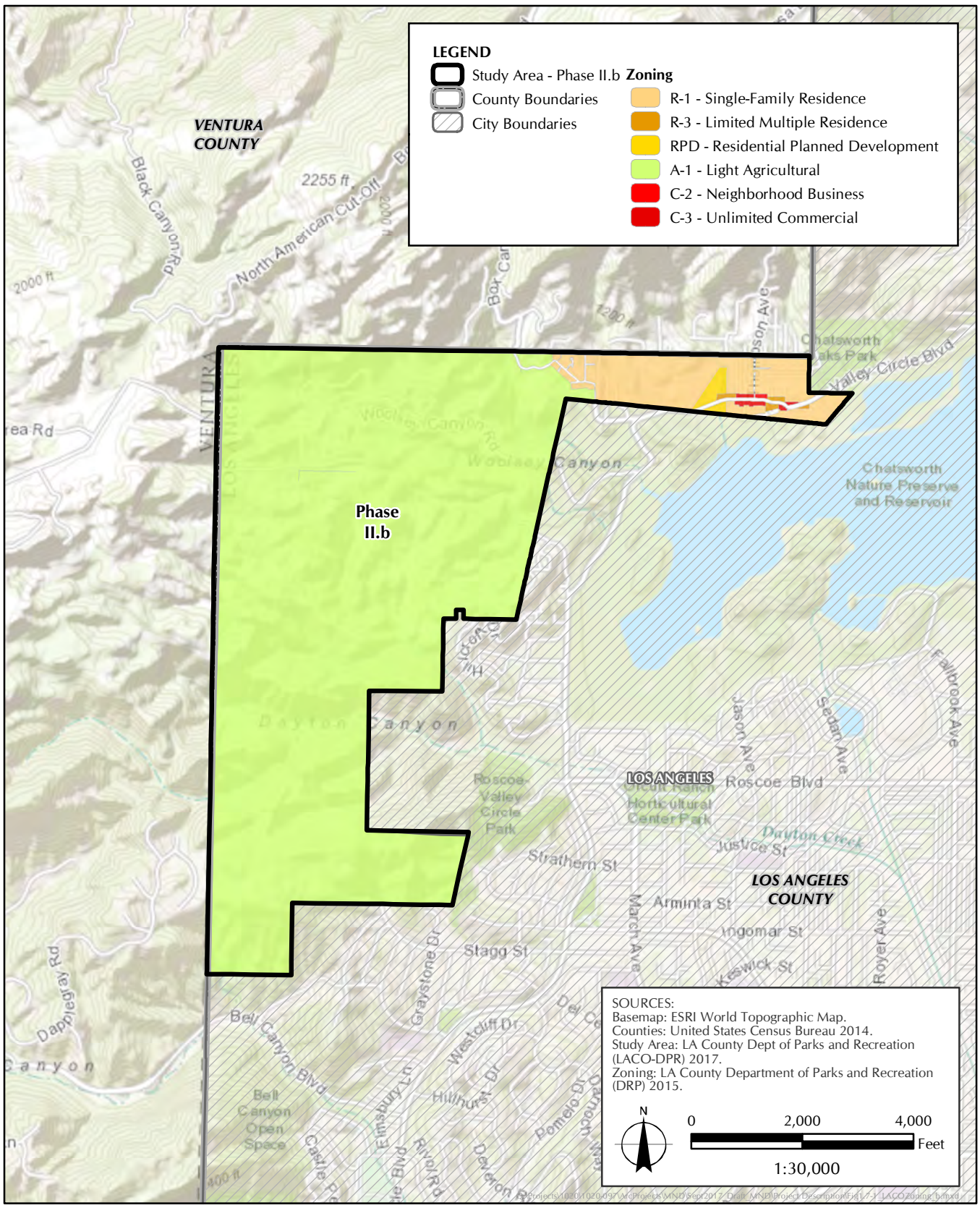


FIGURE 1.7-1b
 Los Angeles County Zoning (Phase II.b)

The Heavy Agricultural Zone, Light Manufacturing Zone, Unlimited Commercial Zone, Commercial Manufacturing Zone, Commercial Recreation Zone, Restricted Heavy Manufacturing Zone, and Neighborhood Business Zone permit riding and hiking trails; the Open Space Zone, Light Agricultural Zone, Manufacturing – Industrial Planned Zone, and residential zones in the project study area allow for riding and hiking trails if they have been approved by the Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Director); and riding and hiking trails may be allowed in the Institutional Zone upon approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

**TABLE 1.7-1
PROPOSED PROJECT AREA ZONING DESIGNATIONS**

County of Los Angeles Zoning Designation	Square Miles in Phase II.a Area	Square Miles in Phase II.b Area	Total Square Miles in Project Study Area	Compatible with Trails? ¹
O-S – Open Space	6.6	0	6.6	<p>Yes – Riding and hiking trails (excludes trails for motor vehicles), as well as campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails with overnight camping facilities (not structures for permanent human occupancy), are permitted uses, provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Premises shall remain essentially unimproved and building, structures, grading excavation, fill or other alterations are prohibited except as otherwise expressly provided in Sections 22.40.420 and 22.40.430. 2. Where such premises are located within a significant ecological area, such uses shall be deemed to be uses subject to Director’s review and approval pursuant to Section 22.40.420.
A-1 – Light Agricultural	0	1.8	1.8	<p>Yes – Riding and hiking trails are subject to Director’s review and approval (excludes trails for motor vehicles); a conditional use permit allows for campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails with overnight camping facilities (not structures for permanent human occupancy).</p>
A-2 – Heavy Agricultural	6.2	0	6.2	<p>Yes – Riding and hiking trails are permitted (excludes trails for motor vehicles), provided all buildings or structures used in connection shall be located not less than 50 feet away from any street or highway or any building used or designed for human habitation.</p> <p>Also allows for campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails with overnight camping facilities (not structures for permanent human occupancy).</p>
R-A – Residential Agricultural	0.2	0	0.2	<p>Yes – Riding and hiking trails are subject to Director’s review and approval (excludes trails for motor vehicles).</p>
R-1 – Single-Family Residence	3.5	0.1	3.6	<p>Yes – Riding and hiking trails are subject to Director’s review and approval (excludes trails for motor vehicles).</p>
R-3 – Limited Multiple Residence	0.1	0.003	0.103	<p>Yes – Riding and hiking trails are subject to Director’s review and approval (excludes trails for motor vehicles).</p>

**TABLE 1.7-1
PROPOSED PROJECT AREA ZONING DESIGNATIONS**

County of Los Angeles Zoning Designation	Square Miles in Phase II.a Area	Square Miles in Phase II.b Area	Total Square Miles in Project Study Area	Compatible with Trails?¹
RPD – Residential Planned Development	1.4	0.01	1.45	Somewhat – Subject to the approval of the hearing officer, open space may include present or future hiking, riding or bicycle trails, designated for the use and enjoyment of all of the occupants of the planned residential development.
C-2 – Neighborhood Business	0	0.001	0.001	Yes – Riding and hiking trails are permitted (excludes trails for motor vehicles).
C-3 – Unlimited Commercial	1.2	0.003	1.203	Yes – Riding and hiking trails are permitted (excludes trails for motor vehicles).
C-M – Commercial Manufacturing	0.02	0	0.02	Yes – Riding and hiking trails are permitted (excludes trails for motor vehicles).
C-R – Commercial Recreation	0.8	0	0.8	Yes – Riding and hiking trails are permitted (excludes trails for motor vehicles).
M-1 – Light Manufacturing	0.1	0	0.1	Yes – Riding and hiking trails are permitted (excludes trails for motor vehicles).
M-1.5 – Restricted Heavy Manufacturing	0.005	0	0.005	Yes – Riding and hiking trails are permitted.
MPD - Manufacturing – Industrial Planned	0.1	0	0.1	Yes – Riding and hiking trails are subject to Director’s review and approval (excludes trails for motor vehicles).
IT – Institutional	0.01	0	0.01	Yes – Trails are not specifically listed as a permitted use, but parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas are allowed upon approval of a conditional use permit.
City of Santa Clarita OS – Open Space Zone ²	0.1	0	0.1	Yes – The open space zoning designation is intended to identify and reserve land for passive, natural, and active open space uses. Typical allowable uses include recreation, trails, trailheads, paseos, horticulture, limited agriculture, animal grazing, and habitat preservation. ³

SOURCES:

¹ Municode. Accessed 27 February 2017. Municode Library: County of Los Angeles, CA. Title 22 – Planning and Zoning. Available at: https://www.municode.com/library/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=ITT22PLZO

² City of Santa Clarita. Last updated November 2016. Zoning Map. PDF available at: <http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6970>

³ City of Santa Clarita. Accessed 27 February 2017. City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code. Title 17, Zoning. Chapter 17.36: Open Space Zones. Available at: <http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/>

1.8 BACKGROUND AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Background

DPR and the County of Los Angeles Fifth Supervisorial District initiated the Northwest San Fernando Valley Trails Master Plan project in 2009. The Northwest San Fernando Valley Trails Master Plan Study Area was located in the unincorporated territory of the County of Los Angeles north of State Route 118 and southwest of I-5. In 2012, three meetings were held to introduce the project and receive comments about the project. The first meeting was held with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks; the second meeting was held with local, state, and federal government agencies responsible for trails; and the third meeting was held with the public. As a result of input received from these meetings, the Northwest San Fernando Valley Trails Master Plan Study Area was expanded to the north to include the Southwest Santa

Clarita Valley area and to the west to the County of Los Angeles boundary to maximize regional trail connectivity. The Northwest San Fernando Valley Trails Master Plan was renamed the Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan, and the expanded study area became the Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan Study Area. The Northwest San Fernando Valley Study Area became the NWSFV Subarea (or Phase I area), one of two subareas within the larger Trails Master Planning Area. The second of two subareas is the Southwest Santa Clarita Valley Subarea (SWSCV Subarea, or Phase II area). The NWSFV Subarea includes 16,038 acres, and is defined by the northern limits of the Los Angeles County Oat Mountain Planning Area on the north, I-5 on the east, the northern limits of the City of Los Angeles to the south, and the boundary line between Los Angeles and Ventura Counties to the west. The SWSCV Subarea includes 8,084 acres and is defined by the northern limits of the Santa Susana Mountains / Simi Hills SEA on the north, I-5 on the east, the southern limits of the Santa Susana Mountains / Simi Hills SEA on the south, and the south and eastern boundaries of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan to the west. The SWSCV Subarea comprises 13 square miles of the project study area for the proposed project.

At the direction of Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the County embarked on the development of the proposed project due to the emerging need for additional multi-use trail and recreation opportunities in the unincorporated area of the County. The proposed project is intended to address the existing practice of conceptualizing and requiring implementation of trail segments in conjunction with the approval process for development projects on a case-by-case basis to guide the development of a backbone trail system that meets the needs of the Santa Susana Mountains and Chatsworth region. Funding for the proposed project is derived from the Sunshine Landfill.

DPR has participated in seven trail and recreation planning efforts in the project vicinity (Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan, Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, the Regional Trail System adopted in the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035, SSMFTMP, Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study, Castaic Area Multi-Use Plan, and the countywide 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment) over the past 27 years and has developed a trails manual and recreation standards in the Parks and Recreation Element of the County General Plan. The development of trail planning in the region is needed in order to maintain and increase trail connectivity and access to open space with anticipated future private development and projected population growth in the project study area (Figure 1.8-1, *Previous Trail Planning Efforts in Proximity to the Project Study Area*). Additional trail planning efforts have been undertaken by the United States Forest Service, National Park Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and City of Santa Clarita. The proposed project would recognize and complement other regional trail planning efforts being undertaken to provide another step towards providing trail connections in the County of Los Angeles.

Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan: In 1990, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) published the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan, as authorized by Assembly Bill 1516 (1989), to guide the activities and expenditures of the SMMC and the legislature over a 5- to 10-year planning period in preservation of important resources and provision of public recreation. The Rim of the Valley Corridor is a wildlife corridor that connects the Santa Monica, Santa Susana, Sespe, and San Gabriel Mountains. The recreational objective of the plan was to provide opportunities for linear recreation in a natural setting through a continuous trails system in the Valley Trail Corridor, whether on foot, horseback, or mountain bikes, in consideration of trailhead access and facilities, difficult terrain, environmentally sensitive areas, existing trails and fire roads, access to natural or cultural resources, and views of the valleys and natural surroundings. The proposed Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor passes through the Phase II.b area.

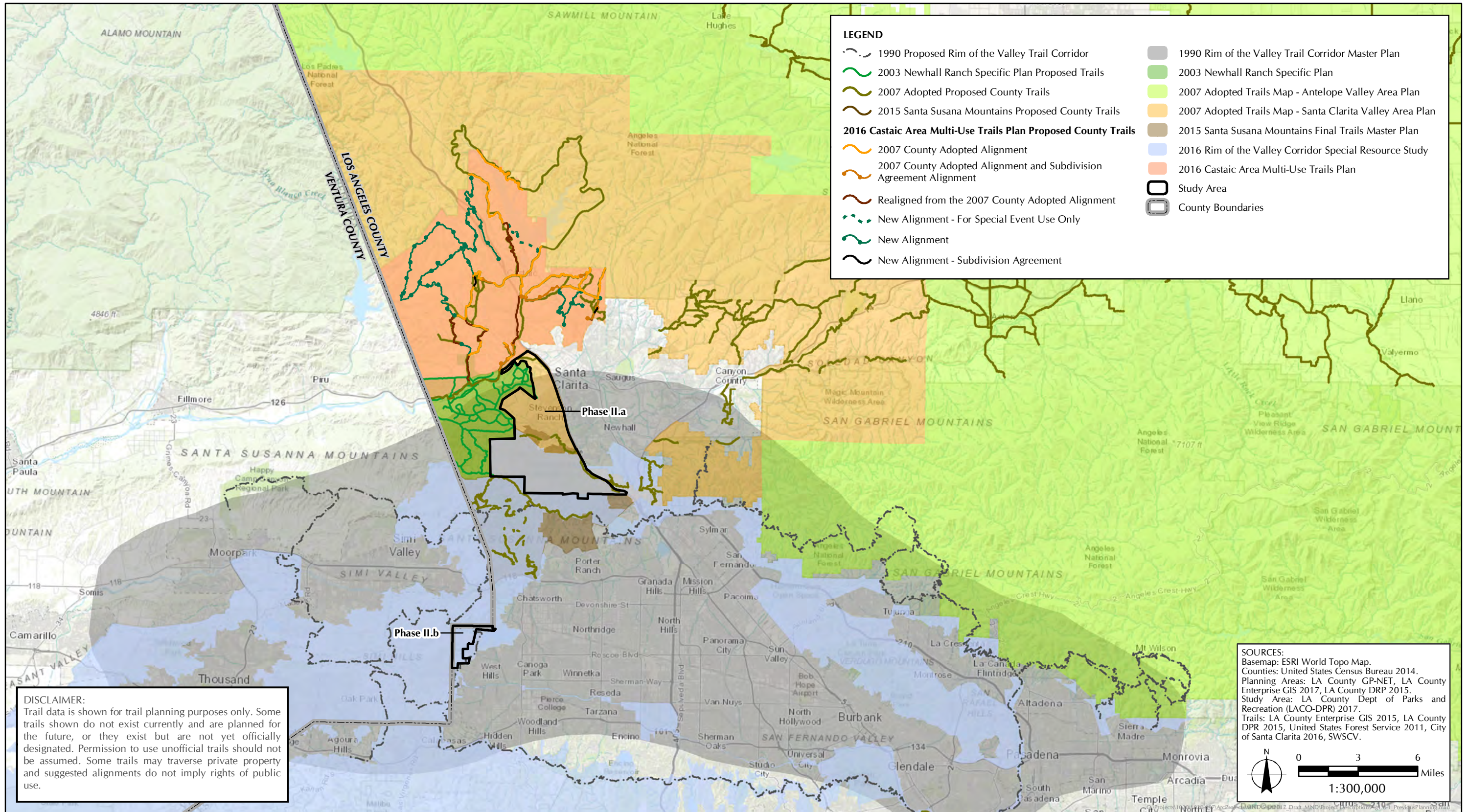


FIGURE 1.8-1
Previous Trail Planning Efforts in Proximity to the Project Study Area

Newhall Ranch Specific Plan: In May 2003, the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan was approved, which proposed the development of a system of trails connecting the development to natural open space in order to provide adequate recreation opportunities for the population growth that would result from residential subdivision projects described in the Specific Plan. The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan describes a comprehensive system of bicycle and pedestrian trails throughout the Specific Plan Area; the trail network is intended to “extend the existing planned regional trails into the Newhall Ranch and provide additional recreational opportunities for both local and regional residents.”⁶ According to the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Trails Master Plan, one road, two unimproved trails (dirt paths following existing utility roads or natural topography), and one community trail (unified pedestrian and bicycle route in landscaped parkway) will extend from the Newhall Ranch into the Trails Master Plan Area. Trails would not be multi-use, as equestrian use of unimproved trails adjacent to the Trails Master Plan Area would be restricted to the High Country zones. The Specific Plan area is adjacent to the Phase II.a area.

Adopted Proposed County Trails: In 2007, the County adopted a proposed trails plan for the Santa Clarita Valley and Antelope Valley when the Santa Clarita Valley was largely undeveloped.^{7,8} As stated on the trails map of the Antelope Valley Area Plan, the alignments of the adopted proposed trails, which include several trails within the project study area, are not intended to be precise and require further study to determine the most feasible route as these properties are developed and the trail and trail connectivity needs of these developments become clear. Adopted proposed trail alignments within the Phase II.a area include the proposed Pico Canyon Trail (approximately 0.6 mile of which has been constructed) and the proposed Santa Clara River Trail.⁹ There are no adopted proposed trail alignments within the Phase II.b area.

Santa Susana Mountains Final Trails Master Plan: In May 2015, the County adopted the SSMFTMP, which was undertaken at the direction of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich in order to identify recreational trail opportunities in the Santa Susana Mountains area, located within the northern portion of the project study area, with the intent of adopting these proposed trails as part of the County’s Regional Trail System.¹⁰ The SSMFTMP involves the extension of the 35.7 miles of existing County-, City-, and Conservancy-managed trails in the project study area by approximately 35.9 miles with 22 proposed trail segments, for a total of approximately 71.5 miles of trails within the SSMFTMP Area. The Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor encircles the San Fernando and La Crescenta Valleys and passes through the SSMFTMP Trails Master Plan Area. The proposed project will build upon the baseline data and previously adopted existing and proposed trails and amenities of the SSMFTMP.

Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study: On February 16, 2016, the National Park Service transmitted the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study.¹¹ The final study report includes a proposed Rim of the Valley Trail alignment that passes through the Phase II.b area.

⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 27 May 2003. Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/newhall_ranch_specific_plan/

⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. County of Los Angeles General Plan 2035. Figure 10.1: Regional Trail System. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_2014-FIG_10-1_regional_trail_system.pdf

⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 16 January 2007. Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan: Trails Map. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/67/Antelope%20Valley%20Trail%20Plan.pdf>

⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. Accessed 27 February 2017. Trails: Pico Canyon Trail. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Trail/44/pico-canyon-trail>

¹⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. May 2015. Santa Susana Mountains Final Trails Master Plan. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/115/FINAL%20Santa%20Susana%20Mountains%20Final%20Trails%20Master%20Plan%20May%202015.pdf>

¹¹ National Park Service. Accessed 4 January 2017. Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study. Available at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=70887>

Castaic Area Multi-Use Trails Plan: In October 2016, the County adopted the Castaic Area Multi-Use Trails Plan (CAMUTP), which was undertaken at the direction of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich in order to identify additional trail and recreational opportunities in the Castaic Area. The CAMUTP involves the extension of the 4.9 miles of existing DPR trails in the project study area by approximately 88.9 miles of multi-use trails and related staging areas, bike skills parks, parking areas, and other supporting trail facilities in the Castaic Area. The CAMUTP Area is located between SR-126 and the Angeles and Los Padre National Forests, to the north of the Phase II.a area.

County Trails Manual: In June 2013, the DPR published the *County of Los Angeles Trails Manual* (County Trails Manual) as a manual to provide guidelines for trail planning, design, development, and maintenance of DPR trails.¹² The purpose of the County Trails Manual is to provide guidance to DPR that interfaces with trail planning, design, development, and maintenance of hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking recreational trails, while addressing physical and social constraints and opportunities associated with the diverse topographic and social conditions that occur in the unincorporated territory of the County. The County uses the planning process delineated in the County Trails Manual in considering the development of future trails. It is the policy of DPR that all trails in the County are multi-use (hiking, mountain biking, equestrian). The County Trails Manual serves as a procedural document.

County General Plan: The Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 (County General Plan) was adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on October 6, 2015.¹³ The same terminology in Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element of the County General Plan is used in the Trails Master Plan and environmental documentation for the proposed project. As the project study area is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County, this analysis uses the park terminology for neighborhood, community, and regional parks pursuant to the Parks and Recreation Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 (Table 1.8-1, *Los Angeles County Park Service Area Definitions*). Los Angeles County also treats trails as linear parks that provide community access to increased health and fitness activities in the increasingly urbanized region. The Phase II.a area is located within the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area, and the Phase II.b area is within the San Fernando Valley Planning Area.

**TABLE 1.8-1
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARK SERVICE AREA DEFINITIONS**

Regional/ Local	Service Standards	Recreational Facility	Suggested Park Size	Service Area
Regional	6 acres per 1,000 County residents	Regional Park	Greater than 100 acres	25+ miles
		Community Regional Park	20 to 100 acres	Up to 20 miles
		Special Use Facility	No size criteria	None
Local	4 acres per 1,000 County residents	Community Park	10 to 20 acres	1 to 2 miles
		Neighborhood Park	3 to 10 acres	1/2 mile
		Pocket Park	1/4 to 3 acres	1/4 mile
		Park Node	0 to 1/4 acre	None

SOURCE: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element. Available online at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch10.pdf

¹² County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

¹³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan>

Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (Park Needs Assessment): In 2016, DPR and Placeworks completed the Parks Needs Assessment to quantify the need for parks and recreation resources throughout the County (cities and unincorporated areas) and estimate the potential cost of meeting that need. The Park Needs Assessment evaluates the entire Phase II.a area, the adjacent Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area, and land to the south of the Phase II.a area within Study Area ID#49.¹⁴ There are 197.5 acres of parkland within #49, providing 9.9 park acres per 1,000 population for a population of approximately 20,030, three times the countywide average of 3.3 park acres per 1,000 population. However, only 31 percent of the population is located within a half-mile radius of a park, well under the countywide average of 49 percent. The Park Needs Assessment evaluated where parks are most needed within each study area based on park acre need (20 percent), distance to parks (20 percent), and population density (60 percent); #49 has a “very low” to “moderate” park need due to the very low existing population density except for the developed community of Stevenson Ranch. The only area identified with a “moderate” park need is concentrated around Valencia Boulevard within Stevenson Ranch near the existing 0.6-mile Pico Canyon Trail. The Park Needs Assessment evaluates the entire Phase II.b area as the “Uninc. Canoga Park” portion within the southwestern corner of Study Area ID #152.¹⁵ Overall, #152 has a “low” park need; however, the northwestern corner of the Phase II.b area has a “moderate” need because trails and access to those parks surrounding the study area are limited. Seven of the prioritized projects within #152 involved installation of new, replacement, or expansion of existing recreational facilities; three prioritized projects involved maintenance or repairs to existing facilities; and zero prioritized construction or expansion of trails.

Establishment of Project Boundary

The proposed project boundary has been expanded beyond the original SWSCV Subarea, or Phase II area, described in the adopted SSMFTMP in order to include an additional approximately 2-square-mile area near Bell Canyon between Chatsworth and Ventura County and an approximately 9-square-mile area in the Stevenson Ranch area to provide trail master planning for gap areas in unincorporated territory for which trail planning efforts have not been conducted (Figure 1.8-2, *Establishment of Project Boundary*).

Existing Conditions

The project study area is generally considered rural and includes the existing community of Stevenson Ranch. The project study area contains several ridges and canyons and approximately 16.7 miles of existing trails within the Phase II.a area (Table 1.8-2, *Existing Trails within Project Study Area*; Figure 1.8-3, *Existing Trails*). There are no existing trails within the Phase II.b area.

¹⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 9 May 2016. Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment. Unincorporated Stevenson – Newhall Ranch – Castaic – Val Verde. Available at: http://lacountyparkneeds.org/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_049.pdf

¹⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 9 May 2016. Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment. City of LA Chatsworth – Porter Ranch / Uninc. Northridge – Canoga Park – Oat Mountain. Available at: http://lacountyparkneeds.org/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_152.pdf

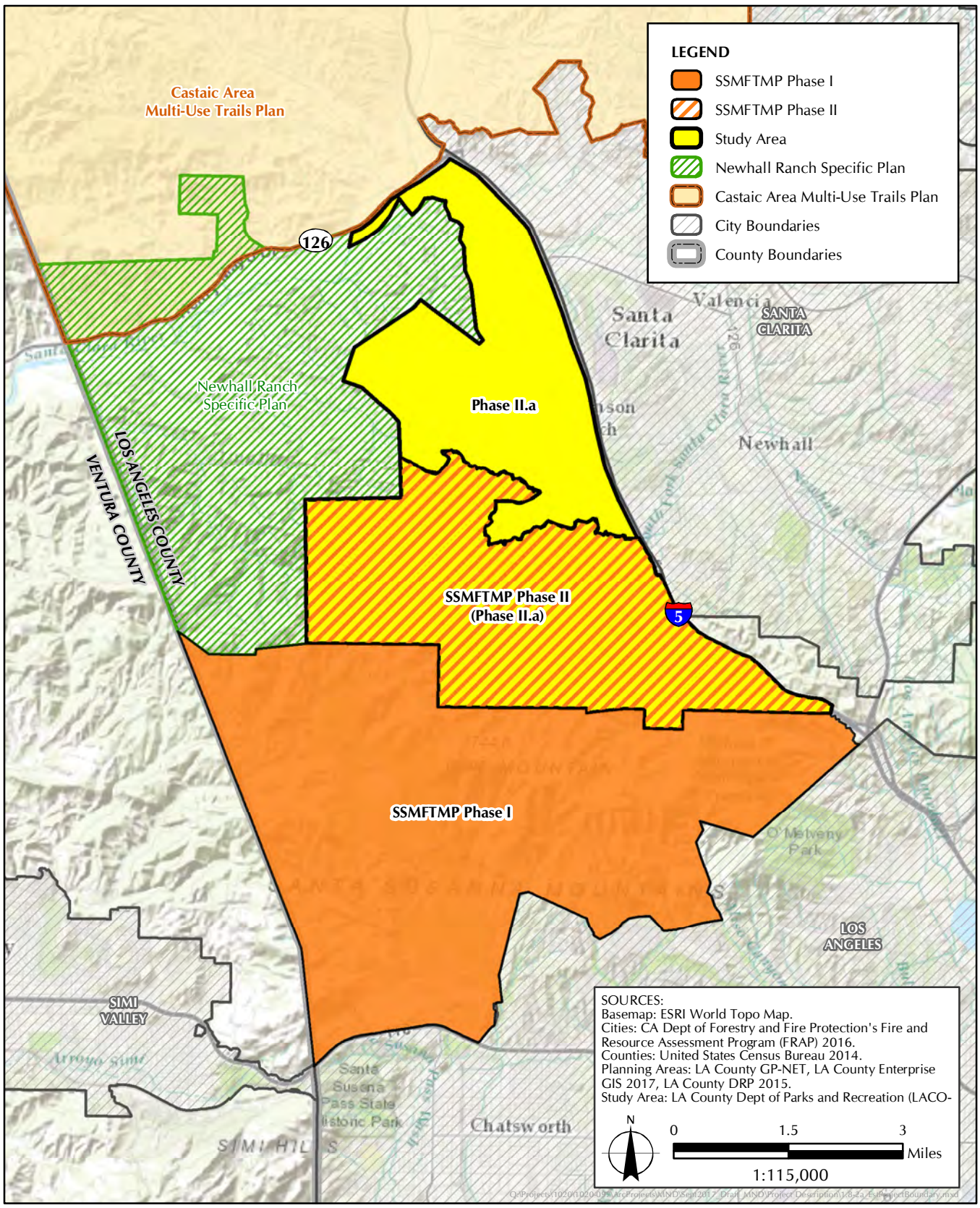


FIGURE 1.8-2a
 Establishment of Project Boundary

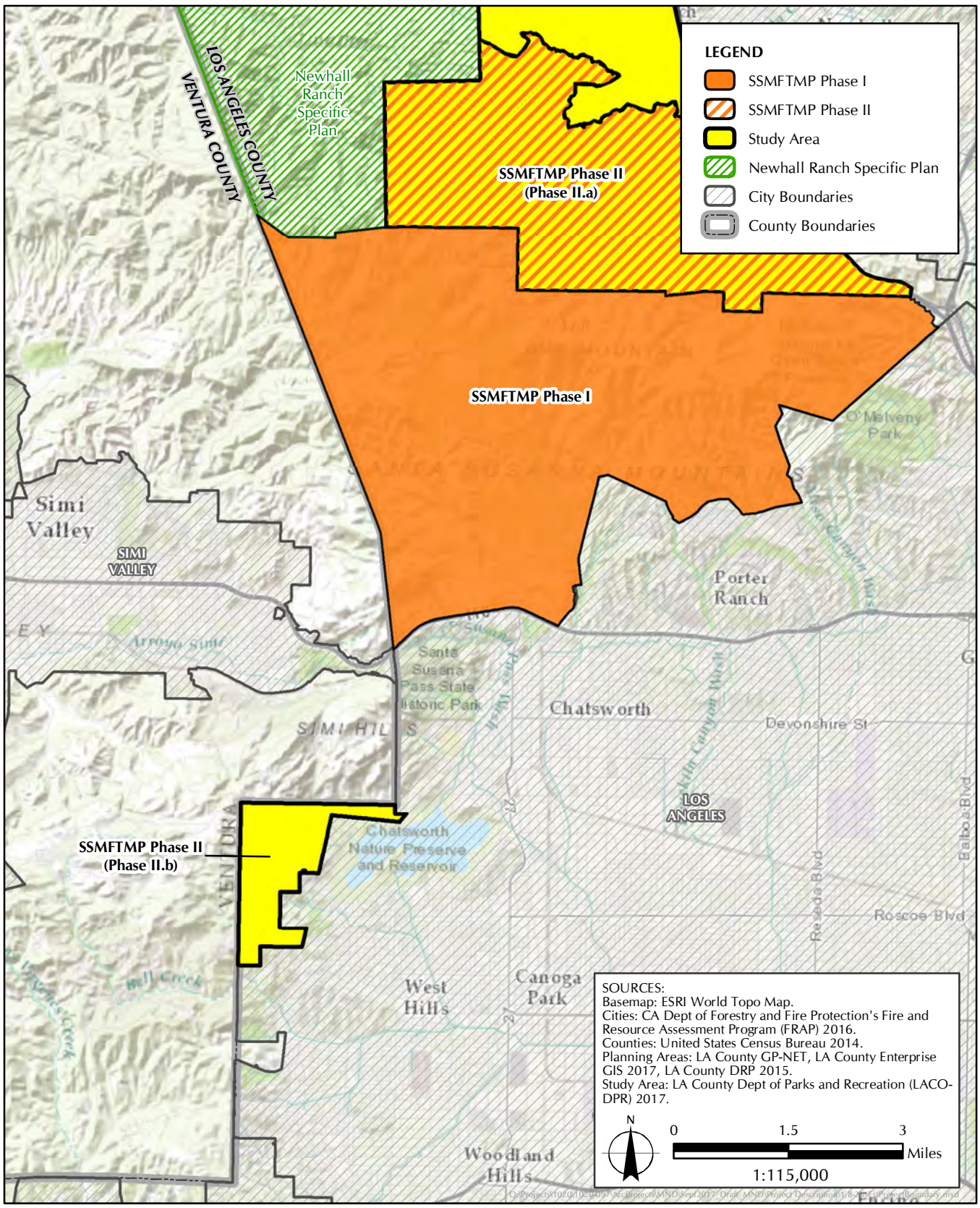


FIGURE 1.8-2b
 Establishment of Project Boundary

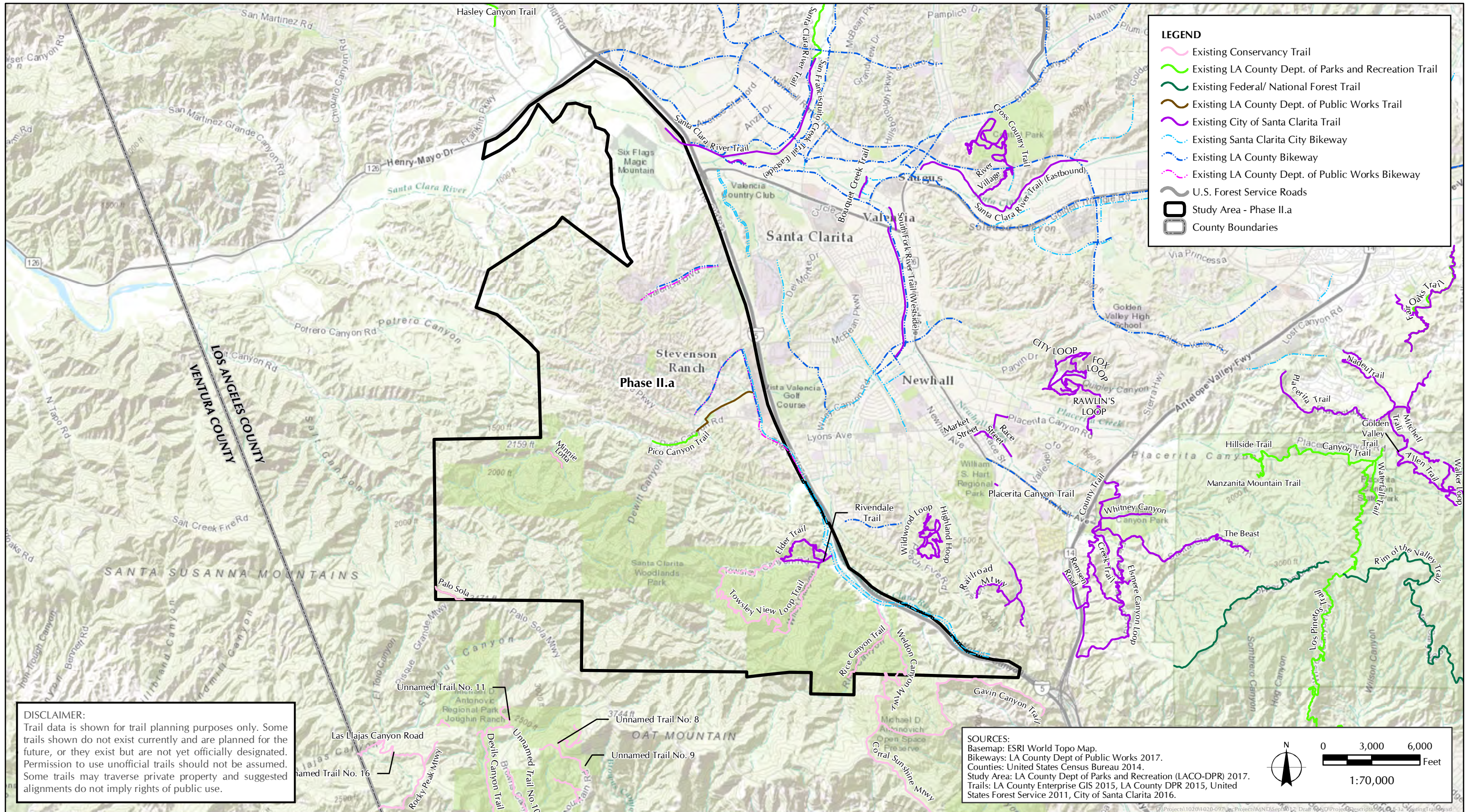


FIGURE 1.8-3a
 Existing Trails (Phase II.a)

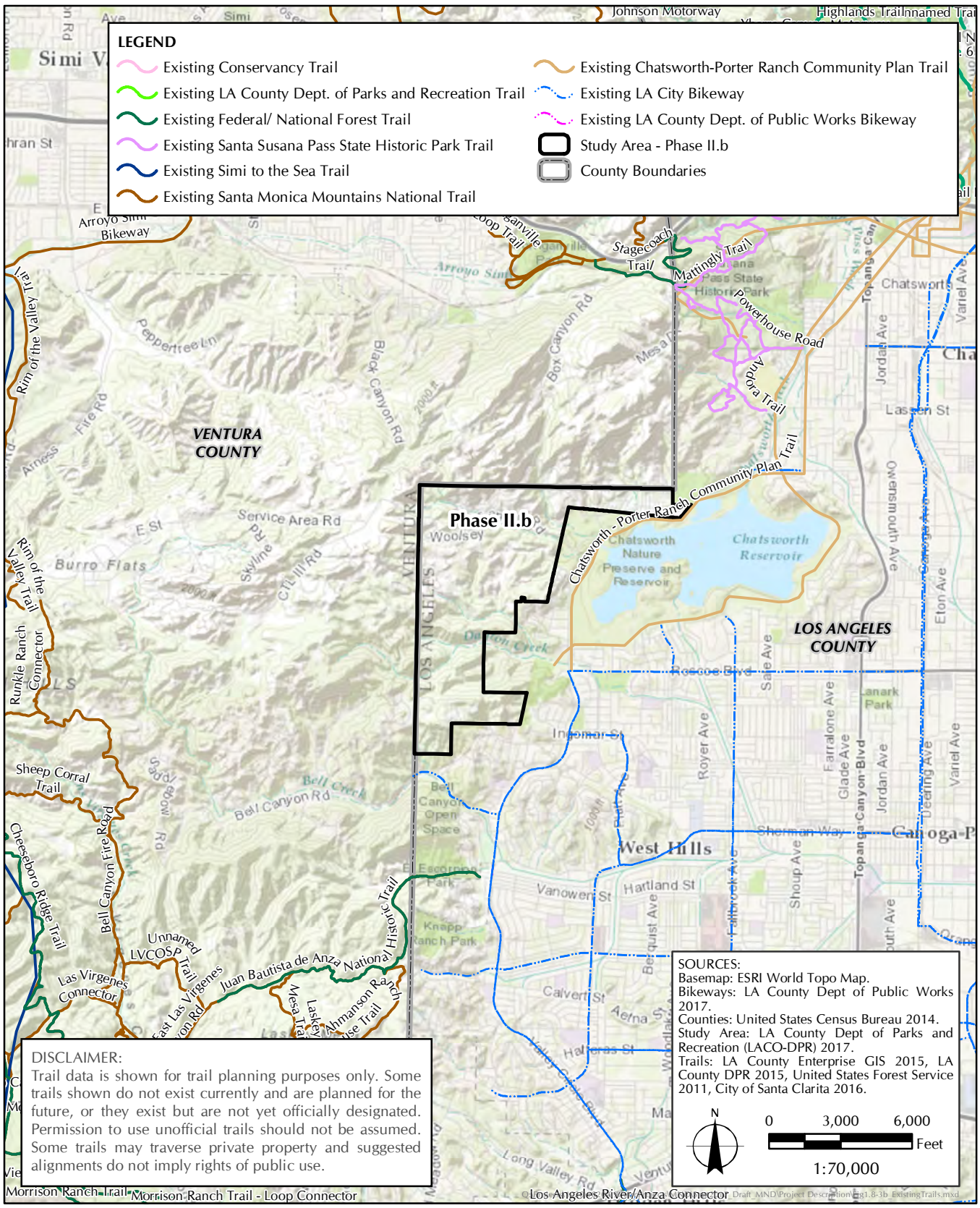


FIGURE 1.8-3b
 Existing Trails (Phase II.b)

**TABLE 1.8-1
EXISTING TRAILS WITHIN PROJECT STUDY AREA**

Trail Name	Length (Miles)	Trail Type	Management Agency
Phase II.a Area			
East Canyon Motorway/Gavin Canyon ¹	1.2	Natural/open space	MRCA
Elder Loop	1.5	Natural/open space	City of Santa Clarita
Johnson Park Trail	0.5	Natural/open space	MRCA
Leaming Canyon	1.0	Natural/open space	MRCA
Minnie Lotta	0.3	Natural/open space	MRCA
Pico Canyon	0.6	Urban/developed	County of Los Angeles
Pico Canyon Channel	0.9	Urban/developed	Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Pico Canyon Service Road	3.6	Urban/developed	MRCA
Rice Canyon Loop ^{2,3}	0.8	Natural/open space	MRCA
South Fork of the Santa Clara River Trail	0.3	Urban/developed	City of Santa Clarita
Taylor	0.4	Natural/open space	City of Santa Clarita
Towsley View Loop (Don Mullally) ⁴	5.2	Natural/open space	MRCA
Weldon Canyon Motorway ⁵	0.4	Natural/open space	MRCA
Subtotal – Phase II.a	16.7 miles		
Subtotal – Phase II.b	0 miles		
TOTAL	16.7 miles		

SOURCES:

¹ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Accessed 27 February 2017. East & Rice Canyon. Available at: <http://www.lamountains.com/parks.asp?parkid=7>

² Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Accessed 27 February 2017. Santa Clarita Woodlands Park: East Canyon, Rice Canyon, and Michael D. Antonovich Open Space. Available at: <http://www.lamountains.com/maps/eastRiceMDAOSNewhall.pdf>

³ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Accessed 27 February 2017. East & Rice Canyon. Available at: <http://www.lamountains.com/parks.asp?parkid=7>

⁴ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Accessed 27 February 2017. Santa Clarita Woodlands Park – Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon. Available at: <http://www.lamountains.com/pdf/Towsley.Mullally.pdf>

⁵ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Accessed 27 February 2017. Santa Clarita Woodlands Park: East Canyon, Rice Canyon, and Michael D. Antonovich Open Space. Available at: <http://www.lamountains.com/maps/eastRiceMDAOSNewhall.pdf>

Major canyons and valleys within the project study area include Pico Canyon, Dewitt Canyon, Wickham Canyon, Lyon Canyon, Towsley Canyon, Wiley Canyon, Leaming Canyon, Rice Canyon, Gavin Canyon, East Canyon, the Santa Clara River valley, and Sand Rock Peak in the Phase II.a area, as well as Bell Canyon, Dayton Canyon, and Woolsey Canyon within the Phase II.b area. Vegetation in the area is characterized by a Sage and Chaparral plant communities with scattered yucca plants. Although small areas of exposed bedrock are seen along the trail corridor, much of the proposed project study area is characterized by thick vegetative coverage, which is particularly dense in the canyon bottoms and at lower elevations. Proposed trails that have been adopted in the vicinity of the project study area include a segment of the Pico Canyon Trail identified in the SSMFTMP, adopted proposed trails from the County’s adopted 2007 trails map, and trails identified in the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan (Figure 1.8-4, *Adopted Proposed Trails*).

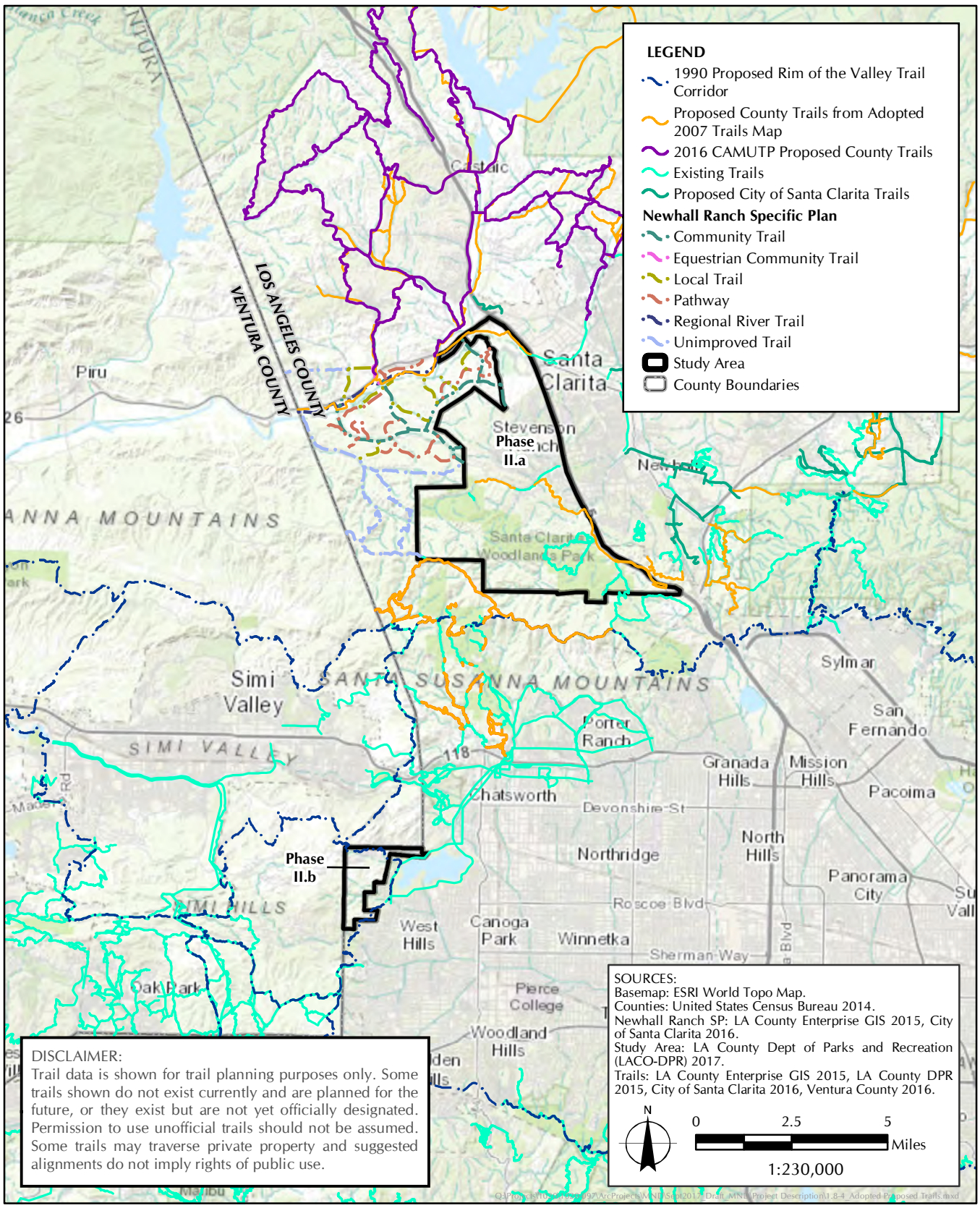


FIGURE 1.8-4
 Adopted Proposed Trails

1.9 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would work to encourage and promote new multi-use trails and recommend improvements to existing trails, providing an alignment to incorporate a transition throughout the project study area to additional areas, jurisdictions, and prime destinations within and adjacent to the project study area. The plan would recommend conditions for improvement of unmet local recreation demands in the Fifth Supervisorial District. The proposed project would develop a complete multi-use trail system connecting user groups and local populations to desired recreation destinations and experiences, with unified transition to the trails of adjacent jurisdictions, compatibility with adjacent land uses and environmental resources, and incorporate a sustainable design that is consistent with the County Trails Manual. The proposed project includes approximately 70 miles of proposed multi-use trails in the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area and San Fernando Valley Planning Area (Figure 1.9-1, *Proposed Trails Plan*). The trails would be multi-use and range from 3 to 11 feet wide based on site conditions, with adequate space for combined pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain biking use, in accordance with the County Trails Manual guidelines (Table 1.9-1, *County Trail Types*).

**TABLE 1.9-1
COUNTY TRAIL TYPES**

Trail Type	Tread / Trail Width ¹	Intensity of Use ¹	Impact ¹	Surface Type ^{1,2}	Trail Grade ²	Outslope ²
Urban Pedestrian Trail ²	10–11 feet	High	High	Asphalt* Crusher fines* Decomposed granite	< 5% < 8% for < 100 feet (ft.) of trail with rail	2%
Recreational Trailway ²	8–10 feet	High	High	Natural surface	< 5% < 8% for < 100 ft. < 12% for < 50 ft.	2% < 4%
Natural Trail 1 ¹	7–10 feet	High	Medium	Natural surface	< 5% < 8% for < 150 ft. < 12% for < 50 ft.	2% < 4%
Natural Trail 2 ¹	5–8 feet	Medium to high	Low	Natural surface	< 5% < 8% for < 100 ft. < 12% for < 50 ft.	2% < 4%
Natural Trail 3 ¹	2–3 feet	Low	Minimal	Natural surface	< 5% < 8% for < 200 ft. < 12 % for < 50 ft. < 15% for < 20 ft.	2% < 5%

NOTE: *Asphalt and crusher fines used in trail surfaces cannot be road based and cannot contain toxic chemicals.

SOURCES:

¹County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

²County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. Adopted October 2016. Castaic Area Multi-Use Trails Plan. Prepared by Alta Planning+Design in association with Sapphos Environmental, Inc. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/124/Castaic%20Area%20MUTP%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

The proposed project includes 29 trail corridors to connect to existing trails and other priority destinations (Table 1.9-2, *Proposed Trail Corridors*). The proposed trails would provide connections to parks and open spaces, a large commercial district, seven schools, numerous natural features, Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park, the proposed Rim of the Valley trail corridor alignment (RIVA), and existing trails in the City of Los Angeles, City of Santa Clarita, and Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, as well as trails within other jurisdictions as identified in the Trails Master Plan.

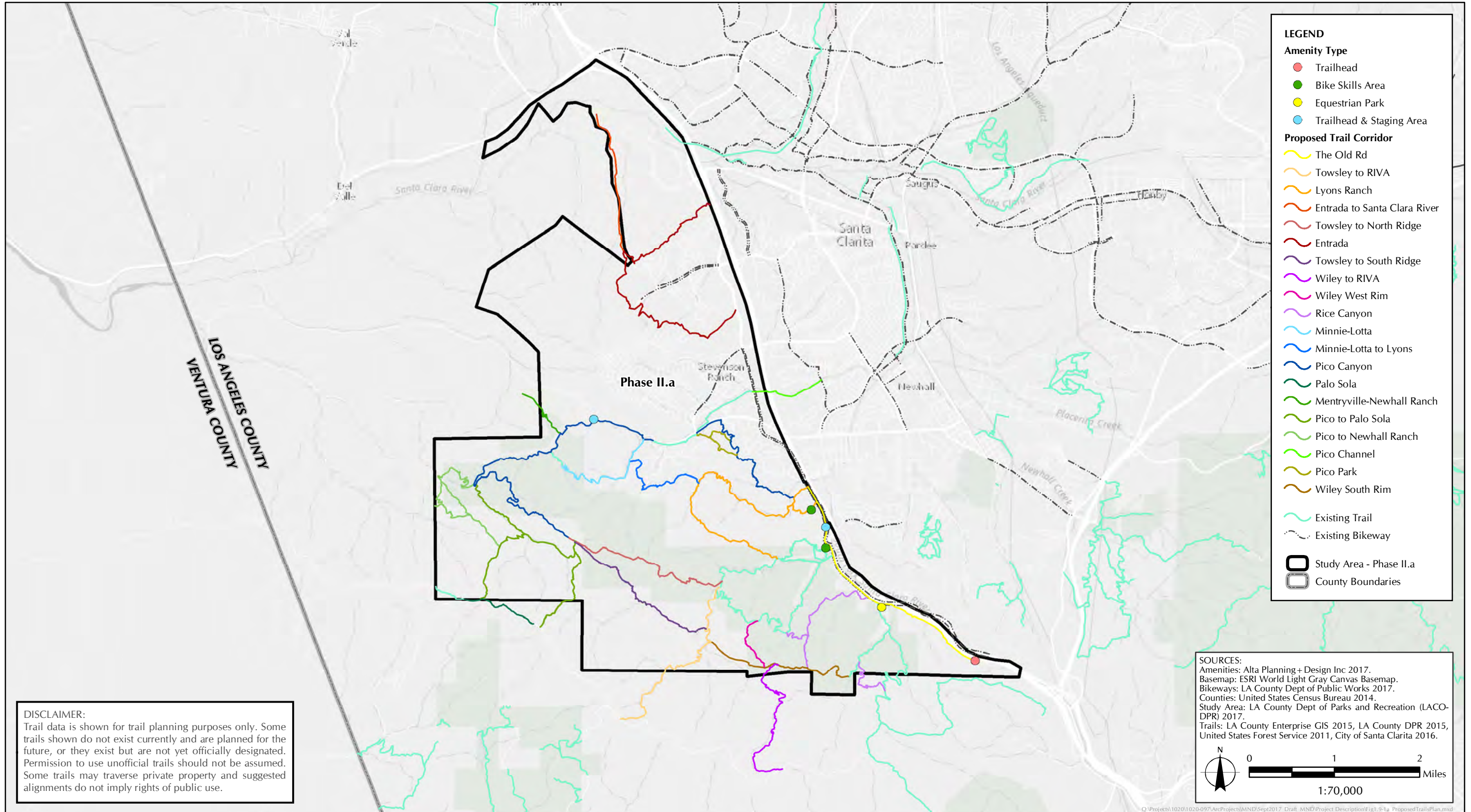


FIGURE 1.9-1a
 Proposed Trails Plan (Phase II.a)

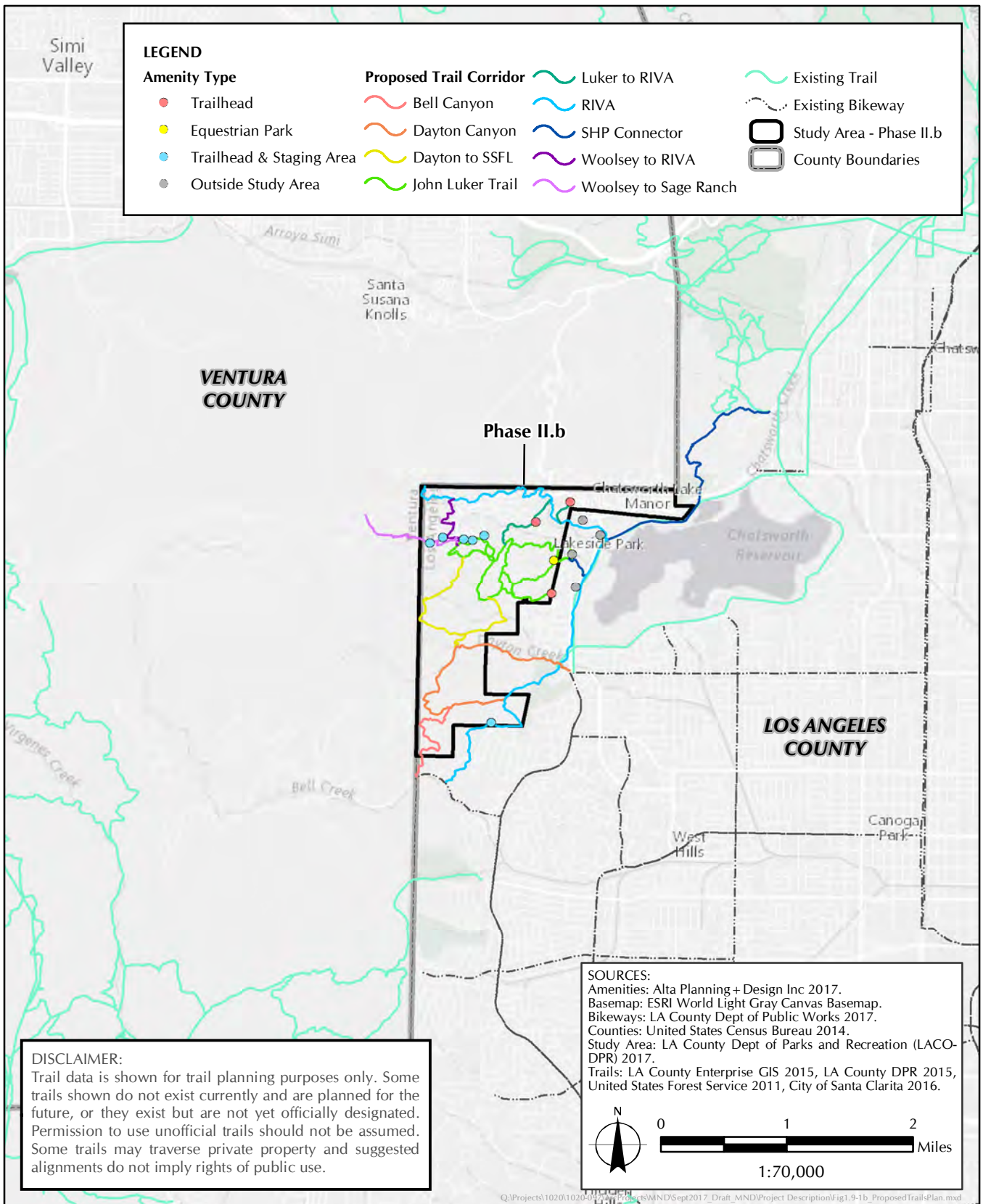


FIGURE 1.9-1b
 Proposed Trails Plan (Phase II.b)

**TABLE 1.9-2
PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDORS**

Trail Corridor Name	Length (Miles)	Trail Type	Existing Physical Conditions of Trail Corridor
Phase II.a Area			
Entrada	4.3	1.9 miles Recreational Trailway 2.4 miles Natural Surface	Existing utility road and unpaved service roads. Three segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Entrada to Santa Clara River	1.7	Urban Pedestrian Trail	No existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Lyons Ranch	4.2	0.7 mile Recreational Trailway 3.5 miles Natural Surface	Existing unpaved Lyons Ranch Road and narrow trail from Lyons Ranch Road follows a creek. One segment is affected by the recent Sage Fire. Two segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails, although one segment follows an unpaved route from Old Road to Lyons Ranch Road.
Mentryville-Newhall Ranch	0.8	Natural Surface	No existing dirt roads or de facto trails. Follows an adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor for approximately 0.2 mile.
Minnie-Lotta	1.8	Natural Surface	Existing dirt road through Wickham Canyon and existing Minnie Lotta trail from Pico Canyon Service Road. One segment does not have an existing dirt road or de facto trail.
Minnie-Lotta to Lyons	1.4	Natural Surface	No existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Palo Sola	0.9	Natural Surface	Follows an adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor.
Pico Canyon	7.0	3.6 miles Natural Surface 3.4 miles Urban Pedestrian Trail	Existing County trail, previously adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor, and existing unpaved Pico Canyon Service Road.
Pico Channel	0.9	0.8 mile Natural Surface 0.1 mile Urban Pedestrian Trail	The proposed corridor does not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Pico Park	1.0	Natural Surface	Existing dirt road and existing trail.
Pico to Newhall Ranch	3.1	Natural Surface	One existing trail segment. Four segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Pico to Palo Sola	4.4	Natural Surface	Two segments follow existing narrow trails; two segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Rice Canyon	2.9	Natural Surface	Existing trail segments, game trails, and one segment follows a previously adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor.
The Old Road	3.1	1.4 miles Natural Surface 1.7 miles Urban Pedestrian Trail	Follows a previously adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor and parallels The Old Road bypass.
Towsley to North Ridge	2.3	Natural Surface	Existing narrow and steep trail segment and a segment which does not follow existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Towsley to RIVA	2.9	Natural Surface	One segment follows existing trail; two segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Towsley to South Ridge	2.1	Natural Surface	No existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Wiley South Rim	2.0	Natural Surface	Narrow existing trail. One segment which does not follow existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Wiley to RIVA	2.3	Natural Surface	User-contributed (de facto) trail connection to Rim of the Valley Corridor.
Wiley West Rim	0.8	Natural Surface	Existing trail segment.
Subtotal – Phase II.a	50.0 miles		

**TABLE 1.9-2
PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDORS**

Trail Corridor Name	Length (Miles)	Trail Type	Existing Physical Conditions of Trail Corridor
Phase II.b Area			
Bell Canyon	1.1	Natural Surface	Existing de facto/social trail.
Dayton Canyon	2.4	Natural Surface	Two existing social trails and one segment which does not follow existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Dayton to SSFL	1.9	Natural Surface	Existing de facto/social trails and two segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
John Luker Trail	4.5	Natural Surface	Existing de facto/social trails and segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Luker to RIVA	0.9	Natural Surface	User-contributed (de facto) trail connection to Rim of the Valley Corridor.
RIVA	5.2	Natural Surface	Proposed Rim of the Valley Trail alignment from the 2016 Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study. Not existing trail.
SHP Connector	2.5	Natural Surface	Not existing trail.
Woolsey to RIVA	0.7	Natural Surface	Existing dirt road and one segment which does not follow existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Woolsey to Sage Ranch	1.0	Natural Surface	Existing dirt road and one segment which does not follow existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Subtotal – Phase II.b	20.3 miles		
TOTAL	70.3 miles		

NOTES: RIVA = Proposed Rim of the Valley trail corridor alignment; SHP = Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park; de facto/social trails: unofficial trails created by users (not officially adopted or sanctioned).

The SSMTMP-PII identifies up to 20 potential locations for proposed facilities, including 4 trailheads, 2 bike skills areas, 2 equestrian parks, 8 trailhead and staging areas, and 4 trailheads outside the study area within the City of Los Angeles that would need to be developed by the City of Los Angeles (Table 1.9-3, *Proposed Facilities*). The facilities may include all or some of the amenities identified for consideration in the 2013 County Trails Manual guidelines (see Table 1.9-3). As the recommended City of Los Angeles trailheads would not be developed under jurisdiction of the County, this MND considers the 16 proposed facilities located within the SSMTMP-PII study area.

**TABLE 1.9-3
PROPOSED FACILITIES**

Trailhead (0.1–0.4 acres)	
Type Definition A defined area with parking typically at, but not limited to, the beginning of a trail, with or without additional amenities such as restrooms, picnic facilities, trash receptacles, etc. (grades or classes of trailheads may be developed in the future to further define subtypes of trailheads).	Project Note: There would be no new restrooms or new parking at these proposed trailheads due to limited available space.
Equestrian Park (1–2 acres)	
Type Definition A defined area with parking typically at, but not limited to, the beginning of a trail, with or without additional amenities such as equestrian arena(s), restrooms, picnic facilities, trash receptacles, etc. (grades or classes of trailheads may be developed in the future to further define subtypes of trailheads).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian arena(s) • Restrooms • Picnic facilities • Trash receptacles • Etc.
Trailhead and Staging (0.2–2 acres)	
Type Definition A defined area with parking typically at, but not limited to, the beginning of a trail, with or without additional amenities such as equestrian arena(s), restrooms, picnic facilities, trash receptacles, etc. (grades or classes of trailheads may be developed in the future to further define subtypes of trailheads). Horse trailers can be accommodated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian arena(s) • Restrooms • Picnic facilities • Trash receptacles • Horse trailers
Bike Skills Areas (7–8 acres)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms • Drinking Fountains • Rest Areas/Seating • Shade Structures • Pump Tracks (no pedaling required) • Progressive Jumps (natural soil with compacted dirt jumps) • Balance Skills Features (e.g., wooden teeter-totter) • Rock/Technical Features (e.g., rock garden with narrow width trails) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow Trails (start at higher elevation for downhill ride) • Trails (over variety of terrain, for all ages) • Road Handling Skills Areas (hard-packed soil course) • Beginner, Intermediate, and Expert Skills Courses (for all ages) • Advanced Downhill Course (steep terrain, jumps, turns, obstacles) • Slalom Course (two adjacent trails for competition)

1.10 STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Goals

The Trails Master Plan would act as a framework to encourage and promote new multi-use trails and recommend improvements to existing trails, seeking to provide alignments with seamless transitions throughout the project study area to areas, jurisdictions, and prime destinations within and adjacent to the project study area. The plan would include recommendations for reducing unmet local recreation demand in the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area, San Fernando Valley Planning Area, and in the Fifth Supervisorial District. DPR has identified two goals related to the proposed project:

1. Develop a complete multi-use trail system connecting user groups and local populations to desired recreation destinations and experiences, with seamless transitions to the trails of adjacent jurisdictions, compatibility with adjacent land uses and environmental resources, and a safe and sustainable design that is consistent with the County of Los Angeles Trails Manual.

2. Develop a recreational trail system that supports low-intensity use, including mountain biking, equestrian use, and hiking, to accommodate the population increase anticipated in the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area and San Fernando Valley Planning Area through the 2035 planning horizon, consistent with the Parks and Recreation Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035.

Objectives

DPR identified and prioritized seven basic objectives that are important to achieving the project goals:

1. Accommodate a wide range of trail user types and abilities, consistent with the County's multi-use trails policy.
2. Connect to desirable destinations, features, and settings.
3. Provide safe and sustainable trails.
4. Avoid or minimize environmental impacts.
5. Develop a strategy to implement and maintain trails identified within the Trails Master Plan.
6. Emphasize trails that close gaps in existing trail networks and provide regional connectivity.
7. Develop a plan consistent with relevant County plans and policies.

1.11 CONSTRUCTION SCENARIO

This Initial Study is based on an evaluation of the construction that would be required to build out the proposed trails in the general configurations of the conceptual plan. Proposed trail alignments are conceptual and will require additional survey, design, and engineering work to support dedication of easements and ultimately trail construction, operation, and maintenance. The final trail alignments are subject to refinement in relation to environmental, geologic, hydrologic, ownership, topology, and other factors, as specified in the County Trails Manual. The County Trails Manual outlines various issues affecting trail experience (Section 2.4.3.3) and trail feasibility (Section 2.5), including aesthetics. The County Trails Manual recommends that a visibility analysis be performed in a three-dimensional modeling program to determine if a proposed trail would be visible by the surrounding area residences using vantage points placed at important visual points of interest, known scenic vistas, or individual residences to determine the percentage of the trail that would be visible from the vantage points. Additionally, cross-sections depicting the distance and the elevation of the trails from adjacent residences are recommended to provide a representation of the visibility of proposed trails by incorporating the landscape and vegetation.

The approximately 70 miles of existing and planned trails within and adjacent to the project study area include a wide variety of terrain and elevation range. The highest location of the project study area is 3,430 feet above MSL in the southwestern portion of the Phase II.a area, and the lowest location is 896 feet above MSL at the northeastern corner of the Phase II.b area near Chatsworth Reservoir. This results in an elevation range of 2,534 feet (see Figure 1.4-3). Slopes in the project study area range from 0.0 degrees to 84.6 degrees at the steepest (Figure 1.11-1, *Slope*). Trails would need to be constructed consistent with the provisions of the trails plan, which sets standards for slope, width, visibility, and drainage. Additionally, 25 of the proposed trail corridors cross areas of wetland identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) as identified in Table 1.11-1, *Proposed Trail Corridor NWI Crossings* (see also Figure 5.1-6a, *Federally Protected Wetlands Reported Within 5 Miles of the Project Area*, in Appendix C, *Biological Resources Technical Report*).

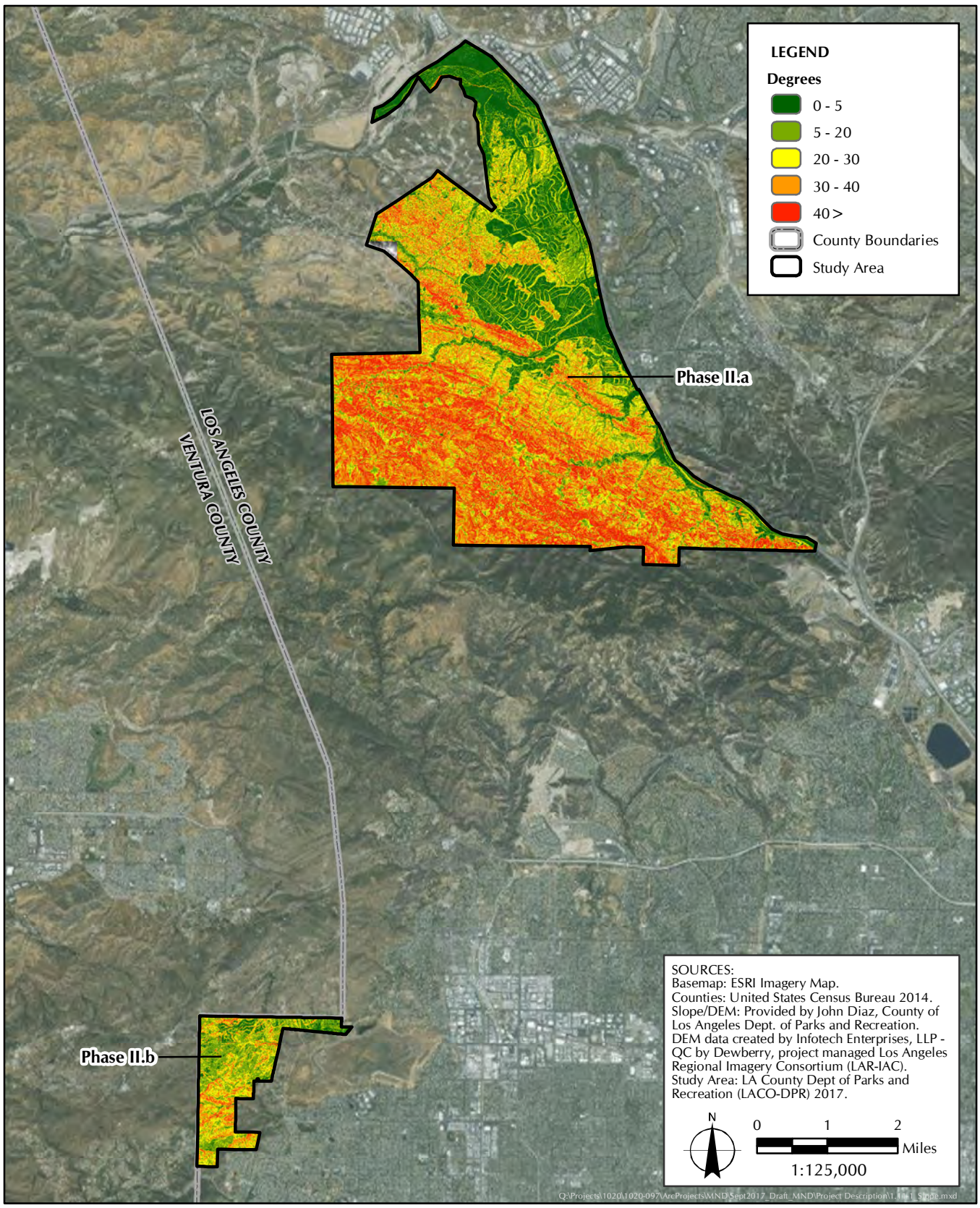


FIGURE 1.11-1
Slope

**TABLE 1.11-1
PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDOR NWI CROSSINGS**

Proposed Trail Corridor Name	Number of NWI Crossings	NWI Wetland Types (Number of NWI Crossings)
Phase II.a Area		
Entrada	4	Riverine
Entrada to Santa Clara River	1	Riverine
Lyons Ranch	11	Riverine
Minnie-Lotta	2	Riverine
	2	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Minnie-Lotta to Lyons	4	Riverine
Pico Canyon	15	Riverine
	3	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Pico Channel	1	Riverine
Pico Park	3	Riverine
Pico to Newhall Ranch	1	Riverine
Pico to Palo Sola	8	Riverine
	2	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Rice Canyon	1	Riverine
	2	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
The Old Road	6	Riverine
Towsley to North Ridge	2	Riverine
Towsley to RIVA	11	Riverine
	3	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Towsley to South Ridge	8	Riverine
Wiley South Rim	3	Riverine
Wiley to RIVA	5	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Subtotal – Phase II.a	97 crossings	80 trail corridors would cross riverine 17 trail corridors would cross freshwater forested/shrub wetland
Phase II.b Area		
Bell Canyon	2	Riverine
Dayton Canyon	4	Riverine
Dayton to SSFL	3	Riverine
John Luker Trail	1	Riverine
Luker to RIVA	1	Riverine
	1	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
RIVA	3	Riverine
	2	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
SHP Connector	1	Riverine
Woolsey to RIVA	1	Riverine
Woolsey to Sage Ranch	1	Riverine
Subtotal – Phase II.b	20 crossings	17 trail corridors would cross riverine 3 trail corridors would cross freshwater forested/shrub wetland
TOTAL	117 crossings	97 trail corridors would cross riverine 20 trail corridors would cross freshwater forested/shrub wetland

The environmental analysis for the proposed project is based on a potential worst-case scenario for construction activities, including improvements to existing trails, construction of new trails, site grading for facilities and access roads, and delivery and hauling of construction materials and equipment. Construction activities associated with the proposed project, as currently conceived, would entail construction of approximately 70 miles of trails. The construction scenario for the impact analysis assumes that the direct impact area for the construction of trails would be a 12-foot-wide corridor. Construction equipment would be limited to mini-dozers; graders; small tractors; a water truck; and hand tools including picks, hoes, shovels, and wheelbarrows. Construction would be conducted in accordance with the guidelines specified in the County

Trails Manual.¹⁶ The County Trails Manual contains specific methods for building trails in areas with steep slopes and riparian crossings. The County Trails Manual should be referenced for further information to determine the constructability of trail segments.

The easement area should include a minimum of five feet on either side of the trail tread to provide for construction and maintenance of the trail segment(s). In areas of very steep topography, it may be advantageous to acquire an easement that is much wider than the actual trail tread width to be constructed in order to provide a greater level of flexibility for trail design and construction.

Construction activities may include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads, rest areas, parking, equestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, and trail staging areas. The County would require preparation of a trail site plan, site-specific geotechnical investigation, survey for biological and cultural resources, and a Categorical Exemption or Initial Study (the appropriate CEQA document) in support of each trail segment before project approval and construction can commence.

Site preparation and construction of the proposed project would be in accordance with all federal, state, and County building codes. Daily construction activities would be subject to County noise regulations, which state that construction equipment may not operate between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday, or at any time on Sunday or holidays. Noise levels exceeding 75 dBA (A-weighted decibels) for single-family residences, 80 dBA for multi-family residences, and 85 dBA for semiresidential/commercial land uses are prohibited by the County Noise Control Ordinance, Title 12 of the County Code. The contractor shall conduct construction activities in such a manner that the maximum noise levels at the affected buildings would not exceed established noise levels.

The construction contractor would be required to incorporate best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the guidelines provided in the *California Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbooks: Construction*, for elimination of non-stormwater discharge from the project site; retaining eroded sediments and other pollutants on the site; retaining stockpiles of earth and other construction-related materials on-site; proper storage of fuels, oils, solvents, and other toxic materials to prevent spills from being washed into the drainage system; retaining concrete wastes on-site until they can be disposed as solid waste; proper covered storage of trash and construction related solid wastes to prevent contamination of rainwater and dispersal by wind; stabilization of roadways to inhibit sediments from being deposited into the public way; and stabilization of any slopes with disturbed soils or denuded of vegetation to inhibit erosion by wind and water. Should the construction period continue into the rainy season, supplemental erosion measures would need to be implemented.

Wherever possible, grading activities would be undertaken outside the normal rainy season (i.e., October 15 to April 15 for most of Southern California), thus minimizing the potential for increased surface runoff and the associated potential for soil erosion. A recommended construction period would begin in late April or early May and completed in late January, assuming the majority of the construction would be completed in this recommended nine-month period. BMPs to control surface runoff and soil erosion would be required for construction taking place during rainy periods. In accordance with the guidelines in Section 4.5.2, *Construction Scenario*, of the County Trails Manual, in locations with steep sideslopes; loose soils and rocks; areas that are prone to destabilization; large retaining structures; or areas that require extensive annual maintenance work, grading, and earthwork shall be performed under the supervision of an engineering geologist or soils engineer to ensure that appropriate recommendations are made to remediate site-specific erosion and soil stability conditions.¹⁷ Retaining walls would be included in the trail design to hold back the backslope where cut trails

¹⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

¹⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

are required. Where cutting specified in the trail design requires greater disturbance of the upslope vegetation, the plans and guidelines or maintenance plan must provide for supplemental slope and erosion control measures until adequate slope vegetation exists (Figure 4.5.2.3-1 of the County Trails Manual).

BMPs for erosion control would be implemented during trail construction and improvements in order to maintain the unique topography of designated significant ridgelines where trails of the project study area traverse ridgelines that have been designated in the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. The proposed project proposes 12 trail corridors that would intersect with or follow nine of the County's significant ridgelines within the Phase II.a area:

1. Lyons Ranch
2. Minnie-Lotta
3. Minnie-Lotta to Lyons
4. Pico Canyon
5. Pico to Newhall Ranch
6. Pico to Palo Sola
7. Rice Canyon
8. Towsley to North Ridge
9. Towsley to South Ridge
10. Wiley West Rim
11. Wiley South Rim
12. Wiley to RIVA

Where construction of trails or related supporting facilities requires cuts into the slope (which can be seen from a far distance), the visual character of the slope would be restored by planting locally native vegetation after construction as a visual screen. Similarly, restrooms and other supporting structures would be constructed of materials that blend into the landscape, with native vegetative screening. In accordance with the guidelines in Section 4.3.18, *Lighting*, of the County Trails Manual, where lighting features are provided for safety and wayfinding reasons, lighting would be installed in a manner to be non-intrusive to adjacent uses, avoid detracting from a natural outdoors experience for trail users, and directed downward to avoid light pollution or spillover in general.¹⁸

Construction equipment would be turned off when not in use. The construction contractor would ensure that all construction and grading equipment is properly maintained. All vehicles and compressors would utilize exhaust mufflers and engine enclosure covers (as designed by the manufacturer) at all times.

1.12 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Trails operation and maintenance activities would be conducted in accordance with the guidelines specified in Section 5.0, *Trails Operations and Maintenance*, of the County Trails Manual, and involve the maintenance activities and equipment described in Section 5.3, *Trail Maintenance* (Table 1.12-1, *Trail Maintenance Activity Equipment*).¹⁹ As stated in the County Trails Manual, the hours for operation for County trails are typically from dawn to dusk (County Code 17.04.330).

¹⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

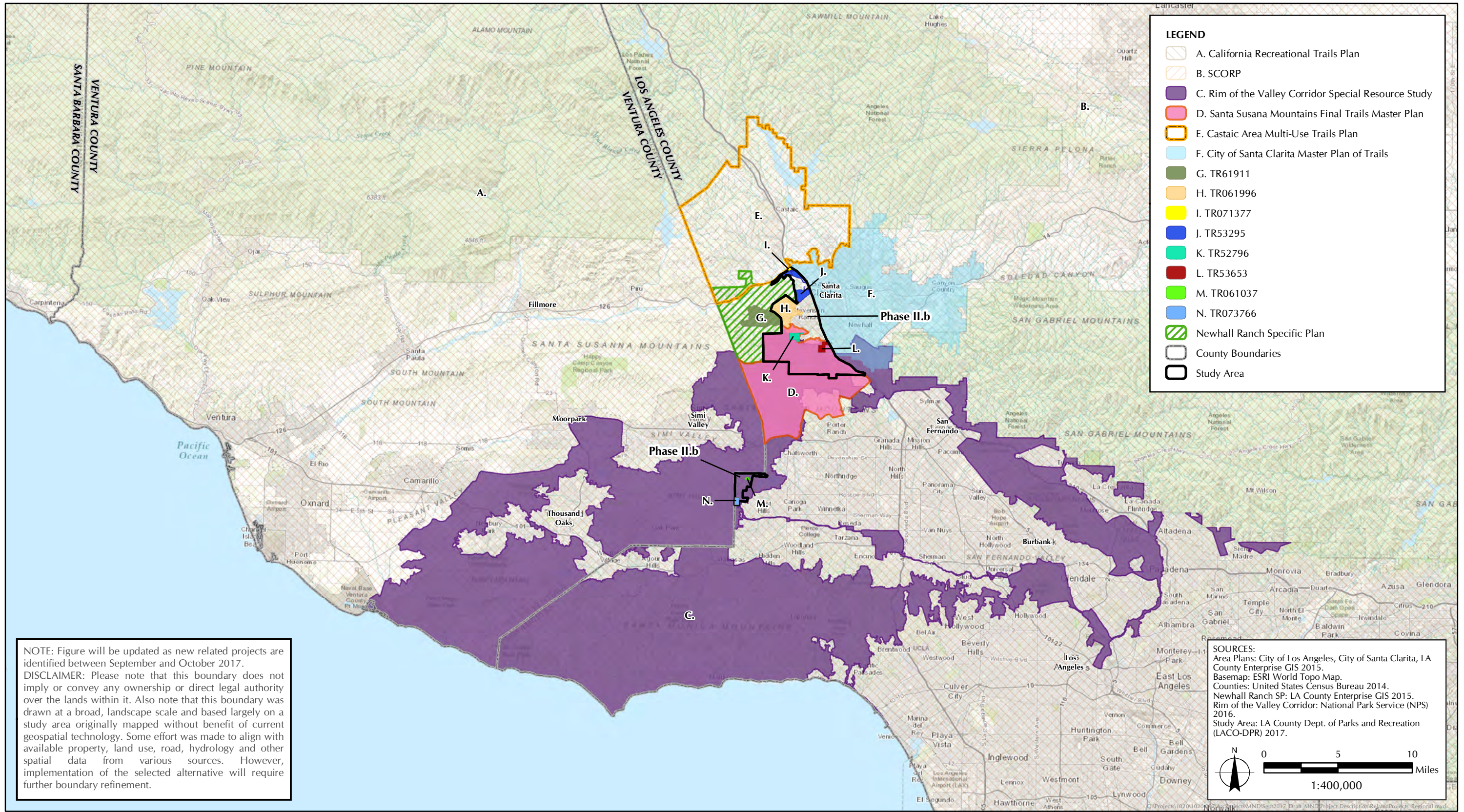
¹⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

**TABLE 1.12-1
TRAIL MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT**

Maintenance Activity	Equipment
Mowing and spraying	Mower, weedwacker, sprayer
Tree and brush trimming	Clippers, string trimmer, chainsaw, axe
Debris removal	Leaf blower, rake, shovel
Culverts	Leaf blower, rake, shovel
Water crossings	Leaf blower, shovel, grader
Sign and amenity repair	Saw, sander, paint sprayer, paint brush
Graffiti removal	Paint sprayer, paint brush, sander
Pumping out flooded tunnels	Motorized pump, shovel

1.13 RELATED PROJECTS

The area surrounding the project study area was examined to determine whether there are currently any projects in progress or proposed for the future that could potentially benefit the project or add to the impacts of the proposed project, creating cumulative significant impacts (evaluated in Section 2.20, *Mandatory Findings of Significance*). It was determined that there are 14 related projects that could affect the cumulative impacts analysis for the proposed project. These projects, which are anticipated to be implemented within the next decade (when implementation of the trails plan is anticipated to occur), occur within an approximately half-mile radius of the proposed project site (Table 1.13-1, *List of Related Projects*; Figure 1.13-1, *Related Projects*). Projects H, I, J, K, and L include the provision of trail easements in the project study area. Projects C, D, E, F, and G are trail planning projects in close proximity to the project study area.



 **FIGURE 1.13-1a**
 Related Projects (Regional)

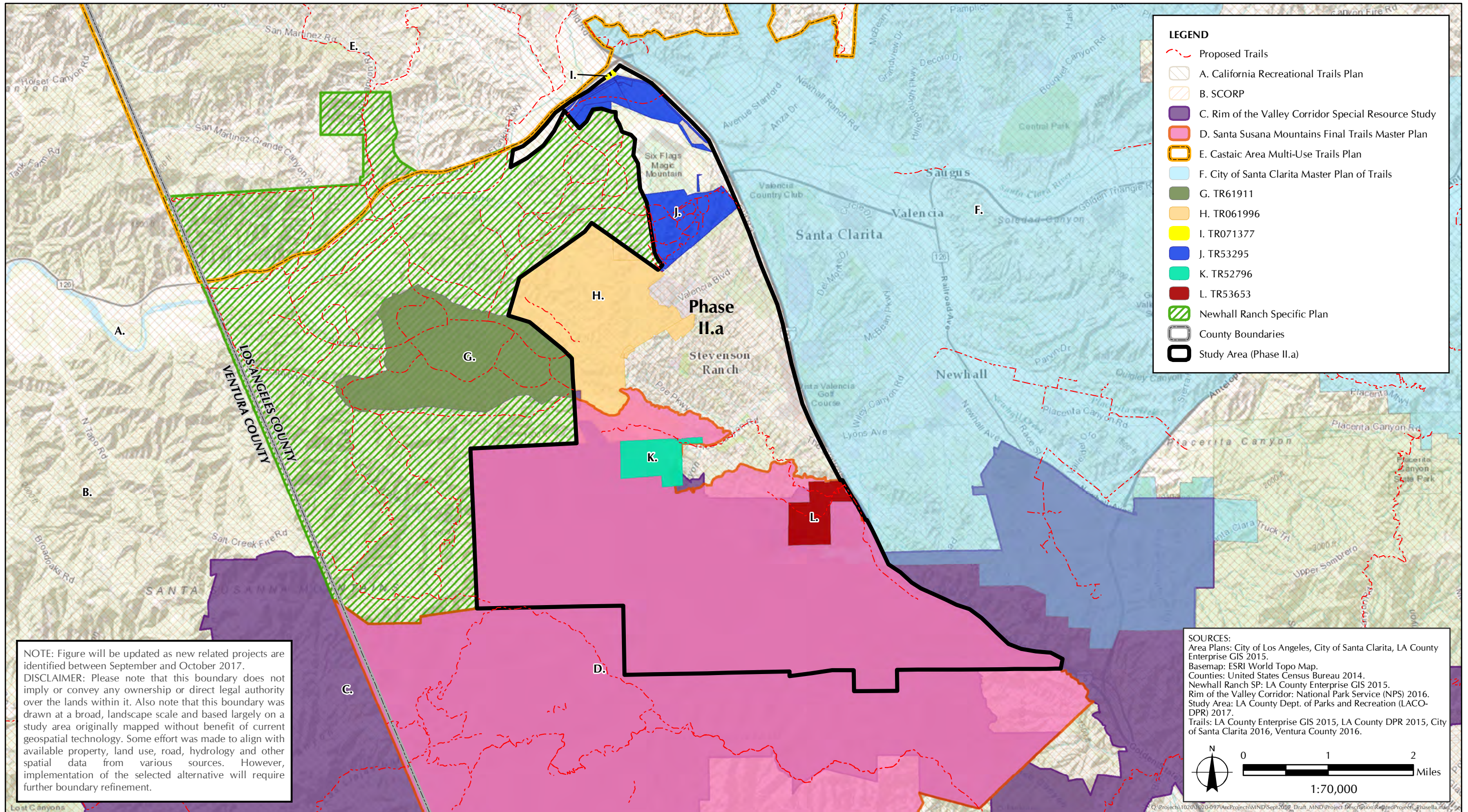
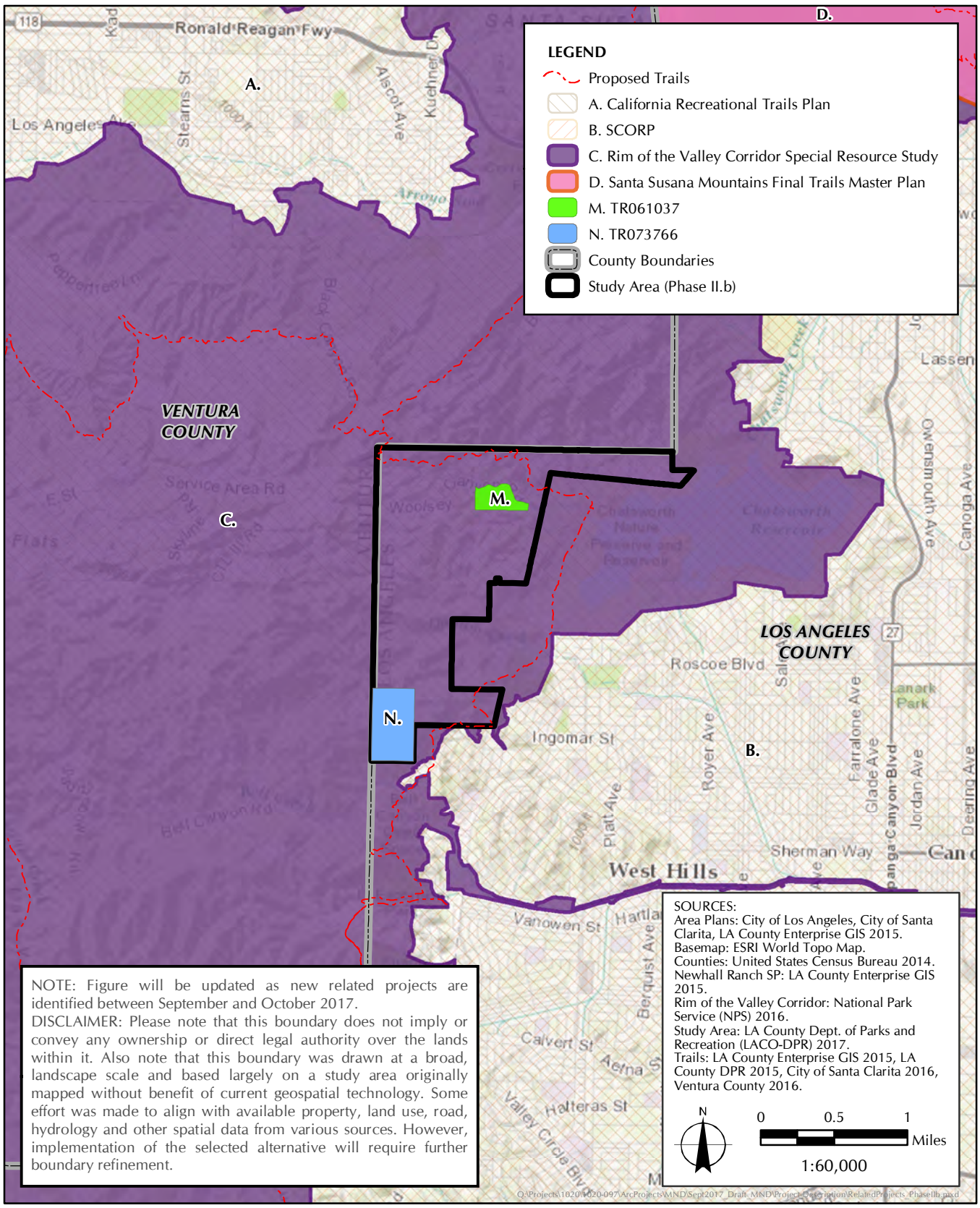


FIGURE 1.13-1b
 Related Projects (Phase II.a)



NOTE: Figure will be updated as new related projects are identified between September and October 2017.
 DISCLAIMER: Please note that this boundary does not imply or convey any ownership or direct legal authority over the lands within it. Also note that this boundary was drawn at a broad, landscape scale and based largely on a study area originally mapped without benefit of current geospatial technology. Some effort was made to align with available property, land use, road, hydrology and other spatial data from various sources. However, implementation of the selected alternative will require further boundary refinement.

SOURCES:
 Area Plans: City of Los Angeles, City of Santa Clarita, LA County Enterprise GIS 2015.
 Basemap: ESRI World Topo Map.
 Counties: United States Census Bureau 2014.
 Newhall Ranch SP: LA County Enterprise GIS 2015.
 Rim of the Valley Corridor: National Park Service (NPS) 2016.
 Study Area: LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.
 Trails: LA County Enterprise GIS 2015, LA County DPR 2015, City of Santa Clarita 2016, Ventura County 2016.



FIGURE 1.13-1c
 Related Projects (Phase II.b)

**TABLE 1.13-1
LIST OF RELATED PROJECTS¹**

Label	Project Name	Location	Proposed Trails/ Trail Corridors?	Description
A	California Recreational Trails Plan ²	State of California; includes entire project study area	Yes; Proposed trail corridors	<p>In Progress (2002–Present) – Applicable to the thousands of miles of California Department of Parks and Recreation managed trails, ranging from narrow footpaths to trails that accommodate bicyclists, runners, equestrians, hikers, in-line skaters, and wheelchair users.³ Authorized by State Legislature in 1978 as an element of the California Recreational Trails Act. The nearest state recreation resource is the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, located south of the State Route (SR) 118 near the Phase II.b area. Additionally, the California Recreational Trails Plan proposed multijurisdictional state trail corridors relevant to the Trails Master Plan. Recognizes and supports trail corridors that promote walking, bicycling, wheelchair use, and horse riding through scenic areas of the state. Appendix B of the California Recreational Trails Plan defines a state trail corridor as a long-distance route (over 50 miles) identified for nonmotorized travel (may share roads with motor vehicles on an interim basis) that links people to public and private lands that have outstanding scenic, historic, natural, educational, or recreational values and connects with other trail corridors or shorter local trails and stimulates development of connecting trails by its location. The first phase of the California Recreational Trails Plan was created in 2002 to serve as a general guide for trail advocates and local trail management agencies and organizations in planning future trails and developing trails-related programs, in accordance with its mission to “promote the establishment and maintenance of a system of trails and greenways that serves California’s diverse population while respecting and protecting the integrity of its equally diverse natural and cultural resources. The system should be accessible to all Californians for improving their physical and mental well-being by presenting opportunities for recreation, transportation, and education, each of which provides enhanced environmental and societal benefits.” Phase II of the California Recreational Trails Plan is still in progress, with progress reports posted on the California Parks website every 2 years. Of the 14 Coastal Southern California Trail Corridors described in the California Recreation Trails Plan, one trail corridor, the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor, passes through the Trails Master Plan Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rim of the Valley Trail (#7): This 200-mile trail corridor (40 percent complete in 2011)⁴ passes through the Phase II.b area and connects to the Backbone Trail in the SMMNRA to the south, the Pacific Crest Trail through additional trails leading to the northeast, Juan Bautista de Anza Trail to the south, and the Los Angeles River Parkway to the southeast. <p>There are four additional Southern California Trail Corridors described in the California Recreation Trails Plan that are located in Western Los Angeles County or Eastern Ventura County: the Condor Trail, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the Pacific Crest/California Coastal Trail, and the Santa Clara River Trail.</p>
B	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) ⁵	State of California; includes entire project study area	No	Approved (2015) – California Department of Parks and Recreation’s statewide master plan for state and local parks and outdoor recreational open space areas. The SCORP offers policy guidance to federal, state, local, and special district agency recreation providers and establishes priorities for Land and Water Conservation Fund grant allocations to local governments.
C	Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study ⁶	Rim of the Valley Corridor (Ventura and Los Angeles counties); includes majority of Phase II.a area; includes entire Phase II.b area	Yes; Proposed trail corridor	Approved (2016) – National Park Service study evaluating whether portions of the area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor are nationally significant, suitable, and feasible for inclusion in the national park system. The study also evaluated whether any portions of the corridor would be eligible for inclusion in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). Includes proposed regional Rim of the Valley Trail corridor, which would provide a challenging long distance trail encircling the San Fernando and La Crescenta valleys in County of Los Angeles, and another trail loop encircling Simi Valley in Ventura County.
D	Santa Susana Mountains Final Trails Master Plan ⁷	San Fernando Valley and Santa Clarita Valley in northwestern Los Angeles County; includes entire Phase II.a area	Yes; Proposed trails	Approved (2015) – Trails master plan for the development of approximately 35.9 miles of trail with 22 proposed trail segments , for a total of approximately 71.5 miles of trails within the Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan Area, including 24.5 miles of proposed trails within the Phase I area. The Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan would connect Newhall Ranch Specific Plan trails to the Rim of the Valley Trail corridor.
E	Castaic Area Multi-Use Trails Plan ⁸	Santa Clarita Valley in northwestern Los Angeles County; 3.2 miles north of Phase II.a area	Yes; Proposed trails	Approved (2016) – Trails master plan for the development of approximately 89 miles of proposed multi-use trails and related staging areas, bike skills parks, parking areas, and other supporting trail facilities in the Castaic Area.
F	City of Santa Clarita Master Plan of Trails ⁹	City of Santa Clarita in northwestern Los Angeles county; includes portion of Phase II.a area (Towsley Canyon)	Yes; Proposed trails	Approved (Last updated November 2016) – The City of Santa Clarita manages approximately 80 miles of trails, which are classified as Class 1 – Bike Path, Class II – Bike Lane, Class II – Bike Route, and Multi Use. ¹⁰ Includes proposed trails .
G	Potrero Village-Newhall Ranch Phase IV (TR61911) ¹¹	Portion of Newhall Ranch Specific Plan Area in Santa Clarita Valley, northwestern Los Angeles County; adjacent to Phase II.a area	Yes; 16 acres of private trails (no proposed public trails)	<p>Open Status (2013 Application) – A mixed use development project with 4,385 proposed housing units, 3 parks totaling 190 acres, 5 recreation centers, an elementary school, a fire station, a visitor center, a 14.8-acre spineflower reserve, 1,463 acres of open space, and 245,000 square feet of commercial development on a 26.9 gross acre site. The project will require other infrastructure improvements such as debris basins, electrical transfer station, water quality basins, and an internal circulation system consisting of trails, driveways, streets and highways.¹²</p> <p>DPR required a 37.59-acre parkland obligation; no trails were identified.¹³</p>
H	Legacy (Stevenson Ranch - Phase V) (TR061996) ¹⁴	Western portion of Phase II.a area between Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area and unincorporated community of Stevenson Ranch.	Yes; Proposed trails	Open Status (2015) – A mixed use development including single and multi-family residential, commercial, an assisted living facility and open space and a park and some trails and walking paths. Includes a trail along Long Canyon Drainage canal, and a segment of Pico Canyon Trail from eastern and western extents of tract on Pico Canyon Road.

**TABLE 1.13-1
LIST OF RELATED PROJECTS¹**

Label	Project Name	Location	Proposed Trails/ Trail Corridors?	Description
I	Entrada North (TR071377) ¹⁵	Northern portion of Phase II.a area near SR-126.	Yes; Proposed trails	Open Status (2015) – A mixed use master planned community with residential and commercial uses, as well as recreational, and open spaces that will have a phase on both the north and south sides of the Santa Clara River. Includes proposed mixed-use trail on north side of the Santa Clara River.
J	Magic Mountain Entertainment / Entrada South (TR53295) ¹⁶	Northern portion of Phase II.a area, to north and south of Six Flags Magic Mountain.	Yes; Proposed trails	Open Status (2015) – Entrada South will be a large residential and commercial development with single and multi-family homes, with shopping centers, parks, schools, libraries and open spaces. The project includes a significant network of paseos, recreational trails, and community trails.
K	Aidlin Hills (TR52796) ¹⁷	Pico Canyon and Wickham Canyon in Santa Clarita Valley, northwestern Los Angeles County; a portion is located within Phase II.a area	Yes; Proposed trails	Approved (2016) – 102 single-family residential lots, 9 open space lots, 5 public facility lots on 229 acres. Includes proposed segment of Pico Canyon Trail from eastern and western extents of tract on Pico Canyon Road.
L	Lyons Canyon Ranch Project (TR53653) ¹⁸	Lyon Canyon in Santa Clarita Valley, northwestern Los Angeles County; located entirely within Phase II.a area	Yes; existing County maintained “Gavin Canyon Trail” along historic Lyons Ranch Road	Hold Status (2016 Application) – Modification to approved Tentative Tract Map No. 53653 to remove one residential lot. Project involves development of 92 single-family residential lots and 93 senior condominium units, six debris/public facility lots, one recreational lot, and five open space lots.
M	Woolsey Canyon Estates (TR061037) ¹⁹	Within Phase II.b area to the southwest of existing unincorporated community of Chatsworth Lake Manor	Not yet	Hold Status (2013) – A small residential community on Woolsey Canyon Road with just over 10 homes. In 2013 a Significant Ecological Areas Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC) meeting was held to evaluate the project. Parcel data indicates the land has now been purchased and is controlled by MRCA.
N	Tentative Tract Map RTM- (TR073766) ²⁰	Bell Canyon and Dayton Canyon in San Fernando Valley, northwestern Los Angeles County adjacent to Ventura County; located entirely within Phase II.b area	Not yet	Open Status (2015 Application) – To create 46 single-family residential lots, 3 open space lots, 1 water tank lot, 1 private drive lot on 89.9 acres. Project would meet park obligations through payment of in-lieu fees.

SOURCES:

- ¹ Aranda, Diane, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 31 January 2017. Related Projects. Email to Sapphos Environmental, Inc. (Laura Male).
- ² California Department of Parks and Recreation. Accessed 10 January 2017. California Recreational Trails Plan & Progress Report. Available at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23443
- ³ California Department of Parks and Recreation. 2002. Recreational Trails Plan, 2002. Available at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23443
- ⁴ California State Parks, Planning Division, Statewide Trails Section. 2011. California Recreational Trails Plan: Executive Summary Progress Report 2011. Available at: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/2011%20progress%20report%20summary%20final.pdf>
- ⁵ California Department of Parks and Recreation. Accessed 4 January 2017. Parks for All Californians. Available at: <http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/scorp>.
- ⁶ National Park Service. Accessed 4 January 2017. Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study. Available at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=70887>
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- ⁹ City of Santa Clarita. November 2016. City of Santa Clarita Master Plan of Trails. Available at: <http://www.santa-clarita.com/Home/ShowDocument?id=6973>
- ¹⁰ City of Santa Clarita. Accessed 10 February 2017. City of Santa Clarita Trails. Available at: <http://www.santa-clarita.com/city-hall/departments/neighborhood-services/parks-division/trails>
- ¹¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 28 May 2015. Project No. R2013-01790-(5) / Tentative Tract Map 061911. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/r2013-01790/>
- ¹² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 28 May 2015. Subdivision Committee Report. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/case/tr061911_drp-report-20150528.pdf
- ¹³ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 19 May 2015. Vesting Tentative Tract Map 61911 (Potrero Village) Park Conditions of Map Approval. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/case/tr061911_parks-report-20150528.pdf
- ¹⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 16 December 2014. Parks and Trails Report. Vesting Tentative Tract Map 61996 (Legacy Village) Park and Trail Conditions of Approval Dated November 19, 2014 Subdivision Committee Meeting January 8, 2015. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/case/tr061996_parks-20150108.pdf
- ¹⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 11 January 2015. Project No. R2013-02833-(5) / Vesting Tentative Tract Map 071377 / Entrada North. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/r2013-02833>
- ¹⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Accessed 18 September 2017. Project No. 00-210-(5) / Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 53295 / Entrada South. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/entrada>
- ¹⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 17 August 2016. Project No. 00-136-(5) / Tract Map No. 52796. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/00-136>
- ¹⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 15 August 2017. Tentative Tract Map No. 53653/Lyons Canyon Ranch Project. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/tentative_tract_map_no_53653_lyons_canyon_ranch_project/
- ¹⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 4 February 2013. Project No. 04-069-(5) / Tentative Tract Map No. 061037 / Woolsey Canyon Estates. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/04-069>
- ²⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 1 October 2015. Project No. R2015-02638-(5)/Tentative Tract Map 073766. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/tr073766/>

Section 2

Environmental Checklist and Impact Analysis



Environmental Checklist Form (Initial Study)

County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation

Project title: “Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II”

Lead agency name and address: Los Angeles County, 510 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90020

Contact Person and phone number: Julie Yom, AICP, Park Planner (213) 351-5127

Project sponsor’s name and address: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 510 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90020

Project location: Please see Section 1, *Project Description*

APN: several USGS Quad: Val Verde, Newhall, Simi Valley East (Santa Susana), Oat Mountain, and Calabasas

Gross Acreage: 14,808

General plan designation: Please see Section 1, *Project Description*

Community/Area wide Plan designation: Please see Section 1, *Project Description*

Zoning: Please see Section 1, *Project Description*

Description of project: Please see Section 1, *Project Description*

Surrounding land uses and setting: Please see Section 1, *Project Description*

Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun? Yes

Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

<i>Public Agency</i>	<i>Approval Required</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Major projects in the area:

<i>Project/Case No.</i>	<i>Description and Status</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Reviewing Agencies:

Responsible Agencies

- None
- Regional Water Quality Control Board:
 - Los Angeles Region
 - Lahontan Region
- Coastal Commission
- Army Corps of Engineers

Special Reviewing Agencies

- None
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- National Parks
- National Forest
- Edwards Air Force Base
- Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains Area
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Regional Significance

- None
- SCAG Criteria
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Santa Monica Mtns. Area
-

Trustee Agencies

- None
- State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- State Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- State Lands Commission
- University of California (Natural Land and Water Reserves System)

County Reviewing Agencies

- DPW:
 - Land Development Division (Grading & Drainage)
 - Geotechnical & Materials Engineering Division
 - Watershed Management Division (NPDES)
 - Traffic and Lighting Division
 - Environmental Programs Division
 - Waterworks Division
 - Sewer Maintenance Division

- Fire Department
 - Forestry, Environmental Division
 - Planning Division
 - Land Development Unit
 - Health Hazmat
- Sanitation District
- Public Health/Environmental Health Division: Land Use Program (OWTS), Drinking Water Program (Private Wells), Toxics Epidemiology Program (Noise)
- Sheriff Department
- Regional Planning
- Subdivision Committee
-

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project.

- Aesthetics Greenhouse Gas Emissions Public Services
- Agriculture/Forest Hazards/Hazardous Materials Recreation
- Air Quality Hydrology/Water Quality Transportation/Traffic
- Biological Resources Land Use/Planning Tribal Cultural Resources
- Cultural Resources Mineral Resources Utilities/Services
- Energy Noise Mandatory Findings
of Significance
- Geology/Soils Population/Housing

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Department.)
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature (Prepared by) 

Date 10/30/17

Signature (Approved by)

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Department cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the Lead Department has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level. (Mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced.)
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA processes, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. (State CEQA Guidelines § 15063(c)(3)(D).) In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of, and adequately analyzed in, an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) The explanation of each issue should identify: the significance threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question, and; mitigation measures identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. Sources of thresholds include the County General Plan, other County planning documents, and County ordinances. Some thresholds are unique to geographical locations.
- 8) Climate Change Impacts: When determining whether a project's impacts are significant, the analysis should consider, when relevant, the effects of future climate change on : 1) worsening hazardous conditions that pose risks to the project's inhabitants and structures (e.g., floods and wildfires), and 2) worsening the project's impacts on the environment (e.g., impacts on special status species and public health).

1. AESTHETICS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to aesthetics, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Aesthetics Technical Report* (Appendix A).

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in no impacts to aesthetics regarding having a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. There are no designated scenic vista points within the project study area; nor is the project study area visible from scenic vista points designated within the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 or by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).^{1,2} Caltrans has designated one vista point within Los Angeles County, Lamont Odett Vista Point, which is located at Post Mile 57.8 along the northbound side of State Route 14 (SR-14) and overlooks the Aerospace Valley, Lake Palmdale, and the California Aqueduct toward the north and northeast (see Figure 5.1.1-1, *Scenic Vistas*, in Appendix A).³ This vista point is approximately 26.4 miles northeast of the Phase II.a area and approximately 35.9 miles northeast of the Phase II.b area, on the opposite side of the San Gabriel Mountains. The project study area is not visible from this vista point due to distance, an intended directional vista towards the north, and intervening topography. Ventura County and the City of Los Angeles have no designated scenic vistas in the vicinity of the project study area. The County of Los Angeles (County) has designated 30 Public Viewing Areas in the Santa Monica Local Coastal Program, which are located approximately 7.5 to 17.3 miles south of the Phase II.b area (see Figure 5.1.1-1 in Appendix A).⁴ The Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan establishes Land Use Policy LU-54 for protection of Public Viewing Areas from visual blight as a result of the telecommunications network.⁵ The Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Program establishes that Public Viewing Areas are intended to reduce visual impacts as a result of new buildings, water tanks, telecommunication facilities, and all projects for which applications for a Coastal Development Permit are required.⁶ As the project study area is not located within a Coastal Zone and the proposed project would not require a Coastal Development Permit, the Santa Monica Local Coastal Program is not applicable to the proposed project. Due to distance and intervening topography of the Santa Monica Mountains, the project study area is not visible

¹ The County has designated Public Viewing Areas in the Santa Monica Mountains Land Use Plans, which are located more than 15 miles south of the project study area.

² Male, Laura, Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena, CA. 3 July 2015. Communication with Daniel Kitowski, Transportation Manager (GIS), California Department of Transportation.

³ California Department of Transportation. 2016. 2015 Named Freeways, Highways, Structures and Other Appurtenances in California. Available at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tsip/hseb/products/Named_Freeways_Final.pdf

⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. November 2013. Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program map with public viewing areas. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/coastal_adopted-map3.pdf

⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. August 2014. Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program: Land Use Plan. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/coastal_adopted-LUP.pdf

⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 2014. Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Program: Land Use Plan. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/coastal_adopted-LIP.pdf

from Public Viewing Areas. Therefore, there would be no impacts to scenic vistas as a result of the proposed project, and no mitigation would be required.

b) Be visible from or obstruct views from a regional riding or hiking trail?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics regarding being visible from or obstructing views from a regional riding or hiking trail. Although the proposed project would potentially be visible from nearby existing regional trails, it would not obstruct views due to intervening topography, trees, and shrubs, as well as the small scale of the proposed facilities. A viewshed analysis was conducted that determined that, based on topography, up to 65.1 percent of the project study area would potentially be visible from the existing regional riding and hiking trails with clear atmospheric conditions and no intervening trees or shrubs (see Figure 5.2.2-1, *Viewshed Map – Existing Regional Trails*, in Appendix A). As the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) is located approximately 14.9 miles northeast of the project study area at the nearest point, it is not anticipated that the proposed trails would be visible from the PCT.

According to the viewshed analysis based on topography, approximately 70.5 percent (49.5 of 70.3 miles) of proposed trails have the potential to be visible from existing regional trails with clear atmospheric conditions and no intervening trees or shrubs. A viewshed analysis evaluates visibility based solely on topographic data, and the presence of large trees, large shrubs, buildings, and infrastructure between regional trails and the project study area would reduce the potential visibility level further than this estimate. Furthermore, trails and supporting facility structures would not dramatically alter the form of ridgelines within the study area and would therefore not be likely to be visible from, or obstruct views from, regional trails.

There is one existing trail segment within the project study area that is part of the County’s Regional Trail System: Pico Canyon Trail (0.6 miles), within the Phase II.a area. Although the proposed project would be visible from these existing regional trail segments because new trail segments would be located adjacent to or within a mile of the existing segments, it would enhance the existing recreational experience and trail system by providing connections between the existing trail segments that would be visible from these trails. The proposed project, which would involve new trails, staging areas, bike skills areas, restrooms, parking lots, and other related trail facilities, would be designed to enhance views from recreational trails. Therefore, there would be less than significant impacts to aesthetics regarding being visible from or obstructing views from a regional riding or hiking trail, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

The proposed project would result in significant impacts to aesthetics regarding substantially damaging scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance. The proposed project would be located within the scenic highway corridor of the two nearest eligible state scenic highways—Henry Mayo Drive (SR-126) and the Golden State Highway (Interstate 5 [I-5])—because the Phase II.a area is adjacent to these scenic routes and proposed trail corridors would be located within a one-mile corridor foreground radius. The proposed Pico Channel Trail corridor would cross under I-5 to connect to existing bikeways in the City of Santa Clarita. One proposed trail corridor (Entrada to Santa Clara River) would be located within a one-mile radius of SR-

126. Seven proposed trail corridors would be located within a one-mile radius of I-5:

1. Entrada
2. Lyons Ranch
3. Pico Channel
4. Pico Canyon
5. Pico Park
6. Rice Canyon
7. The Old Road

The nearest officially designated state scenic highway is the recently designated SR-27, which was officially designated on March 22, 2017, and is approximately 5.1 miles southeast of the project study area. The proposed project has the potential to be visible from SR-27 in the middleground or background. The proposed project would not be visible from Angeles Crest Highway (SR-2) and Maricopa Highway (SR-33), due to distance and intervening topography. Angeles Crest Highway is an officially designated state scenic highway located over 24 miles east of the project study area, and Maricopa Highway is an officially designated state scenic highway located over 28 miles west of the study area.

Based on viewshed analysis, approximately 24.2 miles of the proposed trails within the Phase II.a area would have the potential to be visible in the foreground to middleground from officially designated and eligible state scenic highways (see Figure 5.2.3-1, *Viewshed Map – Designated and Eligible State Scenic Highways*, in Appendix A). Key Observation Points (KOPs) 1, 2, and 3 are representative of potential views from SR-126 and I-5 (see Appendix A.1, *Key Observation Points*, in Appendix A). Approximately 39.4 miles (56.1 percent) of the 70.3 miles of proposed trails would have the potential to be visible, based solely on topographic data. As the Phase II.a area is adjacent to SR-126 and I-5, implementation of mitigation measures would be required to reduce potential impacts to scenic resources within a state scenic highway to below the level of significance.

Based on viewshed analysis, approximately 15 miles of the proposed trails within the Phase II.b area would have the potential to be visible in the middleground to background from officially designated and eligible state scenic highways (see Figure 5.2.3-1 in Appendix A).

The proposed project would have the potential to affect the health of existing coast live oak trees and other protected trees along the proposed trail alignments and supporting facilities that are important to the character of the scenic highway corridors. The proposed project involves trail segments within scenic Pico Canyon, along scenic water bodies including the Santa Clara River, and through scenic forests/woodlands (see Figure 5.1.4-1, *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Designated Scenic Resources*, in Appendix A). Although the construction of trails within these scenic resource areas and sensitive woodland areas would not result in significant impacts to visual character because trail construction can be conducted in a low-impact manner in accordance with the County Trails Manual, there is potential for significant impacts to occur if scenic trees are removed. Therefore, the proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts to aesthetics regarding scenic resources within a state scenic highway. Implementation of Mitigation Measures AES-1 and AES-2 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Mitigation Measure AES-1: Trails and supporting facilities within a one-mile radius of officially designated and eligible state scenic highways shall be designed, constructed, and maintained (where construction equipment is involved) to avoid damaging or removal of scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within the scenic highway corridor. If any mature tree must be removed that would alter the viewshed, it shall be replaced at a minimum of a 1:1

ratio. If any new structures or buildings are constructed within a one-mile radius of an officially designated or eligible state scenic highway, landscape screening of the structures and buildings shall be installed on the side(s) of the structure facing the scenic highway to reduce visual impacts to the scenic highway corridor.

Mitigation Measure AES-2: Trails and supporting facilities shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid the drip line of any coast live oak trees and other protected trees that are located along the proposed trail alignments, in order to maintain the visual character of the area. Best Management Practices shall be used during construction and trails maintenance activities to protect the root structures of protected trees:

- A Worker Education and Awareness Program (WEAP) shall inform all construction workers of County Ordinances protecting oak trees and the sensitivity of roots to damage from compaction or excessive water.
- Drip line of oak trees shall be designated as off-limits during construction on all construction drawings and diagrams.
- Fencing and/or flagging shall be used to delineate the drip line of the trees as off-limits during trail construction.
- On-site monitors shall be utilized for periods when trail construction will be undertaken within 100 feet of the drip line of the oak trees.
- If a protected tree must be removed, the same species shall be replaced at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio.

Impacts to aesthetics regarding scenic resources within a state scenic highway corridor would be less than significant after implementation of mitigation measures.

d) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics regarding substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features. Trails and related supporting facilities would generally not be expected to substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, or character because they would be low to the ground, spaced and designed in a pattern that follows the natural topography and existing paved and dirt roads, and be consistent with the scale and character of the rural project study area that already contains several dirt access roads and fire roads throughout the mountainous and hilly terrain. The proposed project would be expected to directly impact up to 131.7 acres, including approximately 102 acres of proposed trails and approximately 30.5 acres of proposed facility locations, which constitutes less than one percent of the study area.

Trails and related supporting facilities are generally consistent with the existing visual character of the project study area and surrounding areas. Although the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan only directly mentions trails within the Parks and Recreation land use designation, the land use policy defers to the specific allowable uses and development standards determined by underlying zoning designations and adopted Specific Plans. The County zoning designations for the project study area are predominantly

open space and light agricultural, with land designated in the County General Plan for open space, rural land, single-family residential, major commercial, and other uses that are compatible with trails.^{7,8} The Heavy Agricultural Zone, Light Manufacturing Zone, Unlimited Commercial Zone, Commercial Manufacturing Zone, Commercial Recreation Zone, Restricted Heavy Manufacturing Zone, and Neighborhood Business Zone permit riding and hiking trails; the Open Space Zone, Light Agricultural Zone, Manufacturing – Industrial Planned Zone, and residential zones in the project study area allow for riding and hiking trails if they have been approved by the Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Director); and riding and hiking trails may be allowed in the Institutional Zone upon approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Consistent with planning guidelines provided by the County Trails Manual, conceptual trail alignments have been planned to maintain the characteristic rugged aesthetic of the trail. The proposed project has the potential to enhance the trail's visual quality through clarified trail designation, maintenance, and revegetation along constructed portions of the trail with native plants that may not have survived construction of subdivisions. The experience of recreation users would be enhanced through the incorporation of informational signs at trail intersections to provide orientation. The County Trail Manual specifies desired minimum trail widths for multi-use trails (accommodating bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians) at 5 feet, wherever possible, with 6- to 10-foot-wide turn outs in high-traffic areas. Where trails of up to 10 feet wide are developed or existing trails are expanded up to 10 feet wide, impacts to the visual character of the viewshed from surrounding residences can be avoided through the incorporation of native vegetation as a screening material. Restoration of native vegetation along conceptual trail alignments would have the potential to enhance the visual character within the project study area. Preserving existing native vegetation adjacent to the trail would protect the aesthetic quality of the project study area.⁹

Trails proposed as a result of the proposed project would be consistent with the visual character of the project study area and surrounding areas. The visual nature of the project study area is dominated by native and non-native vegetation, transmission corridors, roads, isolated structures, suburban and industrial/commercial developed areas, and trails (see Appendix A.1 in Appendix A). The proposed trail improvements are compatible with the existing visual character of the project study area. Several official trails and many unofficial trail segments currently traverse the project study area. Hiking and riding are passive recreation activities that are compatible with the land use allowed within the three adopted SEAs that encompass small portions of the project study area. The proposed trail alignments would not substantially degrade or alter the existing visual character of the project study area. As the majority of trail designations in the proposed project already exist as access roads, fire roads, rights-of-way, and desire line trails (unofficial trails created where a significant number of people want to travel), trail construction would be relatively minor, predominantly consisting of realignments, improvements, and signage. Therefore, future trails anticipated in the proposed project would not be expected to result in significant impacts to aesthetics related to substantial degradation of the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings.

According to the viewshed analysis conducted using ArcGIS to evaluate the potential visibility level of the project study area from County-designated Town and Country Scenic Drives based on topography,

⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. County of Los Angeles General Plan 2035. Chapter 6: Land Use Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf

⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 27 November 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. Chapter 2: Land Use. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-ch-02-landuse.pdf

⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

approximately 48 percent (approximately 33.7 of a total of 70.3 miles) of the proposed trails would be visible from Town and Country Scenic Drives located within a 15-mile radius of the project study area (Figure 5.2.4-1, *Viewshed Map – County Designated Town and Country Scenic Drives*, in Appendix A). It should be noted that a viewshed analysis evaluates visibility based solely on topographic data, and the presence of large trees, large shrubs, buildings, and infrastructure between the Town and Country Scenic Drives and the study area would be expected to reduce the potential visibility level significantly from this estimate. Furthermore, trails and supporting facility structures would not be expected to dramatically alter the form of ridgelines within the study area, and would therefore not be likely to be substantially visible from Town and Country Scenic Drives over 5 miles (foreground view) from the study area.

Trails are normally considered a compatible use within a Significant Ecological Area (SEA). Trail development within a SEA would likely require preparation of a Biota Report to demonstrate that the trail could be constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that avoids significant impacts, inclusive of the visual character of the area. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics regarding degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features as a result of the proposed project, and no mitigation would be required.

e) Create a new source of substantial shadows, light, or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics regarding the creation of a new source of substantial shadows, light or glare. As the project study area is generally rural, with suburban areas typically containing single-story to two-story residences and commercial and industrial buildings generally surrounded by parking lots and landscaping that provide a buffer between the buildings and potential shadow sensitive land uses, the structures considered within the proposed project would not be expected to create a new source of substantial shadows. Facilities such as restrooms, shade structures, and parking lots in support of the proposed trails would not be expected to be taller than a two-story building. Where buildings included in the plan are part of subdivision agreements, they would be designed to avoid creating substantial shadows on the new residences.

Approximately 50 percent of the project study area is located within the County’s Rural Outdoor Lighting District and subject to restrictions in terms of light and glare at night to maintain dark skies at night for the residents and wildlife in the district (see Figure 3.3-1, *Existing Light Levels at Night*, in Appendix A).¹⁰ Under the ordinance, outdoor lighting shall be fully shielded on properties located in residential, agricultural, open space, or watershed zones.¹¹ Exterior lighting on restrooms and other trail-related supporting facilities would be required to conform to the ordinance. As shown in Figure 3.3-1 in Appendix A, the remaining 50 percent of the project study area (12 square miles in the Phase II.a area) that is not located within the County’s Rural Outdoor Lighting District is predominantly characterized by a high level of existing nighttime sky glow, including Six Flags Magic Mountain, the nearby City of Santa Clarita, the community of Stevenson Ranch, and the industrial Castaic Junction area in the northeastern portion of the project study area. Due to the high level of existing nighttime sky glow, impacts from exterior lighting on restrooms and other trail related supporting facilities, would be less than significant.

¹⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Accessed 1 August 2017. GIS-NET3 Public. Planning & Zoning Information for Unincorporated LA County. Available at: http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html

¹¹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. 28 September 2012. Ordinance No. 2012-0047. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/ord_outdoor-lighting.pdf

The hours of operation for Los Angeles County trails are typically from dawn to dusk (County Code 17.04.330). Therefore, the proposed project would not include installation of nighttime lighting along the proposed trails; nor would the trails include nighttime safety lights that may affect nighttime views or add an additional source of light to the surrounding area. For safety purposes and to avoid disturbing the neighborhood from which the site is accessed, construction would not be conducted at night. In accordance with the guidelines in Section 4.3.18, *Lighting*, of the County Trails Manual, where lighting features are provided for safety and wayfinding reasons, it would be installed in a manner to be nonintrusive to adjacent uses, avoid detracting from a natural outdoors experience for trail users, and directed downward to avoid light pollution or spillover in general.¹² As this guideline is independent of whether the trail segment or related supporting facility is located within the County's Rural Outdoor Lighting District, the proposed project, which must comply with the County Trails Manual, would not result in a significant new source of nighttime light.

The trail alignments under the proposed project would be predominantly natural surface trails that would not create a new source of substantial glare. The proposed project would also include interpretive signage, small structures, new parking lots, and other related supporting facilities that would have the potential to create a source of daytime glare where glass, metal, asphalt, and additional vehicles are involved. However, these facilities would be small and are anticipated to be constructed in the areas with an existing moderate to high daytime glare level, towards the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles, and the I-5 freeway, which contain paved roads; commercial, industrial, and residential development and infrastructure; moderate to high vehicle traffic levels on major roads and freeways; and the presence of reflective water bodies. Thus, the supporting facilities would not be expected to create a new source of substantial glare. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics regarding shadows, light and glare, and no mitigation would be required.

¹² County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] Revised June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

2. AGRICULTURE / FORESTRY

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact on agriculture and forestry resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Agriculture and forestry resources in the project study area were evaluated with regard to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency,¹³ the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (One Valley One Vision),¹⁴ the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 (County General Plan),¹⁵ the Los Angeles County Hillside Management Ordinance, the California Department of Conservation Williamson Act Contract Land website,¹⁶ and the Los Angeles County Zoning Code (Title 22 – Planning and Zoning).

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to agriculture and forestry resources regarding the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Section 21060.1(a) of CEQA (Public Resources Code Sections 21060–74) delineates the consideration of agricultural land to include “prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or unique farmland, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California,” and is herein collectively referred to as “Farmland.”¹⁷ The FMMP was established in 1982 to assess the location, quality, and quantity of

¹³ California Department of Conservation. Accessed 22 August 2018. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Available at: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp>

¹⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-fulldoc.pdf

¹⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf

¹⁶ California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. 2015. State of California Williamson Act Contract Land: Data Submissions Current to 2014. Available at: ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/2014%20Statewide%20Map/WA_2014_11x17.pdf

¹⁷ State of California. Accessed 22 August 2017. California Law: California Public Resources Code Section 21060-21074. Available at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC§ionNum=21074.

agricultural lands in the State of California and conversion of these lands over time. The Phase II.a area contains 0.2 acre of Prime Farmland along the Entrada to Santa Clara River Corridor, and the Phase II.b area contains no Prime Farmland (Figure 2.2-1, *Important Farmland Map*; Table 2.2-1, *FMMP Important Farmland*). No proposed trail facilities are located within Prime Farmland. The Phase II.a area contains 33.3 acres of Unique Farmland, but no trail facilities are located within it. There is no Farmland of Statewide Importance or Farmland of Local Importance within the project study area. Because the proposed project would disturb less than a quarter acre of Prime Farmland, impacts to agriculture and forestry resources regarding conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

**TABLE 2.2-1
FMMP IMPORTANT FARMLAND**

FMMP Category	Total project study area (acres)	Impact Area (acres)	Impact Areas / Proposed Trails
Prime Farmland	66.3	0.2	Entrada to Santa Clara River corridor
Farmland of Statewide Importance	0	0	N/A
Unique Farmland	33.3	0	N/A
Farmland of Local Importance	0	0	N/A
Grazing Land	9,473.3	51	Grazing Land occurs within the Entrada, Entrada to Santa Clara River, Lyons Ranch, Mentryville-Newhall Ranch, Minnie-Lotta, Minne-Lotta to Lyons, Palo Sola, Pico Canyon, Pico Park, Pico to Newhall Ranch, Pico to Palo Sola, Rice Canyon, The Old Road, Towsley to North Ridge, Towsley to RIVA, Towsley to South Ridge, Wiley South Rim, Wiley to RIVA, and Wiley West Rim corridors.
Urban and Built-Up Land	2,673.5	2.1	Urban and Built-Up Land occurs within the Entrada, Entrada to Santa Clara River, Pico Canyon, Pico Channel, The Old Road, RIVA, and Woolsey to RIVA corridors
Other Land	2,557.5	28.2	Other Land occurs within Entrada, Entrada to Santa Clara River, Lyons Ranch, Minnie-Lotta to Lyons, Pico Canyon, Pico Park, rice Canyon, The Old Road, Bell Canyon, Dayton Canyon, Dayton to SSFL, John Luker Trail, Luker to RIVA, RIVA, Woolsey to RIVA, and Woolsey to Sage Ranch corridors
Total	14,803.9	81.5	

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Opportunity Area, or with a Williamson Act contract?

The proposed project would result in no impact to agriculture and forestry resources regarding conflict with existing zoning for agriculture use, with a designated Agricultural Opportunity Area, or with a Williamson Act contract. Agricultural Opportunity Areas have been replaced by Agricultural Resource Areas (ARAs) in the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. ARAs consist of farmland identified by the California Department of Conservation, including Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, and Unique Farmland. One ARA is located in the northern portion of the Phase II.a area; however, no trails or trail facilities are proposed within it.¹⁸ No Williamson Act contracts

¹⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. May 2014. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Figure 9.5: Agricultural Resource Areas Policy Map. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_2014-FIG_9-5_agricultural_resource_policy.pdf

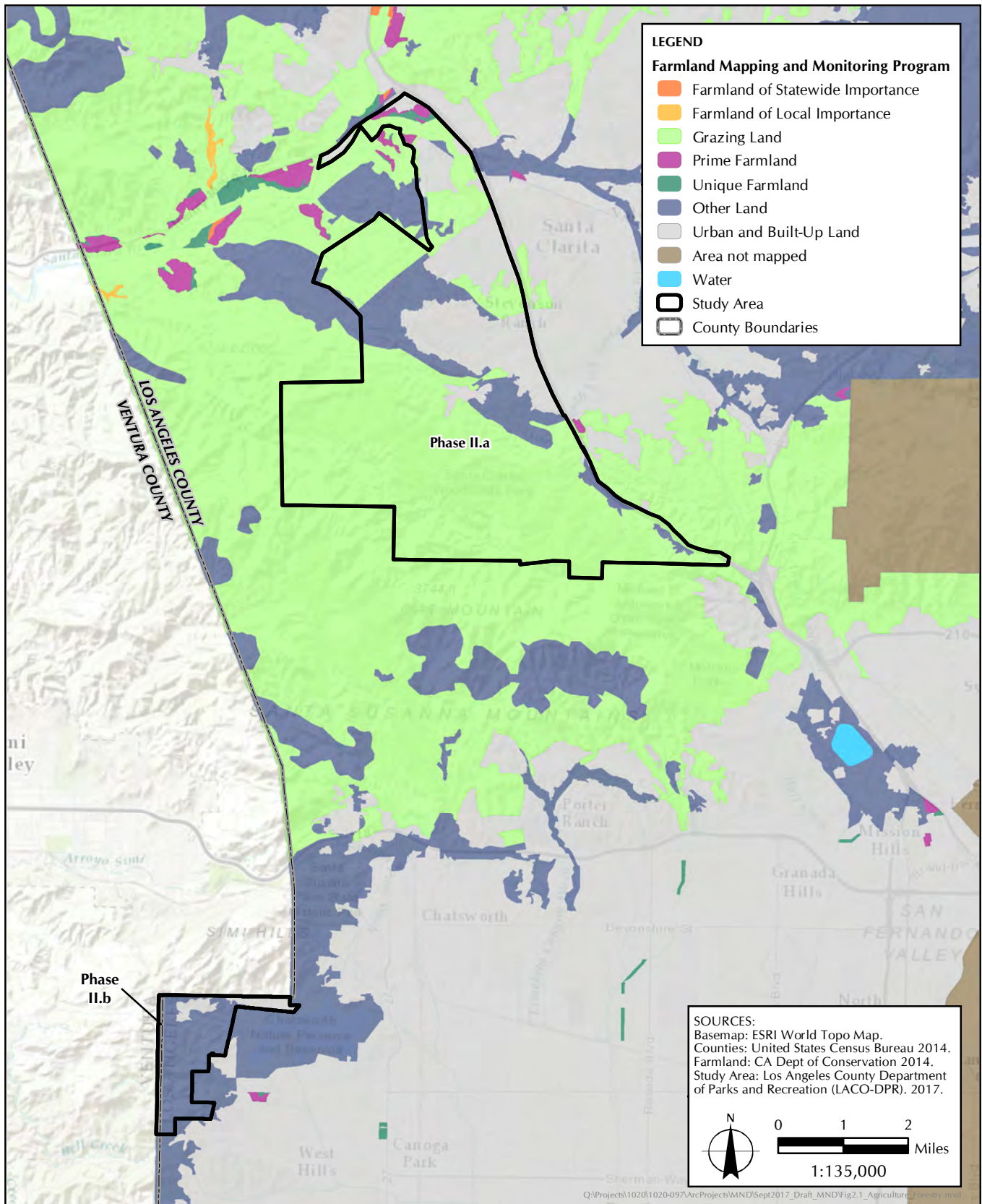


FIGURE 2.2-1
 Important Farmland Map

are located within the project study area.¹⁹ Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts to agriculture and forestry resources regarding conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Opportunity Area, or with a Williamson Act contract, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code § 12220 (g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code § 51104(g))?

The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. A Timberland Production Zone (TPZ) as defined in California Government Code Section 51104(g) as a 10-year restriction on the use of land, and will replace the use of agricultural preserves on timberland. Land use within a TPZ is restricted to growing and harvesting timber, and to compatible uses approved by the county (or city). In return, taxation of timberland under a TPZ will be based only on such restrictions in use. There is no land designated as a Timberland Production Zone within the project study area or the County of Los Angeles. The only timberland within the County is within Angeles National Forest to the east of the project study area and Los Padres National Forest to the north of the project study area.

Within the project study area, there is land that is zoned O-S and A-2 (see Figure 1.7-1, *Los Angeles County Zoning Designations*, in Section 1, *Project Description*). Zones O-S and A-2 could potentially become forest land due to this zoning designation. However, trails are acceptable uses within agricultural zones and thus would not conflict with existing zoning. Therefore, there would be no impacts in relation to conflicts with existing zoning for, or causing rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland production zoned Timberland Production, and no mitigation is required.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to agriculture and forestry resources regarding the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Forest Land as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) is land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. The proposed project would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. There is no forest land designation in the project study area.²⁰ Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact to agriculture and forestry resources regarding the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, and no mitigation would be required.

¹⁹ California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. 2016. Los Angeles County Williamson Act FY 2012/2013. Available at: ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/LA_15_16_WA.pdf

²⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-ch_04_os.pdf

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The proposed project would not involve changes to the existing environment which, due to location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The changes in the environment that would result from the proposed project involve grading and development of proposed trail facilities. The proposed project would involve trails ranging from 3 to 11 feet in width, and supporting facilities would be located to avoid Important Farmland and follow existing roads and disturbed areas where possible. The most notable of the proposed trail facilities is a bike skills area with restrooms, drinking fountains, rest areas and seating, shade structures, man-made compacted soil jumps, rock features, and a variety of trails over a maximum 8-acre area alongside the eastern portion of the Phase II.a area. The proposed bike skills area within the Phase II.a area would be located in an area categorized under the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as grazing land; thus, the project would have no impact in converting Farmland to a non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use (see Figure 2.2-1). Therefore, there would be no impacts regarding conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use, and no mitigation is required.

3. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to air quality, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Report* (Appendix B).

Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans of either the South Coast AQMD (SCAQMD) or the Antelope Valley AQMD (AVAQMD)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to air quality regarding conflicting with or obstructing implementation of applicable air quality plans of the SCAQMD. The two main plans of concern for the project study area are the Air Quality Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035²¹ and the 2016 SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).²² The proposed project would also be consistent with the Southern California Association of Governments’ (SCAG’s) 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).²³ The construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project would not cause a violation of the SCAQMD AQMP because it would not impede the ability of the basin to achieve the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) attainment deadlines for those pollutants not in attainment. Designations for attainment are determined from the ambient air quality. The proposed project would be consistent with the AQMP’s goals to invest in strategies that improve air quality by supporting transportation control measures to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT). This is also consistent with the Air Quality Element for the County General Plan, which states a direct link between transportation activities and air pollution. The project design measures to limit particulate matter from construction are in alignment with Policy AQ 1.3 to reduce particulate inorganic and biological emissions from construction, grading, excavation, and demolition to the maximum extent feasible.²⁴

An inventory of existing emissions is included in the baseline inventory in the AQMP. The AQMP identifies emission reductions from existing sources and air pollution control measures that are necessary in order to comply with the state and federal ambient air quality standards. The control strategies in the AQMP is based on projections from the local general plans provided by the cities in the air districts.

²¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 8: Air Quality Element. Available online at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch8.pdf

²² South Coast Air Quality Management District. March 2017. Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan. Available at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan/final-2016-aqmp>

²³ Southern California Association of Governments. 7 April 2016. 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). Available at: <http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/FINAL2016RTPSCS.aspx>

²⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 8: Air Quality Element. Available online at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch8.pdf

Projects that are consistent with the local general plans are consistent with the air quality related regional plans. The proposed project is considered to be consistent with the air quality related regional plans since it would be consistent with the local general plans.

For operations, the proposed project would minimally increase the number of vehicles coming to and from the parks and open space areas in the project study area by providing recreational opportunities close to where people live and through the long-term conservation of open space lands. These trips would be recreational in purpose, occurring mainly on weekends and/or outside peak hour traffic, and therefore not causing additional traffic. With limited new trips (four trips/mile/hour), the proposed project would support Goal 2 of the County General Plan by coordinating land use, transportation, and air quality planning (see Appendix B). The proposed project would also not have a long-term consequence on achieving attainment deadlines in the SCAQMD AQMP for criteria pollutants that are not in attainment because construction and operational emissions are below the level of significance. The proposed project is aligned with the 2016–2040 RTP/SCS because it would reduce VMT and encourage nearby recreation. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding conflicting with or obstructing implementation of applicable air quality plans, and no mitigation would be required.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to air quality regarding violating any air quality standard or contributing substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Ambient air quality data for the proposed project vicinity recorded at the Santa Clarita Monitoring Station from 2014 to 2016 indicated exceedances for the applicable federal standards for 1-hour ozone, 8-hour ozone and the state standards for annual PM₁₀ (see Table 5.1-2, *Summary of 2012–2014 Ambient Air Quality Data in the Trails Master Plan Vicinity*, of Appendix B). The proposed project’s daily construction emissions were generated using CalEEMod 2016.3.1. Table 5.2.1-1, *Estimated Daily Construction Emissions*, of Appendix B, summarizes the daily construction emissions associated with the proposed project’s construction activities and indicates that emissions would be below the SCAQMD daily constructional emissions thresholds of significance. Given that the proposed project would be operated as trails that would not require any stationary sources for daily operation and maintenance, long-term operation-related air emissions in the project study area are likely to result from vehicles traveling to and from the trailheads and minimal usage of a loader/backhoe/tractor for trail maintenance. According to Table 5.2.1-2, *Estimated Daily Operational Emissions*, of Appendix B, operational emissions associated with the proposed project are expected to be below the level of significance as determined by the SCAQMD. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding violating air quality standards or contributing substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to air quality regarding resulting in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is in non-attainment. Compared to the NAAQS, the County portion of the South Coast Air Basin is a nonattainment area for 1-hour ozone, 8-hour ozone, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and lead for near-source monitors (Appendix B).

Compared to the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), the County portion of the South Coast Air Basin is a nonattainment area for 1-hour ozone, 8-hour ozone, PM_{2.5}, and respirable particulate matter (PM₁₀) (Appendix B). The proposed project would generate these pollutants during the construction of trail improvements. The operations and maintenance phases of the proposed project would not cause a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant, as the proposed project is a recreational trail generating minimal new vehicle trips (four trips/mile/hour) and requiring minimal equipment for trail maintenance. Short-term cumulative impacts related to air quality could occur if project construction and nearby construction activities were to occur simultaneously. In particular, with respect to local impacts, cumulative construction particulate matter (i.e., fugitive dust) impacts are considered when projects are located within a few hundred yards of each other. Many of the related projects located within the project study area are residential subdivisions or other development projects that would require trail easements with the potential to create significant air quality impacts cumulatively during the construction phase. As these development projects are not fully defined in their entirety at this point in time, it is not feasible to quantify the emissions from these projects. Other nearby construction activities would include construction for trail segments proposed in the approved Castaic Trails Multi-Use Trails Plan, which includes 89 miles of new trails, and the approved Phase I of SSMFTMP, which includes 25 miles of new trails. These related trails would occur over the 2035 planning horizon and therefore are not expected to contribute substantially to daily emission thresholds. Other related projects that are anticipated to be implemented within the next decade are described in Table 1.13-1, *Related Projects*, in Section 1, *Project Description*. These projects may have the potential to emit significant air quality emissions, but the addition of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact in regard to cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. The proposed project is first and foremost a trails plan, which provides recreational opportunities close to areas where people live and work, and it would result in construction and operational emissions that are below the level of significance (Appendix B). These findings are consistent with the strategies in the 2016–2040 RTP/SCS for reducing VMT and enhancing public health. Therefore, the proposed project’s emissions would not be cumulatively considerable, and mitigation would not be required.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to air quality regarding exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Land uses identified to be sensitive receptors by SCAQMD in the California Air Resources Board’s (CARB’s) Air Quality Handbook include residences, schools, playgrounds, child care centers, athletic facilities, long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, and retirement homes.²⁵ There are 6,681 known sensitive receptors (6,666 residential areas, 6 parks, 9 schools) within the project study area. There are an additional 2,966 known sensitive receptors (2,953 residential areas, 1 senior day care center, 4 homes for aged and others, 3 parks, 1 health center, 4 schools) within a 0.5-mile radius of the project study area (see Figure 5.1-3 of Appendix B). Exposure of sensitive receptors to potential emissions would vary from day to day, depending on the amount of work being conducted, the weather conditions, the location of receptors, and the length of time that receptors would be exposed to air emissions. Best management practices would be required for dust suppression, pursuant to County building codes. On-road and off-road construction equipment would be required to comply with CARB tier standards for NO_x, CO, PM, and NMHC (non methane hydrocarbons) emissions. Due to the short-term nature of project construction, sensitive receptors would not be expected to be adversely affected by construction. For operation or maintenance of the proposed

²⁵ California Air Resources Board. April 2005. Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective. Available at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>

project, sensitive receptors would experience a longer duration of exposure. These emissions are below the level of significance and would decrease rapidly with distance from the proposed project site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant regarding exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, and mitigation would not be required.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

The proposed project would result in no significant impacts to air quality regarding creating objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. According to the CARB's Air Quality Handbook,²⁶ land uses and industrial operations associated with odor complaints include agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding. The construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project would not involve the type of land uses or industrial operations typically associated with odor nuisance. There are no land uses typically associated with the generation of nuisance odors in the project study area. Construction and maintenance of the proposed project would occur over very short durations. With the exception of providing access for individuals afforded protection pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the County does not allow the use of motorized equipment on trails or within park facilities, other than those designated for such use. Motor vehicle trips would be limited as well. Therefore, there would be no impact regarding creation of objectionable odors, and no mitigation would be required.

²⁶ California Air Resources Board. April 2005. Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective. Available at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to biological resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Biological Resources Technical Report* (Appendix C).

Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding having a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through the disturbance of natural habitats capable of sustaining these species during the construction and operation of trail facilities. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance.

Existing conditions within the project study area consist of approximately 3,833.9 acres of critical habitat for listed species (262.9 acres for arroyo toad, 152.9 acres for Braunton’s milk-vetch, 2,707.9 acres for coastal California gnatcatcher, 471.7 acres for least bell’s vireo, and 237.54 acres for southwestern willow flycatcher). Furthermore, there are California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records and suitable habitat for the federally and state-listed endangered unarmored threespine stickleback and San Fernando Valley spineflower, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) rare plant slender mariposa lily, Plummer’s mariposa lily, Newhall sunflower, and Santa Susana tarplant within 5 miles of the planned trail activities. In addition, CNDDB records and suitable habitat are present for sensitive wildlife species including western pond turtle, crotch bumble bee, western mastiff bat, coastal whiptail, and California glossy snake within 5 miles of the planned trail activities.

Trail widths for the proposed project vary between 3 and 11 feet. *Direct impacts* are impacts that result from a project and occur at the same time and place; *indirect impacts* are caused by a project, but can occur later in time or farther removed in distance while still being reasonably foreseeable and related to the project. Analysis for biological resources was based on a worst-case analysis using a maximum trail width of 12 feet (direct impact) and a 100-foot buffer (indirect impact) to account for construction disturbances beyond the trail footprint. Approximately 16.2 acres of critical habitat for listed species (less than one acre for arroyo toad, 2.5 acres for Braunton’s milk-vetch, 13.5 acres for coastal California gnatcatcher, 0.1 acres for least bell’s vireo, and less than one for southwestern willow flycatcher) could be directly impacted by conversion of trails and other recreation facilities. Up to 262.5 acres (0.7 acres for arroyo toad, 39.2 acres for Braunton’s milk-vetch, 219.3 acres for coastal California gnatcatcher, 2.8 acres for least bell’s vireo, and 0.5 acre for southwestern willow flycatcher) could be indirectly impacted through

associated construction activities. Furthermore, there are CNDDDB records and suitable habitat for the federally and/or state-listed species (California Orcutt grass, Braunton's milk-vetch, San Fernando Valley spineflower, unarmored threespine stickle, tricolored blackbird and Swainson's hawk), CNPS rare plants (Blochman's dudleya, chaparral nolina, late-flowered mariposa-lily, Palmer's grapplinghook, Plummer's mariposa-lily, and slender mariposa-lily), and sensitive wildlife species (American badger, California glossy snake coast horned lizard, coastal whiptail, crotch bumble bee, and western mastiff bat) within 100 feet of the planned trail activities that may be disturbed through trail development and associated construction activities.

Construction activities associated with trail development would include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads and trail staging areas. These construction activities have the potential to occur within areas of potentially suitable and occupied habitat for listed and special-status species. Direct impacts would occur during trail construction and would include direct loss of sensitive plant and/or wildlife species resulting from injury, death, or disturbance of these species. Additionally, direct impacts may occur through the direct habitat loss and fragmentation during construction of the trails and associated structures; introduction of non-native plants; and introduction of lighting, dust, and noise during construction. Further, indirect impacts resulting from the development of trails projects in the proposed project could occur as a result of increased human interaction with sensitive plants and wildlife.

This analysis of impacts of trails projects included in the proposed project to sensitive plant and wildlife species and their habitats and designated critical habitat is programmatic, and conservatively assumes that all species with critical habitat and/or CNDDDB records in the project area are present. The level of impact of subsequent projects would be subject to verification at the project level of environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Trail development projects would be subject to the provisions of the federal and California Endangered Species Acts (ESA); as well as Sections 1900–13, 3511, 4150, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the State Fish and Game Code; and Sections 80071–75 of the State Food and Agriculture Code.

Therefore, the proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding having a substantial adverse effect, either directly, or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: To mitigate potential impacts on listed, sensitive, and locally important species and their habitats, the County shall require that a habitat assessment by a qualified biologist take place using approved USFWS and CDFW protocols to identify suitable habitat for any listed, sensitive, and locally important species on-site. Where suitable and/or occupied habitat is determined to be present, mitigation shall be implemented such that there is no net loss of habitat functions or values. Opportunities for achieving this performance standard, consistent with the provisions of the federal and state ESAs, may include:

- Demonstration that trails segment projects have been and will be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid disturbance of any occupied habitat, potentially suitable habitat, and designated critical habitat for any listed, sensitive, or locally important species and to minimize impacts to native plant communities, wherever practicable and feasible.
- Consultation with USFWS and CDFW with regards to trail building activities within critical habitat and suitable habitat.
- Implementation of pre-construction habitat surveys to delineate occupied or suitable sensitive species' habitat to facilitate avoidance.

- Formal consultation with the USFWS will be required if a species afforded protection pursuant to the federal ESA is determined to be present as a result of focused protocol surveys. Formal consultation with the CDFW will be required if a species afforded protocol surveys.
- Altering the timing of construction to avoid seasons when sensitive species may be present (i.e., nesting bird season).
- Worker Education and Awareness Program to inform all construction workers of their responsibilities in regards to avoiding and minimizing impacts on sensitive biological resources.
- Designation of suitable habitat as off-limits during construction on all construction drawings and diagrams.
- Use of fencing and/or flagging to delineate environmentally sensitive areas as off-limits during trail construction.
- Use of on-site monitors for periods when trail construction will be undertaken within 250 feet of environmentally sensitive areas.
- When temporary impacts to critical habitat may occur, the development and implementation of a habitat restoration plan shall be required.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities (e.g., riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS?

The proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding having a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS through the disturbance of these communities during the construction of trails and associated structures. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance.

Based on a review of the information available through the Natural Heritage Division of CDFW, approximately 1,606.49 acres of state designated sensitive plant communities (including 367.14 acres of riparian communities) occur within the project study area.

Trail widths for the proposed project vary between 3 and 11 feet. Analysis for biological resources was based on a worst-case analysis using a maximum trail width of 12 feet (direct impact) and a 100-foot buffer (indirect impact) to account for construction disturbances beyond the trail footprint. Approximately 10.4 acres of state designated sensitive plant communities (including 3.2 acres of riparian communities) could be directly impacted as a result of trail conversion and other recreation facilities. Additionally, 165.1 acres of state designated sensitive plant communities (including 48.5 acres of riparian communities) could be indirectly impacted through associated construction activities.

Construction activities associated with trail development would include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads and trail staging areas. These construction activities have the potential to occur within sensitive natural communities on-site. Impacts associated with the disturbance of sensitive and riparian habitats would include direct loss and fragmentation of sensitive communities and riparian habitats as trails projects are developed and the introduction of non-native plants that would degrade existing communities. Further, indirect impacts resulting from the development of trails projects in the proposed project could occur as a result of increased public access to sensitive plant communities.

This analysis of impacts of trails projects included in the proposed project to sensitive plant communities and riparian habitats is programmatic, and conservatively assumes that sensitive plant communities have the potential to exist throughout the project area and that all waterways have the potential to contain riparian habitat. The level of impact of subsequent projects would be subject to verification at the project level of environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Trail development projects would be subject to the provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code in which a Streambed Alteration Agreement would need to be obtained prior to the alteration of a state jurisdictional area.

Therefore, the proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding having a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: To mitigate potential impacts on riparian, state-sensitive plant communities, state protected wetlands, and federally protected wetlands and waters of the United States, the County shall require that plant community mapping be conducted by a qualified biologist with experience classifying plant communities in Southern California and/or a formal jurisdictional delineation be conducted by a certified wetland delineator to identify any state or federally protected wetlands, riparian areas, and state-sensitive plant communities on-site. Where state designated sensitive plant communities, riparian habitat, state or federally protected wetlands, or waters of the United States are determined to be present, mitigation measures shall be implemented such that there is no net loss of habitat functions or values. Opportunities for achieving this performance standard, consistent with the provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code and Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, may include:

- Demonstration that trail segment projects have been and will be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid disturbance of any state-sensitive plant communities or riparian habitat, or any state or federally protected wetlands or waters of the United States wherever practicable and feasible.
- Conduct pre-construction habitat surveys to delineate sensitive plant communities and riparian habitats to facilitate avoidance.
- Consult with CDFW with regards to trail building activities within state-sensitive plant communities.
- Use of on-site monitors for periods when trail construction will be undertaken within 250 feet of oak woodlands, native woodlands, and 100 feet of the dripline of native trees.
- Where temporary impacts may occur to sensitive plant communities, the development and implementation of a habitat enhancement and restoration plan shall be required.
- Where permanent impacts may occur to sensitive plant communities, compensatory mitigation such as purchasing credits at mitigation bank, purchasing off-site lands, or similar shall be required.
- Where impacts are located in areas subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW pursuant to Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code, obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement prior to commencing ground-disturbing activities or any other alternation of a lake or stream.
- Where impacts are located in areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, obtain authorization to complete the required work pursuant to a Nationwide or individual permit.
- Where impacts are subject to the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, obtain a Waiver of Water Quality Certification or Notice of Applicability of Waste Discharge Requirement permit.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, and drainages) or waters of the United States, as defined by § 404 of the federal Clean Water Act or California Fish & Game code § 1600, et seq. through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

The proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding having a substantial adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands or waters of the United States through the disturbance and/or diversion of federally or state protected wetlands or waters of the United States during the construction of trails and associated structures. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance.

The analysis of wetland areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was analyzed to 0.01 acre. Approximately 56.3 linear miles of features identified as blue-line drainages and approximately 458.30 acres of National Wetland Inventory features that have the potential to be considered federally and/or state protected wetlands and/or waters of the United States are present within the project study area. In addition, approximately 367.19 acres within the project study area were identified by the CNDDDB as containing riparian plant communities, which are protected under California Fish and Game Code Section 1600. It is anticipated that additional state and federal jurisdictional areas beyond those identified through database and literature review may occur on-site.

Trail widths for the proposed project vary between 3 and 11 feet. Analysis for biological resources was based on a worst-case analysis using a maximum trail width of 12 feet (direct impact) and a 100-foot buffer (indirect impact) to account for construction disturbances beyond the trail footprint. Approximately 3.2 acres of riparian communities that may be under CDFW jurisdiction, 3.6 acres of federally protected wetland, and 1.4 miles of blue-line drainages that may include waters of the United States could be directly impacted and converted to trails and other recreation facilities. Additionally, 44.0 acres of federally protected wetlands and 14.6 miles of blue-line drainages could be indirectly impacted through associated construction activities.

Construction activities associated with trail development would include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads and trail staging areas. These construction activities have the potential to occur within and adjacent to state and federal wetlands and or waters of the United States on-site. Impacts would include disruption of streams and wetlands as new trails are developed and dredge and fill activities associated with trail development. Trail development projects would be subject to the provisions of Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. Dredge or fill in waters of the United States is subject to the regulatory authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. Trail development projects would also be subject to the provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code in which a Streambed Alteration Agreement would need to be obtained prior to the alteration of a state jurisdictional area.

Therefore, the proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding having a substantial adverse effect on federally or stat protected wetlands or waters of the United States. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

The proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding interfering substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impeding the use of native wildlife nursery sites directly as a result of trail construction or indirectly through the interruption of movement or migratory corridors caused by construction and use of trails and associated structures. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance.

The project study area is considered an important wildlife corridor as determined by the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Within the County General Plan, the Santa Clara River, Santa Susana Mountains, and Valley Oaks Savannah are identified as important corridors for wildlife movement, linking the Santa Monica Mountains, the San Gabriel Mountains, and Piru Lake in Ventura County. Trails and passive recreation use are an allowable use within Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). Although trail use would not conflict with the goals of the SEA program, new trail construction within an SEA would require consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, and a Biological Technical Report would need to be prepared for Significant Ecological Area Technical Advisory Committee (SEATAC) review. Furthermore, nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) have the potential to be present throughout the project area.

Construction activities associated with trail development would include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads and trail staging areas. These construction activities have the potential to occur within areas used for native wildlife movement and within and adjacent to suitable nesting locations for native and migratory birds on-site. Impacts would include direct habitat removal that would disrupt nesting birds as new trails project are developed and introduction of lighting and noise during construction and operation that may interrupt wildlife movement and disturb nursery sites. Additionally, an increase in wildlife-human interactions as a result of the development of new trails projects may increase wildlife injury.

The analysis of impact of trails project included in the proposed project is programmatic, and conservatively assumes the wildlife movement areas and nesting birds may occur throughout the project study area. The level of impact of subsequent projects would be subject to verification at the project level of environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Trail development project would be subject to the provisions of the MBTA.

Therefore, the proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding interfering substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impeding the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: To avoid impacts to nesting birds protected under the MBTA, trail construction should take place outside of the nesting bird season, which generally occurs between February 15 and September 1. If trail construction activities cannot avoid the nesting bird season, pre-construction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist a maximum of 3 days prior to the start of construction. Should nesting birds be discovered within or adjacent to the construction

footprint during these surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be placed on the active nest as determined by the biologist to prevent impacts to nesting birds. Construction shall be halted within the non-disturbance buffer of 250 feet of songbirds and 500 feet for raptors until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are flying well enough to avoid the proposed construction activities.

e) **Convert oak woodlands (as defined by the state, oak woodlands are oak stands with greater than 10% canopy cover with oaks at least 5 inch in diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade) or otherwise contain oak or other unique native trees (junipers, Joshuas, southern California black walnut, etc.)?**

The proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding converting oak woodlands or woodlands otherwise containing oak or other unique native trees through the disturbance of these woodlands during the construction of trails and associated structures. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance.

The project study area includes approximately 99.0 acres of state designated Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, 672.8 acres of California Walnut Woodland, and 532.2 acres of Valley Oak Woodland. Individual oak and native trees apart from existing woodland communities may also be present.

Trail widths for the proposed project vary between 3 and 11 feet. Analysis for biological resources was based on a worst-case analysis using a maximum trail width of 12 feet (direct impact) and a 100-foot buffer (indirect impact) to account for construction disturbances beyond the trail footprint. Approximately 2.6 acres of state designated Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, 2.8 acres of California Walnut Woodland, and 2.8 acres of Valley Oak Woodland intercept proposed trails and could be directly impacted by trail conversions and other recreation facilities. Additionally, 38.7 acres of state designated Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, 44.4 acres of California Walnut Woodland, and 47.3 acres of Valley Oak Woodland could be indirectly impacted through associated construction activities.

Construction activities associated with trail development would include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads and trail staging areas. These construction activities have the potential to occur within oak and other native woodlands on-site or within the dripline of individual oak or other native trees. Impacts associated with the disturbance of oak and other native woodlands would include direct loss and fragmentation of woodlands as trails projects are developed, and the introduction of non-native plants that would degrade existing woodlands.

Therefore, the proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources regarding converting oak woodlands or woodlands otherwise containing oak or other unique native trees. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-4 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: To mitigate potential impacts on oak and other native woodlands, the County shall require that for every protected tree that must be removed, the same species shall be replaced at a minimum 1:1 ratio. Compensatory mitigation for protected trees in the jurisdiction of the County may include replacement at a 3:1 ratio for trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of eight inches or more at an appropriate mitigation site, and replacement at a 10:1 ratio for heritage oaks. Monitoring for at least one year shall be required to meet success criteria.

f) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Areas (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.36), the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.56, Part 16), the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215), and Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.44, Part 6)?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to biological resources regarding conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Area (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch.12.36), the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch.22.56, Part 16), SEAs (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215), or Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch.22.44, Part 6).

The project study area is not located within any Wildflower Reserve Areas or SERAs; therefore, it would not conflict with these policies. The Northlake Specific Plan does not contain any policies related to biological resources; therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the policies of this plan. The proposed project would not result in significant impacts to biological resources related to conflicts with the County General Plan, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, or Newhall Ranch Specific Plan because trails and other recreation facilities are required to be designed consistent with the County of Los Angeles Trails Manual, which requires no net loss of habitat functions and values. The application of the County Trails Manual to the individual trails projects within the proposed project would accomplish the objectives within these plans of minimizing impacts to the natural environment. Furthermore, the implementation of the proposed project would be beneficial to biological resources because it would direct visitors to the project area to designated areas for use rather than permit disorganized use of the land without acknowledgement and protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

The proposed project would not conflict with Los Angeles County Municipal Code Title 22, Section 22.56.215 because trails and recreation facilities are allowed uses in SEAs, and any trails project under the proposed project would be required to comply with the SEATAC Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application process. The proposed project would not conflict with Municipal Code Sections 22.56.2050–60 because trails and recreation facilities would be designed to avoid the removal or disturbance of any protected oak tree, and any trails project under the proposed project would be required to comply with the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Removal Permit application process, should tree removal be necessary. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts regarding conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, and no mitigation would be required.

g) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted state, regional, or local habitat conservation plan?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to biological resources regarding conflict with the provisions of an adopted state, regional, or local habitat conservation plan. The project study area does not intersect with any Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) or Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). No mitigation would be required.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to cultural resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Cultural Resources Technical Report* (Appendix D, on file with the County, available on a need-to-know basis only).

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts to cultural resources regarding causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance. The archival research identified eight historic built resources within the area of potential impact of the Trails Master Plan (Appendix D). Two (2) historic built resources (P-19-190691, P-19-186568) are located within the 60-foot buffer area of the proposed trails alignment. Projects requiring excavation within 60 feet of historical resources shall require monitoring to ensure avoidance of the resource. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CULTURAL-1 and CULTURAL-2 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1: *Archaeological and Historical Resources – Avoidance and Monitoring.* Completion of a Worker Education and Awareness Program for all personnel who will be engaged in ground-disturbing activities shall be required prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities. This shall include training that provides an overview of cultural resources that might potentially be found and the appropriate procedures to follow if cultural resources are identified. This requirement extends to any new staff prior to engaging in ground disturbing activities.

Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) shall review the construction plans to ensure that any known cultural resources that are required to be avoided have been marked as “off-limits” areas for construction and construction staging. In addition, DPR shall require monitoring of all ground disturbing activities by a qualified archaeologist within 60 feet of a known extant unique archaeological resources, significant historical resources, or tribal cultural resource. In addition, consultation shall be undertaken with the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by the Native American Heritage Commission to determine if a Native American monitor shall also be present during all or a portion of the ground-disturbing activities.

In the event that previously unknown unique archaeological resources, significant historical resources, or Tribal cultural resources are encountered during construction, the resources shall either be left *in situ* and avoided through realignment of the trail, or the resources shall be salvaged, recorded, and repositied at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum or other repository consistent with the provisions of a Phase III data recovery program and the provisions of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. Data recovery is not required by law or regulation. It is, though, the most commonly agreed-upon measure to mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources eligible or listed under Section 106 Criterion D, as it preserves important

information that will otherwise be lost.

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-2: *Pre-Construction Surveys.* At the time that any new segment of trail is proposed for development that would require ground-disturbing activities in soils that have been predominantly *in situ* during the past 50 years, records and archival information shall be reviewed to determine if there are any recorded unique archaeological resources and significant historical resources as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, or Tribal cultural resources as defined by AB52 in the project footprint. At a minimum, the records and archival review shall include a search of the South Central Coastal Information Center if more than two years have passed since the previous records search, a request for Sacred Lands File from the Native American Heritage Commission, and a request for information regarding Tribal cultural resources from the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by Native American Heritage Commission. The appropriate course of action shall be undertaken in light of the results of the records search:

- (A) Where the project study area has been subject to a Phase I Walkover Survey within two years of the proposed activity and no unique archaeological resources, significant historical resources, or Tribal cultural resources are known within the project footprint, work shall proceed per the provision of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1.
- (B) Where all or a portion of the project footprint has not been surveyed for cultural resources within two years of a proposed ground-disturbing activity, a qualified archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards for archaeology and shall conduct a Phase I Walkover Survey to ascertain the presence or absence of unique archaeological and/or significant historical resources, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.
 - a. If the survey and record searches determines no unique archaeological resources or significant historical resources, including potential Tribal cultural resources, then the work shall proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1.
 - b. If the survey determines potential unique archaeological resources or significant historical resources, including potential Tribal cultural resources, then one of two courses of action shall be employed:
 - i. Where avoidance is feasible, the trail alignments shall be realigned to avoid the potentially significant cultural resource, and the work shall then proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1. The new alignment shall be surveyed by a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior. An archaeological monitor under direction of a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior shall be present during ground-disturbing activities within 60 feet of previously recorded cultural resources. In addition, consultation shall be undertaken with the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by Native American Heritage Commission to determine if a Native American monitor shall also be present during all or a portion of the ground-disturbing activities.
 - ii. Where avoidance is not feasible, a Phase II evaluation of the cultural resources shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior to determine the significance of the cultural

resource. If the Phase II investigation identifies a unique/eligible cultural resource within the area proposed for ground-disturbing work, the County shall determine whether to avoid the resource through redesign or to proceed with a Phase III data recovery program consistent with the provisions of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. The work shall then proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?

The proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts to cultural resources regarding causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance. The results of the records searches determined that 41 prehistoric archaeological sites, 16 historic archaeological sites, one multi-component site, three prehistoric isolates, and eight historic isolates are located within the project study area and a 0.5-mile buffer. Of these, 24 previously recorded prehistoric sites are located within the project study area (Appendix D). Seven (7) historic archaeological resources (P-19-000247, P-19-000647, P-19-001593H, P-19-101351, P-19-186538, P-19-101200, P-19-101199) and one (1) prehistoric archaeological resource (P-19-000502) are located within a 60-foot buffer area of the proposed trails alignment. Only portions of the study area have been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Projects requiring excavation within 60 feet of previously recorded archaeological resources shall require monitoring. The following trail segments are within 60 feet of previously recorded resources: RIVA, John Luker Trail, Pico Canyon, Minnie-Lotta, Towsley to RIVA, and Mentryville-Newhall Ranch (Appendix D). Development of all trails requiring ground disturbing activities have the potential to result in direct impacts to *in situ* resources and indirect impacts by creating access to sensitive resources that has the potential to result on vandalism or alteration or removal of resources. Where archaeological resources are encountered, evaluation, avoidance or recovery, documentation, and curation of such resources would reduce impacts to below the level of significance. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CULTURAL-1 and CULTURAL-2 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts to cultural resources regarding directly or indirectly destroying a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance. The following rock units are known to occur within the project study area: Chatsworth Formation (marine late Cretaceous), Santa Susana Formation (marine late Paleocene), Llajas Formation (marine middle Eocene), Sespe Formation (non-marine late Eocene to Oligocene), Topanga Formation (marine middle Miocene), Monterey Formation (marine middle to late Miocene), Towsley Formation (marine late Miocene), Pico Formation (marine latest Miocene to Pliocene), Saugus Formation (non-marine Plio-Pleistocene), older Quaternary Alluvium (non-marine Pleistocene), and younger Quaternary Alluvium (non-marine Pleistocene to recent) (Appendix D). The Chatsworth Formation, Santa Susana Formation, Llajas Formation, Sespe Formation, Topanga Formation, Monterey Formation, Towsley Formation, Pico Formation, Saugus Formation, and older Quaternary Alluvium within the project study area can be considered paleontologically sensitive geological units which are characterized by a moderate to high potential for containing unique paleontological resources. Projects requiring excavation within formations with a high potential for containing unique paleontological resources shall require monitoring. Vertebrate fossil localities within the

Chatsworth Formation, Santa Susana Formation, Sespe Formation, Topanga Formation, Monterey Formation, Towsley Formation, Saugus Formation, and older Quaternary Alluvium in the vicinity of the Trails Master Plan Study Area have produced a variety of fossil specimens, including but not limited to; fossil shark specimens, eagle ray specimens, several chimaeroids, boa snake specimens, Boidae specimens, opossum specimens, and primitive insectivores (Appendix D). Where potentially unique paleontological resources are encountered, salvage, recovery, documentation, and repository of such resources would reduce impacts to below the level of significance. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-3 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-3: Paleontological Resources – Paleontological Monitoring. Impacts to cultural resources related directly or indirectly to the destruction of a unique paleontological resource from the proposed project shall be reduced to below the level of significance by monitoring, salvage, and curation at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum of unanticipated paleontological resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities in previously undisturbed native soils located five or more feet below the ground surface that would have the potential to contact geologic units with a high to moderate potential to yield unique paleontological resources. Ground-disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, drilling, excavation, trenching, and grading. If paleontological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) shall require and be responsible for salvage and recovery of those resources by a qualified paleontologist consistent with standards for such recovery established by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Paleontological Resources Sensitivity Training given by a qualified paleontologist or archaeologist cross-trained in paleontology shall be required for all project personnel involved in ground disturbing activities prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities in geologic units with a moderate to high potential to yield unique paleontological resources. This shall include a brief field training that provides an overview of fossils that might potentially be found, and the appropriate procedures to follow if fossils are identified. This requirement extends to any new staff involved in earth disturbing that joins the project.

Construction monitoring by a qualified monitor (archaeologist cross-trained in paleontology or paleontologist) shall be implemented during all ground-disturbing activities that affect previously undisturbed geologic units 12 or more inches below the ground surface and have the potential to encounter geologic units with a moderate to high potential to yield unique paleontological resources. In the event that a paleontological resource is encountered during construction, all ground-disturbing activity within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until a qualified paleontologist can evaluate the significance of the discovery. Additional monitoring recommendations may be required. If the resource is found to be significant, the paleontologist shall determine the most appropriate treatment and method for stabilizing and collecting the specimen. Curation of the any significant paleontological finds shall be housed at a qualified repository, such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM).

Within 90 days of the completion of any salvage operation or monitoring activities, a mitigation report shall be submitted to DPR with an appended, itemized inventory with representative snapshots of specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to DPR, shall signify the completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources. A copy of the report/inventory shall be filed with the County of Los Angeles Planning and Development Agency and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

The proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts to cultural resources regarding disturbing any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance. Three previously recorded Native American village sites with burials are located within 0.5 miles of the project study area. No formal historic or modern cemeteries were identified within the project study area or the 0.5-mile buffer. No formal cemeteries or previously recorded burial sites are known within the project study area (Appendix D). The proposed project has been designed to avoid the location of extant and historical cemeteries and burial grounds. In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are encountered during excavation activities, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby areas reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains within 100 feet shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-4 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-4: *Regulatory Requirements – Human Remains.* In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are encountered during excavation activities, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby areas reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains within 100 feet shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains.

If the County Coroner determines that the remains are or are believed to be Native American, s/he shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, the NAHC shall immediately notify the person(s) it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD) of the deceased Native American. The descendants shall complete their inspection and make a recommendation within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the disposition of the human remains. The MLD's recommendation shall be followed if feasible, and may include scientific removal and non-destructive analysis of the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials. If DPR rejects the MLD's recommendations, the agency shall rebury the remains with appropriate dignity on the property within a time frame agreed upon between the County and the MLD's in a location that will not be subject to further subsurface disturbance (14 California Code of Regulations §15064.5(e)).

6. ENERGY

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to energy, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Energy uses within the project study area were evaluated with regard to Los Angeles County Code Title 31.

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with Los Angeles County Green Building Standards Code (L.A. County Code Title 31)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in no impacts to energy regarding conflict with the Los Angeles County Green Building Standards Code (Code). The Code applies to the planning, design, operation, construction, use, and occupancy of every newly constructed building or structure in the County. The purpose of the Code is to improve public health, safety, and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts having a reduced negative impact, or positive environmental impact, and encouraging sustainable construction practices in the following categories: planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency, and environmental air quality. The proposed project involves the construction of new multi-use unpaved trails and supporting facilities such as parking areas, restrooms, trail head kiosks, and wayfinding signage. The details of the trail facilities are not known at this time; however, to be consistent with the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 with regard to energy efficiency, the proposed project would be required to meet the objectives of the Community Climate Action Plan.²⁷ In addition, the restroom buildings would be constructed consistent with the Code. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts regarding conflict with L.A. County Code Title 31, and no mitigation would be required.

b) Involve the inefficient use of energy resources (see Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would result in no impacts to energy related to the inefficient use of energy resources. Appendix F of the State CEQA Guidelines states that the goal of conserving energy implies the wise and efficient use of energy. The means for achieving this goal are decreasing overall per capita energy consumption; decreasing reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, and oil, and increasing reliance on renewable energy sources. A proposed project should emphasize avoiding or reducing the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide more local recreational opportunities for Los Angeles County residents and visitors. It is the policy of the County to provide a system of multi-use (equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking) trails for a diverse group of public users throughout the County that connect local, state, and federal trail systems and link recreational areas to residential, commercial, institutional,

²⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. August 2015. Unincorporated Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan 2020. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ccap_final-august2015.pdf

and industrial areas.²⁸

As described in Section 1.11, *Construction Scenario*, the construction equipment required to construct the trails would be limited to mini-dozers; graders; small tractors; a water truck; and hand tools including picks, hoes, shovels, and wheelbarrows. The motorized equipment would be in compliance with California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations for diesel programs relating to mobile source, stationary engines, and portable equipment. Construction would be conducted in accordance with the guidelines specified in the County Trails Manual.²⁹ The operation of the proposed project would involve both the use of the trails by residents and visitors, as well as the maintenance of the trails and facilities. Regular annual trail maintenance includes mowing, tree and bush trimming, debris removal, and erosion protection. All maintenance activities would be in compliance with the County Trails Manual. The types of tools used to perform maintenance or make repairs include mowers, weed-whackers, herbicide sprayers, clippers, string trimmers, chainsaws, axes, leaf blowers, rakes, shovels, and graders.

The proposed project would be adjacent to and/or accessible from nearby residential areas. It is anticipated that trail users would be drawn from local communities, thereby decreasing the distance a trail user must travel to access this type of recreational opportunity. This will help to reduce the per capita vehicle miles traveled and the commensurate transportation energy needed to arrive at a trailhead. The anticipated energy use during operation, including maintenance, would be minimal; therefore, the energy requirements of the project on local supply is not expected to induce the need for additional generation capacity in the region. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact related to the inefficient use of energy resources, and no mitigation would be required.

²⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

²⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to geology and soils, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Geology and Soils Technical Report* (Appendix E).

	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known active fault trace? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils regarding exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault. Although the project study area is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo zone, the San Gabriel and San Cayetano/Holser/Del Valle faults are fault zones of concern to the project study area with regard to ground rupture. Numerous regional and local faults contribute to the strong earthquake ground shaking potential for the project study area. Faults along which rocks slip horizontally past one another are strike slip faults (e.g., San Andreas, San Jacinto, Elsinore, Newport-Inglewood), while mainly vertical movement is found along normal, as well as reverse and thrust faults (e.g., Oak Ridge, San Cayetano/Holser/Del Valle, Santa Susana, Sierra Madre-San Fernando, Santa Monica-Hollywood, Palos Verdes, Raymond, Verdugo). Abrupt movements along faults cause earthquakes deep in the crust and may result in subsurface fault rupture, surface deformation (folding), or differential uplift along buried (blind) thrust faults (e.g., Northridge Hills, Puente Hills, and Elysian Park). Surface faults of most concern for the project study area with respect to strong ground shaking are the San Fernando, Oak Ridge, San Cayetano/Holser/Del Valle, San Gabriel, Simi-Santa Rosa, and San Andreas faults. Other smaller faults are of lesser concern due to their lower likelihood of independently generating moderate to large earthquakes. Because they are buried, there remains more uncertainty with regard to the earthquake characteristics of blind thrust faults. The San Cayetano/Holser/Del Valle faults (not mapped by Dibblee) pass through the extreme northern portion of the project study area. The potential for earthquake activity and ground rupture, though possible, are not likely for the San Cayetano/Holser/Del Valle faults. Active and potentially active faults may be sources of large earthquakes that would produce severe ground shaking within the project study area. Severe shaking from a large earthquake on the Holser fault centered near the Phase II.a area could cause ground rupture that would be very destructive to narrow ridgelines and steep slopes, causing severe cracking and slope failures. The potential for such an event is very low, and the proposed project would not exacerbate existing fault hazard conditions. The project would not include the construction of habitable structures. Should habitable structures be identified for incorporation in to future construction phases of the project, they would be required to be constructed at least 50 feet away from active or potentially fault traces in the Phase

II.a area adjacent to the Holser fault and the Phase II.b area adjacent to the Chatsworth fault, in accordance with the then applicable Los Angeles County and State of California Building Codes, and the guidelines set forth in the County Trails Manual. Project maintenance would consider fault displacement and severe cracking in these areas as postearthquake maintenance issues. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils regarding exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, and no mitigation would be required.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils regarding exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. The San Gabriel and San Cayetano/Holser/Del Valle faults are fault zones of concern to the project study area with regard to strong seismic ground shaking as a result of the potential for magnitude (M) 6 to 7 events. Active and potentially active faults may be sources of large earthquakes (M6.0 to 7.0) that would produce severe ground shaking within the project study area. Local active strike-slip, reverse and thrust faults (e.g. San Fernando, Oak Ridge, San Cayetano/Holser/Del Valle, Garlock, White Wolf, San Gabriel, and San Andreas faults) and more distant buried (blind) thrust faults (e.g., Northridge Hills, Puente Hills, and Elysian Park) have this potential as well. Proposed trail facilities that may include the construction of restrooms would not be located within 50 feet of potentially active fault traces. These structures are not habitable and would be operated only between dawn and dusk. However, proposed trails cross potentially active fault traces in six locations. Active and potentially active faults may be sources of large earthquakes (M6.0 to 7.0) that would produce severe ground shaking within the project study area. Local active strike-slip, reverse and thrust faults (e.g. San Fernando, Oak Ridge, San Cayetano/Holser/Del Valle, San Gabriel, and San Andreas faults) and more distant buried (blind) thrust faults (e.g., Northridge Hills, Puente Hills, and Elysian Park) have this potential. Severe shaking can be very destructive to narrow ridgelines and steep slopes, causing severe cracking and slope failures. All trail facilities would be constructed in accordance with the then applicable Los Angeles County and State of California Building Codes, and the guidelines set forth in the County Trails Manual. Project maintenance would consider fault displacement and severe cracking in these areas as post-earthquake maintenance issues. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils regarding exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking, and no mitigation would be required.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and lateral spreading?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils regarding exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure. The expected level of ground shaking in the project study area is high enough to initiate liquefaction as a result of expected high seismic shaking levels, areas of shallow groundwater, and cohesionless sands. As a result, in liquefaction prone areas (alluvial valley and floodplains), the proposed project may experience seismic-related ground failure, including settlement, liquefaction, and lateral spreading. Any significant structures planned within or immediately adjacent to a potential liquefaction should be evaluated with a geotechnical study to define the potential hazards. Project design features would be implemented to avoid impacts related to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and lateral spreading including avoidance of the affected areas and use of special foundations (piles or reinforced mats) in design (Appendix E). All trail facilities would be constructed in accordance with the then applicable Los Angeles County and State of California Building Codes, and the guidelines set forth in the County Trails Manual. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils

regarding exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, no mitigation would be required.

iv) Landslides?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils regarding exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. An estimated 80 to 90 percent of the mountains and hills of the project study area are potential earthquake-induced landslide areas. These areas correspond to bedrock and to a lesser extent older alluvium with steep slopes. Landslide movement may occur along bedding planes within these formations, as rocks dislodged from exposures on steep slopes, or as surficial failures of weathered rock and soil/colluvium. Such movement could cause rock masses to dislocate and damage overlying facilities and facilities nearby and downslope from these bedrock and older alluvium areas. An estimated 80 to 90 percent of the mountains and hills of the project study area are potential earthquake-induced landslide areas. These areas correspond to bedrock and to a lesser extent older alluvium with steep slopes. Landslide movement may occur along bedding planes within these formations, as rocks dislodged from exposures on steep slopes, or as surficial failures of weathered rock and soil/colluvium. Such movement could cause rock masses to dislocate and damage overlying facilities, and facilities nearby and downslope from these bedrock and older alluvium areas. The potential for landslide movement within the project study area does exist. However, the proposed project would not exacerbate these existing landslide features or potentially unstable bedding plane hazard conditions, assuming any project-related grading and/or construction is conducted in accordance with the applicable Los Angeles County and State of California Building Codes, and the guidelines set forth in the County Trails Manual. As a result, the proposed project design within areas of potential seismically induced landslides should be evaluated with a geotechnical study to define the potential hazards. Project design features would be implemented to avoid impacts related to landslides include avoidance of the affected areas, up slope and down slope retaining structures and rock fences (Appendix E). Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides, no mitigation would be required.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The project study area has numerous primary and secondary drainages. Within the project study area, most drainage areas form relatively narrow canyons at higher elevations and transition to the broader floodplains. In the Phase II.b area this is true where Box Canyon enters Chatsworth Reservoir. For Phase II.a, the liquefaction area is extensive on the north within the Santa Clara River floodplain and the broad unnamed canyons north to the river and east toward the valley occupied by I-5. Phase II liquefaction areas are concentrated in the prominent canyons, for example, Potrero, Pico, Wickham, Dewitt, Lyon, Gavin, Towsley, and a few smaller unnamed canyons. All eventually empty into north draining canyons, such as Gavin Canyon, and then to the Santa Clara River. The potential for soil erosion and loss of topsoil within the project study area does exist. However, the proposed project would not exacerbate these existing soil conditions, assuming any project related grading and/or construction is conducted in accordance with the applicable Los Angeles County and State of California Building Codes, and the guidelines set forth in the County Trails Manual. The proposed project could result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The project study area has numerous primary and secondary drainages as discussed above. Project design would consider the effects of any significant structures or facilities that would block, divert, or accentuate change to an existing drainage and as such cause potential soil erosion or loss of topsoil. A geotechnical study would be performed to define the potential soil erosion risks and provide specific design recommendations to avoid or minimize affects such as

engineered swales, culverts, and catchment basins. Rainfall events may result in erosion or the loss of topsoil in these drainages. Proposed trails would be designed consistent with the standards of the County Trails Manual, which requires erosion control to be an element of trail design. Additionally, trail construction would also be subject to the requirements of the County. As a result, significant impacts regarding substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil would be avoided, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding being located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project. Landslide and liquefaction potential are the most significant potential hazards. Oil field activity in the project study area could lead to local subsidence that could manifest as cracks and areas of ground settlement. However, due to the likely limited extent of trails in these areas, to the years over which pumping has already occurred and to the relatively low level of oil extraction, this would have a minimal impact. Affected areas can be repaired to level ground and eliminate ground cracks that may form. As a result, the proposed project may result in trails or facilities that may be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse, possibly requiring specific project design features. The proposed project could be constructed on or near a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project. Based on a review of available documents describing the geology of the project study area, it is underlain by (1) younger Quaternary-age artificial fill/alluvium/surficial sediments (map symbols af, Qa and Qg), (2) landslide deposits (Qls), (3) older alluvium/surficial sediments (Qog), (4) Quaternary-age soft bedrock formations (QTs), (5) Tertiary-age hard to very hard sedimentary bedrock formations, and (6) an older hard to very hard sedimentary bedrock formation (see maps in Appendix E).^{30,31,32,33,34} Artificial fill may be present in selected areas not yet mapped. With this large variation in geologic units, the relative difficulty of excavation, the suitability for safe trail or roadway surfaces, the stability of construction slopes, and the suitability of excavated materials for use as backfill would also vary. It is believed that all units except artificial fill and young alluvium should meet minimum requirements for the items listed. Potentially unstable areas would be evaluated with a geotechnical study to define the unstable areas and to provide appropriate design features to avoid affects from unstable areas including avoidance of the affected area, up slope and down slope retaining structures, and rock fences.

Geologic structure includes folding, tilting, and faulting of the geologic units. The geologic structure is very complex with numerous faults, folds, fractures and disturbed bedrock layers with bedding (dip) angles range from very shallow (less than 20 degrees), into and out of slope, to vertical (90 degrees). This indicates that

³⁰ Dibblee, T.W. and H.E. Ehrenspeck. 1992. Geologic Map of the Oat Mountain and Canoga Park (north 1/2) Quadrangles, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, California, Dibblee Foundation Map DF-36, scale 1:24,000.

³¹ Dibblee, T.W. 1992. Geologic Map of the Calabasas Quadrangle, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, California, Dibblee Foundation Map DF-37, scale 1:24,000.

³² Dibblee, T.W. and H.E. Ehrenspeck. 1992. Geologic Map of the Simi Quadrangle, Ventura County, California, Dibblee Foundation Map DF-39, scale 1:24,000.

³³ Dibblee, T.W. and H.E. Ehrenspeck. 1993. Geologic Map of the Val Verde Quadrangle, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, California, Dibblee Foundation Map DF-50, scale 1:24,000.

³⁴ Dibblee, T.W. and H.E. Ehrenspeck. 1996. Geologic Map of the Newhall Quadrangle, Los Angeles County, California, Dibblee Foundation Map DF-56, scale 1:24,000.

the orientation and height of natural slopes would control in many cases the preferred trail path and gradient, that is, certain orientations and heights may exposed unfavorable bedding, fault features, and fracture planes that may render a slope unstable and, therefore, unsafe. It is expected that most proposed graded slopes would not be extensive in height or width so that this project-induced slope stability concern should be limited. However, a geotechnical study would be performed to define these unfavorable conditions and necessary design and construct stabilization features would be used to overcome potential instabilities including avoidance of the area, reduced slope angle, retaining structure, and slope reorientation. In addition, all trail facilities would be constructed in accordance with the then applicable Los Angeles County and State of California Building Codes, and the guidelines set forth in the County Trails Manual. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding being located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and no mitigation would be required.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding being located on expansive soil. The proposed project may result in the placement of trails or structures in areas of expansive soil. Surface subsidence/settlement may occur in the project study area where it is found to have soil susceptible to expansion/contraction (very clay-rich soils) and possibly hydroconsolidation (fine-grained granular soils). When present, moderate to high expansion indices indicate that there is a substantial amount of clay in the soils and repeated episodes of wetting and drying would cause distress to structures in contact with such soils. As a result, specific project design features could be required. Therefore, the potential for expansive soils within the project study area does exist. However, the proposed project would not exacerbate these existing soil conditions, assuming any project-related grading and/or construction is conducted in accordance with the applicable Los Angeles County and State of California Building Codes, and the guidelines set forth in the County Trails Manual (Appendix E). A geotechnical study would be performed to define unfavorable conditions and the necessary facility design and construct measures would be identified including avoidance of the area, and use of non-expansive materials. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding being located on expansive soil, and no mitigation would be required.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils regarding having soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater. The proposed project could encounter soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater. The vast majority of the project study area is underlain by bedrock formations that store and transmit groundwater in permeable sedimentary beds such as sandstone, conglomerate, and siltstone and through fractures caused by faulting, uplift, and folding of these older units. This flow can produce springs and seeps in the hillsides and higher canyon areas or discharge into the larger canyon alluvial materials. Where sewers are available at such facilities no project design considerations are required for the disposal of wastewater. In other areas design and location of restroom facilities would consider groundwater depth and proximity to potentially shallow groundwater in existing drainages, as well as soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems. All proposed restrooms and any other areas where wastewater would be generated are within sanitation districts and thus would be connected to sanitary sewer lines. The proposed project may result in having soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite

wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater. The proposed project plans for restroom facilities at trailheads that may require siting within soil types that would not support onsite water treatment systems, thus requiring specific project design features. Therefore, the potential for having soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems within the project study area does exist. However, the proposed project would not exacerbate these existing seismic-related hazard conditions, assuming any project-related grading and/or construction is conducted in accordance with the applicable Los Angeles County and State of California Building Codes, and the guidelines set forth in the County Trails Manual. A geotechnical study would be performed to define these unsuitable conditions and the necessary wastewater disposal facility design and construction measures would be identified including avoidance of the area and use of septic systems. Mapped landslides are common throughout the project study area and the steeper slopes are subject to mudflows and earthquake-induced slope failures. Areas where landslides are mapped provide the most concern for suitability and could affect design and construction. The project design for trails, roadways, and facilities would consider avoidance of these areas as the most prudent option. For potential mudflow areas project design would consider avoidance of the area, up slope and down slope retaining structures, and upslope structures and/or fences would be used to capture or deflect the debris (Appendix E). Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding having soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available, and no mitigation would be required.

f) Conflict with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215) or hillside design standards in the County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to geology and soils regarding conflicts with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance or hillside design standards in the County General Plan. The Los Angeles County Hillside Management Ordinance applies to areas greater than 25 percent slope. Of the total of approximately 14,808-acre study area, approximately 11 acres, or less than 1 percent of the total study area consists of slopes greater than 25 percent. Ground surface slopes in the project study area are relatively steep with most greater than 20 percent in the upper elevation hills and mountains, reaching greater than 40 percent adjacent to ridges. Slopes in the lowest foothills immediately adjacent to the mountains, in canyons, valley and active drainages designated above are generally less than 20 percent and predominantly less than 6 percent. Portions of proposed recreational trails may cross through the areas with a greater than 25 percent slope. As a result, trails that cross through these areas would be subject to the requirements and design standards of the Hillside Management Ordinance and hillside design standards in the Conservation and Open Space element of the General Plan. Specifically, sensitive hillside design measures (2.1 through 2.12) would be applied to the trail and facilities (e.g., restrooms). Further, the Hillside Management Ordinance requires that all new development in areas over 25 percent obtain a conditional use permit as part of the entitlement process. Although some of the trail segments considered under the proposed project would be designed and constructed concurrently with residential and subdivision development, the proposed project does not include a residential element as part of the project. Therefore, compliance with existing regulations would not result in conflict with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance or the hillside design standards in the Conservation and Open Space Element of the County’s General Plan, and no mitigation would be required.

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Report* (Appendix B).

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding generating GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that would have a significant impact on the environment. The principal anthropogenic GHGs that enter the atmosphere are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (CFCs), perfluorocarbons (HCFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). Among these GHGs, CO₂ emissions are considered to be the most abundant type of GHG emissions contributing to global climate change. In 2015, California’s total emissions were 440.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e).³⁵ To quantitatively analyze the proposed project’s impacts on global climate change, CalEEMod 2016.3.1 was used to calculate GHG emissions resulting from construction and operation of the proposed project (see Appendix B). Approximately 927 MTCO₂e per year would be emitted as result of the proposed project’s construction, which represents approximately 0.0002 percent of California’s total GHG emissions in 2015 (see Appendix B). Operations of the proposed project would be expected to result in approximately 4,362 MTCO₂e emissions per year, which represents approximately 0.001 percent of California’s total GHG emissions in 2015 (see Appendix B), mostly from motor vehicle trips of people using the trails. Both construction and operation GHG emissions are well below the suggested GHG reporting threshold of 25,000 MTCO₂e/yr. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding generating GHG emissions, and no mitigation would be required.

b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would not result in impacts regarding conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. The primary applicable plans are the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)³⁶ and County of Los Angeles Community Climate Action

³⁵ California Air Resources Board. 6 June 2017. California Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory – 2017 Edition. Available at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/data/data.htm>

³⁶ Southern California Association of Governments. 7 April 2016. 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS). Available at: <http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/FINAL2016RTPSCS.aspx>

Plan (CCAP).³⁷ The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has set the following GHG reduction targets for the SCAG region: reduce per capita GHG emissions 8 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 13 percent by 2035. The proposed project would help achieve these GHG reduction goals by bringing recreation closer to where people live, thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and resulting GHG emissions. This is in alignment with the SCAG 2016–2040 RTP/SCS. Los Angeles County has set a target to reduce GHG emissions in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County by 11 percent below 2010 levels by 2020. The proposed project would fulfill the land use and transportation strategy area in the County of Los Angeles CCAP to reduce regionwide VMT and promote sustainability in land use design in the unincorporated areas of the County. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation related to reducing GHG emissions, and no mitigation would be required.

³⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, August 2015. Unincorporated Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan 2020. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ccap_final-august2015.pdf

9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to hazards and hazardous materials, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, production, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials regarding creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The County zoning designations for the project study area are predominantly Open Space (OS), Light Agricultural (A-1), Heavy Agricultural, (A-2), and Single-Family Residence (R-1), with other residential zones, manufacturing zones, commercial zones, and institutional zones also comprising portions of the project study area (see Table 1.7-1, *Proposed Project Area Zoning Designations*).

The use of hazardous materials is typically associated with industrial land uses. Activities such as manufacturing, plating, cleaning, refining, and finishing frequently involve chemicals that are considered hazardous when accidentally released into the environment. To a lesser extent, hazardous materials may also be used by various commercial enterprises as well as residential uses. If improperly handled, hazardous materials can result in public health hazards through human contact with contaminated soils or groundwater, or through airborne releases in vapors, fumes, or dust. There is also the potential for accidental or unauthorized releases of hazardous materials that would pose a public health concern. The use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes are required to occur in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. In accordance with such regulations, the transport of hazardous materials and wastes can only occur with transporters who have received training and appropriate licensing. Additionally, hazardous waste transporters are required to complete and carry a hazardous waste manifest (which is a set of forms, reports, and procedures designed to seamlessly track hazardous waste).

No routine hazardous materials transport, use, or disposal would occur as a result of the proposed project, and hazardous materials storage would not occur. The construction of the proposed project would require limited use of hazardous materials; however, construction would occur pursuant to County building code requirements. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials regarding to creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, and mitigation would not be required.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials regarding creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable

upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment. Construction activities would involve the use of hazardous materials, such as paints, thinners, solvents, acids, curing compounds, grease, oils, and other chemicals, which could pose risks to construction workers or lead to soil and groundwater contamination if not properly stored, used, or disposed. However, handling of hazardous materials would be in accordance with the Toxic Substance Control Act, Hazardous Material Transportation Act, Resource Conservation Act, Certified Unified Program Agency, and Californian Accidental Release Prevention Program. These regulations include the proper transport of hazardous materials, on-site storage and use, and procedures to implement in the event of a spill. Proposed trails may cross underground pipelines. Grading and excavation may disturb oil and gas pipelines and lead to leaks, fire, explosions, and related hazards. Compliance with Title 8, Section 1541, of the California Code of Regulation (CCR), regarding notification of and coordination with the pipelines' owners/operators (through the DigAlert program), and their approval and monitoring of activities near the pipelines would avoid damage to these lines and prevent the creation of hazards to the surrounding area. The Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Acts include regulations pertaining to worker safety, including standards for safe workplaces and work practices. The California Office of Emergency Services, Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Section, under the Fire and Rescue Division, coordinates statewide implementation of hazardous materials accident prevention and emergency response programs for all types of hazardous materials incidents and threats. In response to any hazardous materials emergency, the Section staff is called upon to provide state and local emergency managers with emergency coordination and technical assistance.³⁸ The California Office of Emergency Services immediately takes on the Incident Command responsibility after an emergency incident involving transport on the railways, and has a goal of resolving incidents within 90 minutes. The proposed project would follow the requirements of the County Trails Manual and County building codes. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of sensitive land uses?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials regarding emitting hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of sensitive land uses. There are 4,465 known sensitive receptors within a one-quarter-mile radius of the proposed project area (see Figure 5.1.2-1, *Sensitive Receptors*, in Appendix G, *Noise Technical Report*). However, operation of the proposed project would not result in the emission of hazardous emissions; nor would it involve handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste. All trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trails Manual. The construction of the proposed project would require limited use of hazardous materials; however, construction would occur pursuant to County building code requirements. During construction, hazardous material use, storage, and disposal would be made in accordance with existing regulations found in the Toxic Substance Control Act, Hazardous Material Transportation Act, Resource Conservation Act, Certified Unified Program Agency, and Californian Accidental Release Prevention Program. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts in regard to emitting hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of sensitive land uses, and no mitigation would be required.

³⁸ State of California. July 2016. Hazardous Materials. Available at: <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/for-individuals-families/hazardous-materials>

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hazards and hazardous materials regarding being located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment. The review of the CalEPA EnviroStor database indicates that the project study area is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (Figure 2.9-1, *Hazardous Sites within One-Eighth Mile of Project Study Area*; Table 2.9-1, *EnviroStor Data*; Table 2.9-2, *Geotracker Data: Permitted Underground Storage Tanks [USTs]*; Table 2.9-3, *Geotracker Data: Hazardous Sites*). Furthermore, construction of the proposed project would conform to requirements of the County Trails Manual and County building codes. Therefore, the project would result in no significant impacts, and mitigation would not be required.

**TABLE 2.9-1
ENVIROSTOR DATA**

Hazard Waste Facilities			
Facility Name	Address	City	Facility Type
Ppg Industries-Works 24	25663 W Ave Stanford	Valencia	Historical – nonoperating
Cleanup Sites			
Project Name	Address	City	Site Type
Stevenson Ranch	Stevenson Ranch Parkway/Pico Canyon Road	Newhall	School investigation
Phase V School Site	Interstate 5/Valencia Boulevard	Stevenson Ranch	School investigation

**TABLE 2.9-2
GEOTRACKER DATA: PERMITTED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST)**

Business Name	Address	City
Chevron Usa Ss 095436	27549 The Old Rd	Valencia
Mayer's Shell Service Station	25340 Chiquella Ln	Stevenson Ranch
Six Flags Magic Mountain	26101 Magic Mountain Pkwy	Valencia
Newhall Mobil	25357 Chiquella Ln	Stevenson Ranch
La Co San Dis-Valencia Wrc	28185 The Old Rd	Valencia
California Highway Patrol	28648 The Old Rd	Valencia
Arco Products #05910	24800 Pico Canyon Rd	Stevenson Ranch
Schwartz Oil Co	27241 Henry Mayo Dr	Valencia

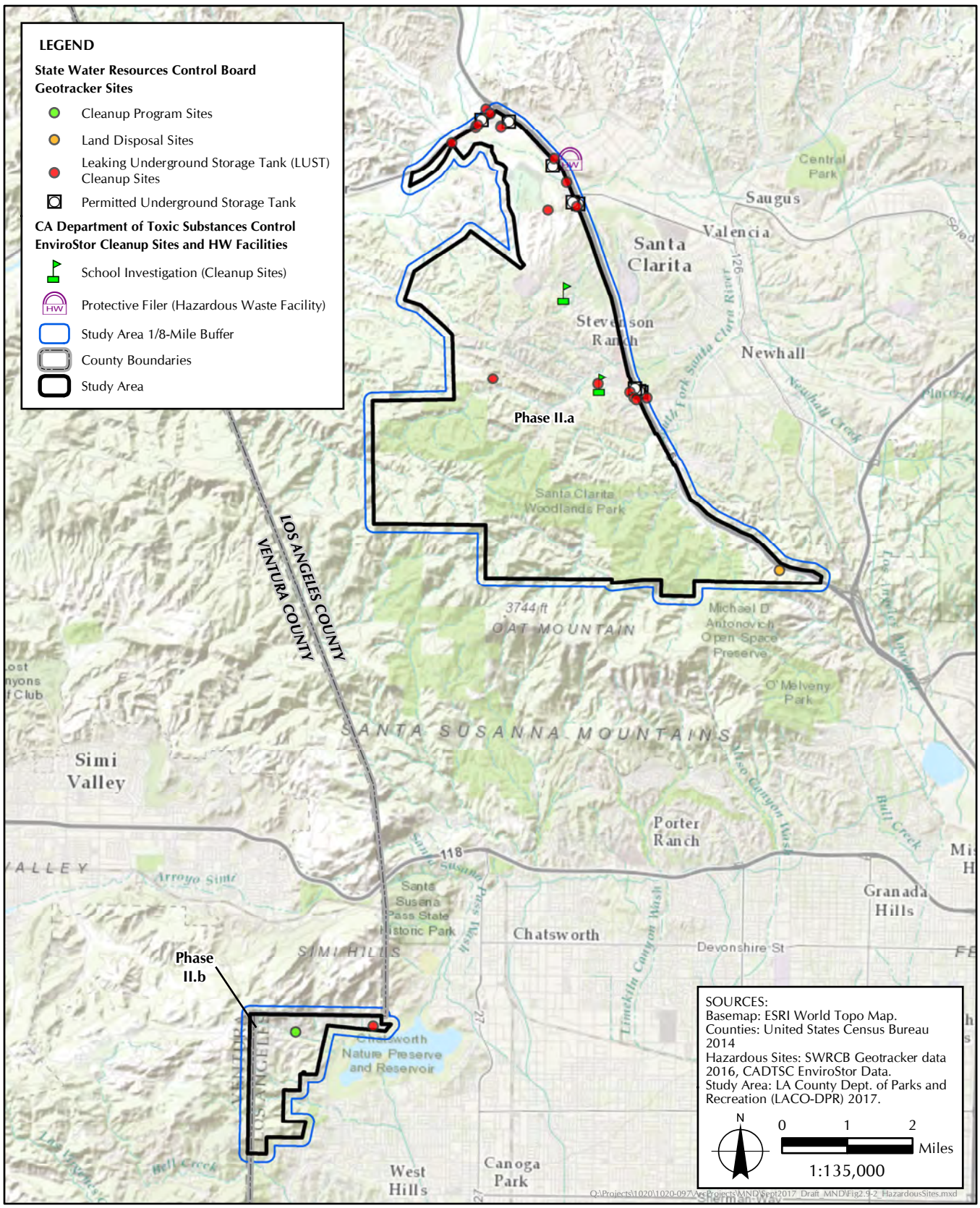


FIGURE 2.9-1
 Hazardous Sites within One-Eighth Mile of SSMTMP-PII Area

**TABLE 2.9-3
GEOTRACKER DATA: HAZARDOUS SITES**

Business Name	City	Case Type	Status
Mobil S.S. #11-Kf3	Newhall	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Schwartz Oil Co.	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Tosco/Unocal # 31008	Santa Clarita	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Arco Products Co	Stevenson Ranch	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Newhall Land & Farming	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Santa Clarita Composting - Foothill Soils	Newhall	Land Disposal Site	Open – verification monitoring
Chevron #3-5979	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Dale Poe Dev Corp Of Calif	Santa Clarita	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Rockwell	Simi Valley	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Newhall Land & Farming	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Tri-R-Trucking	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Arco #5910	Newhall	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Rocketdyne-Snta Susana Fld Lab	Simi Valley	Cleanup Program Site	Open – inactive
Valencia Water Reclamation Pln	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Mobil	Newhall	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Newhall Land & Farming	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Shell Service Station	Newhall	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Valencia Chevron	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Open - Site Assessment
Chevron #9-5436	Santa Clarita	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Chevron #9-1899 (Former)	Santa Clarita	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
La Co Fire Station #075	Chatsworth	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Schwartz Oil Co.	Santa Clarita	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
Rockwell/Santa Susana Field Lb	Simi Valley	Cleanup Program Site	Open – inactive
Tosco Station #5881	Santa Clarita	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed
La Co Fire Station #076	Valencia	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – case closed

e) For a project located within an airport land use, plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hazards and hazardous materials regarding resulting in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area, for a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The project study area is not within an airport land use plan, or within 2 miles of a public airport. The nearest public airports to the proposed project area are the Van Nuys Airport, located approximately 9 miles southeast of Phase II.a and approximately 9 miles east from Phase II.b; and the Whiteman Airport, located approximately 8 miles southeast of Phase II.a and 12.5 miles northeast of Phase II.b (see Figure 5.1.4-1, *Public and Private Airports*, in Appendix G). Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, the would project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hazards and hazardous materials regarding resulting in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area, for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The project study area is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip (see Figure 5.1.4-1 in Appendix G). Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hazards and hazardous resources regarding impairing implementation of, or physically interfering with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Existing County trail facilities in the area have no mile markers or trail maps, which can create difficulty with respect to timely response and rescue. Proposed trail system components would improve trail markers and therefore augment response in remote areas, taking into consideration access for emergency vehicles, as appropriate. The proposed plan would not impact existing roadways and would not impede existing emergency access. The appropriate agencies that provide emergency services would be given an opportunity to review site plans during the environmental review process for specific projects. The proposed project would conform to the County Trails Manual. Therefore there would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires, because the project is located:

i) within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Zone 4)?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous resources regarding exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires. Based on the review of fire severity hazard zone maps developed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE),³⁹ a majority of the project study area is situated in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Figure 2.9-2, *Fire Hazard Severity Zones*). The proposed project would allow development of trails and trail related structures in areas that have been designated as High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, where there is the potential for exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. However, the County building permit process reduces the potential exposure of people and structures to significant loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires to below the level of significance, through the requirement to use fire-resistant construction materials such as for roofs and design features such as enclosing eaves, and through the requirement for submittal and approval of a fuel modification plan, prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.⁴⁰

³⁹ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Accessed 29 August 2017. Los Angeles County FHSZ Map. Available at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_losangeles.php

⁴⁰ County of Los Angeles Fire Department. Accessed 29 August 2017. LA County Fire Department Fuel Modification Headquarters. Available at: <https://www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry-division/forestry-fuel-modification/>

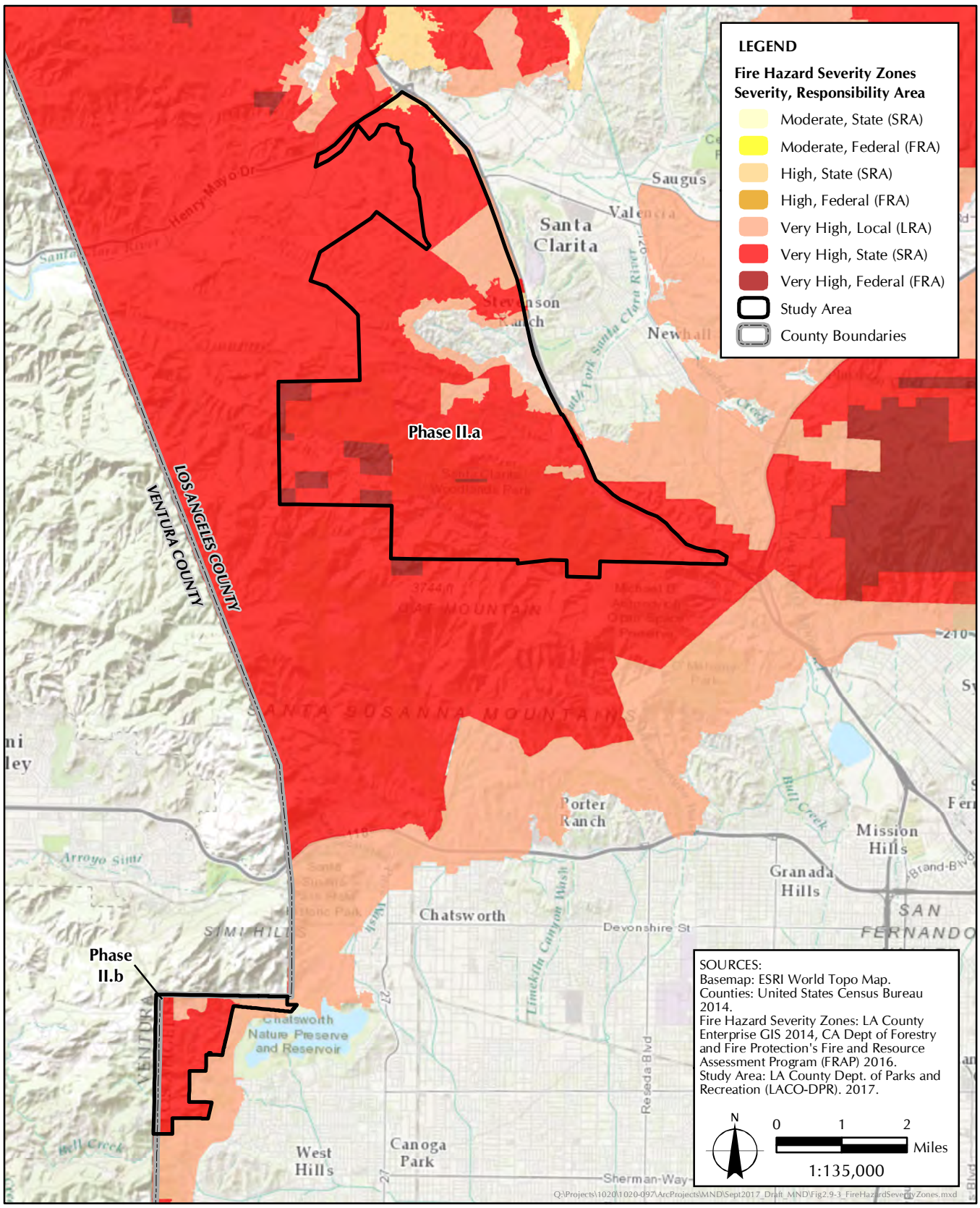


FIGURE 2.9-2
Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Furthermore, consistent with the County Trails Manual, landscaping around trailheads and along trails would be designed to balance fire mitigation with habitat conservation and slope preservation.⁴¹ In accordance with County Codes, fires are only permitted in signed and designated areas of County Parkland (County Code 17.04.590), fireworks or other combustible materials are not permitted along any trail (County Code 17.04.520 and 17.04.610), and firearms are not permitted on County trails except in designated areas (County Code 17.04.620 and 17.08.300). Structures and parking lots would be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the County of Los Angeles Fire Code (Title 32). Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, which could have the potential to increase fire risk, would not be a permitted trail use. As reported by multiple parties during the scoping process, there is a tremendous amount of unsanctioned recreational use in the project study area. The purpose of the proposed project is to replace unsanctioned use with a designated trail system that facilitates safe and secure recreational use. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

ii) within a high fire hazard area with inadequate access?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials regarding being located in a high fire hazard area with inadequate access. Mutual aid agreements are maintained with local, state, and federal agencies. As part of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, the entire Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan area, including the entire Santa Susana project area, receives urban and wildland fire protection services from the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD).⁴² LACoFD provides fire protection services, fire prevention services, emergency medical services, hazardous materials services, and urban search and rescue services. According to the Safety Element of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, the LACoFD has adopted a goal of responding to calls in urban areas within 5 minutes, in suburban areas within 8 minutes, and in rural areas within 12 minutes.⁴³ However, actual response times vary due to distances and road conditions. The Phase II.a area is located within the service areas of LACoFD Station #124. The Phase II.b area is located within the service area of LACoFD Station #75 (see Figure 2.15.2, *Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Station Services Areas*, in Section 2.15, *Public Services*). Additionally, there are several fire stations near the Phase II.a area. Station #126, which also serves in Battalion 6 and is located in the community of Santa Clarita, provides fire and rescue services and safe haven services for unincorporated Los Angeles County and for cities in the County that contract with it, including forest areas (see Section 2.15). Station #76 is located in Valencia. Fire Station #143 opened October 1, 2016.⁴⁴ Fire Station #156 became operational in 2011. An additional fire station is proposed in the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan that is located within the project study area on Chiquito Canyon Road, along Hasley Canyon Road (#143). The LACoFD has adopted the State Fire Code standards for new development in hazardous fire areas. Fire prevention requirements include provision of access roads, adequate road width, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas. In addition, proof of adequate water supply for fire flow is required within a designated distance for new construction in fire hazard areas.

⁴¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

⁴² County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Chapter 5: Safety. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-ch_05_safety.pdf

⁴³ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

⁴⁴ County of Los Angeles Fire Department. December 2016. Officials Dedicate Fire Station 143 in Castaic. Available at: <https://www.fire.lacounty.gov/officials-dedicate-fire-station-143-castaic/>

The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth because it involves no new homes or businesses, and it does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure to support new trails and related facilities. However, the proposed project would be expected to serve as a regional recreation facility in the County that would be expected to generate day use from local residents and from throughout the area, which has the potential to result in a very minor increase in emergency response, search and rescue, and other fire protection services if any injuries, missing persons, or fire incidents occur. Consistent with Section 4.3.6, *Way-finding Signs*, of the County Trails Manual, the proposed project would include reassurance marker signs at every quarter (0.25) mile of trail that identify the name of the trail and quarter milepost number in order to orient search and rescue services in the case of an emergency. The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation would be responsible for providing updated data to LACoFD marking the location of each quarter milepost along the trail for emergency response purposes. Fire prevention requirements include provision of access roads, adequate road width, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

iii) within an area with inadequate water and pressure to meet fire flow standards?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials regarding being located within an area with inadequate water and pressure to meet fire flow standards. Mutual aid agreements are maintained with local, state, and federal agencies. As part of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, the entire Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan area, including the entire project study area, receives urban and wildland fire protection services from the LACoFD.⁴⁵ LACoFD provides fire protection services, fire prevention services, emergency medical services, hazardous materials services, and urban search and rescue services. The LACoFD has adopted the State Fire Code standards for new development in hazardous fire areas. Fire prevention requirements include provision of access roads, adequate road width, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas. In addition, proof of adequate water supply for fire flow is required within a designated distance for new construction in fire hazard areas. All trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual and County building codes. Therefore impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

iv) within proximity to land uses that have the potential for dangerous fire hazard?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials regarding exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires. Based on the review of fire severity hazard zone maps developed by CAL FIRE,⁴⁶ the majority of the proposed initiative are situated in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Figure 2.9-2). The proposed project would allow development of trails and trail related structures in areas that have been designated as High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, where there is the potential for exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. However, the County building permit process reduces the potential exposure of people and structures to significant loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires to below the level of significance, through the requirement to use fire-

⁴⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted November 27, 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/ovov>. Chapter 5: Safety. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-ch_05_safety.pdf

⁴⁶ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Accessed 29 August 2017. Los Angeles County FHSZ Map. Available at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fhsz_maps_losangeles.php

resistant construction materials such as for roofs and design features such as enclosing eaves, and through the requirement for submittal and approval of a fuel modification plan, prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.⁴⁷ Furthermore, consistent with the County Trails Manual, landscaping around trailheads and along trails would be designed to balance fire mitigation with habitat conservation and slope preservation.⁴⁸ In accordance with County Code, fires are only permitted in signed and designated areas of County Parkland (County Code 17.04.590), fireworks or other combustible materials are not permitted along any trail (County Code 17.04.520 and 17.04.610), and firearms are not permitted on County trails except in designated areas (County Code 17.04.620 and 17.08.300). Structures and parking lots would be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the County of Los Angeles Fire Code (Title 32). OHV use, which could have the potential to increase fire risk, would not be a permitted trail use. As reported by multiple parties during the scoping process, there is a tremendous amount of unsanctioned recreational use in the Santa Susana Area. The purpose of the proposed project is to replace unsanctioned use with a designated trail system that facilitates safe and secure recreational use. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

i) Does the proposed use constitute a potentially dangerous fire hazard?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hazards and hazardous materials regarding constituting a potentially dangerous fire hazard. Consistent with the County Trails Manual, landscaping around trailheads and along trails would be designed to balance fire mitigation with habitat conservation and slope preservation.⁴⁹ In accordance with County Code, fires are only permitted in signed and designated areas of County Parkland (County Code 17.04.590), fireworks or other combustible materials are not permitted along any trail (County Code 17.04.520 and 17.04.610), and firearms are not permitted on County trails except in designated areas (County Code 17.04.620 and 17.08.300).⁵⁰ Structures and parking lots would be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the County of Los Angeles Fire Code (Title 32).⁵¹ Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

⁴⁷ County of Los Angeles Fire Department. Accessed 29 August 2017. LA County Fire Department Fuel Modification Headquarters. Available at: <https://www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry-division/forestry-fuel-modification/>

⁴⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

⁴⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

⁵⁰ Municode Library. Accessed 29 August 2017. Los Angeles County, CA: Part 3 – Park Rules and Regulations. Available at: https://www.municode.com/library/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TTT17PABEOTPUAR_CH17.04PAREAR_PT3PARURE

⁵¹ Municode Library. Accessed 29 August 2017. Los Angeles County, CA: Title 32 – Fire Code. Available at: https://www.municode.com/library/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TTT32FICO

10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to hydrology and water quality, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Hydrology and Water Quality Technical Report* (Appendix F).

	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding violating any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Most of the main drainages in the project study area are classified on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps as blue-line streams, indicating that under certain conditions the streams convey water flows. The Santa Clara River is an impaired water body within the Phase II.a boundary. The project study area is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Region 4. Construction or maintenance of trails that require grading in excess of 1 acre have the potential to violate water quality standards, particularly in relation to total dissolved sediments, and would be subject to the General Construction Permit, including preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). In addition, construction or maintenance of trails that require grading in a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) have the potential to violate water quality standards in a manner that would be deleterious for native fish and wildlife. Impacts would be reduced to below the level of significance through compliance with the County's Low Impact Development (LID) ordinance, requiring the use of two Best Management Practices (BMPs). Furthermore, all trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would result in no impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted). The depth to groundwater within the Santa Clara River Valley

Groundwater Basin has been reported at 10 to 100 feet below the ground surface in the project study area.⁵² The near surface grading required to accommodate new trails and improvements to existing trails would not directly impact groundwater basins. Restroom facilities would use domestic water supplies and would not involve the construction of groundwater wells. In addition, where impervious surface is added as a result of the construction of restrooms, parking areas, or hardscape associated with appurtenant structures, impacts related to the loss of pervious surfaces that facilitate groundwater recharge would be reduced to below the level of significance through compliance with the County's LID Ordinance, requiring the use of two BMPs. Implementation of BMPs, required pursuant to the County's LID Ordinance, would be expected to reduce impacts to below the level of significance. Furthermore, all trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding substantially altering the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Situated along the southern flanks of the Santa Susana Mountains, the topography of the project study area is characterized by a series of southwest draining canyons that are separated by steep-sloped and narrow ridge tops. Project elements would be required to be designed consistent with the County Trails Manual, which provides design specifications to conserve the existing drainage pattern by requiring that trails be designed taking the existing land contours into consideration and using design measures such as out-sloping and rill bars to allow overland flow to cross over the trail as quickly as possible, thus maintaining existing land contours and drainage patterns.

However, given the steep topography and the size of the study area, it anticipated that the ability to provide trails that traverse the properties from north to south and east to west will require crossing of up to 81 drainages (Figure 2.10-1, *Blue Line Drainages and Proposed Trails*). Where drainages cannot be clear-spanned, and require construction within waters of the United States or Waters of the State, they may be subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) or under Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code. The discharge of dredged or fill materials into wetlands and waters of the United States or the alteration of a natural drainage subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW would have the potential to result in erosion or compromise the natural flood conveyance functions, constituting a significant impact. Conformance with the mitigation measures required to use a Nationwide Permit, or obtain an individual permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement under Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code, would reduce impacts to below the level of significance. Impacts would be further reduced through compliance with the County's LID ordinance. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

⁵² Hydrologic Region South Coast, Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin, Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin, Bulletin 118. Accessed 20 September 2017. Available at: http://www.water.ca.gov/pubs/groundwater/bulletin_118/basindescriptions/4-4.07.pdf

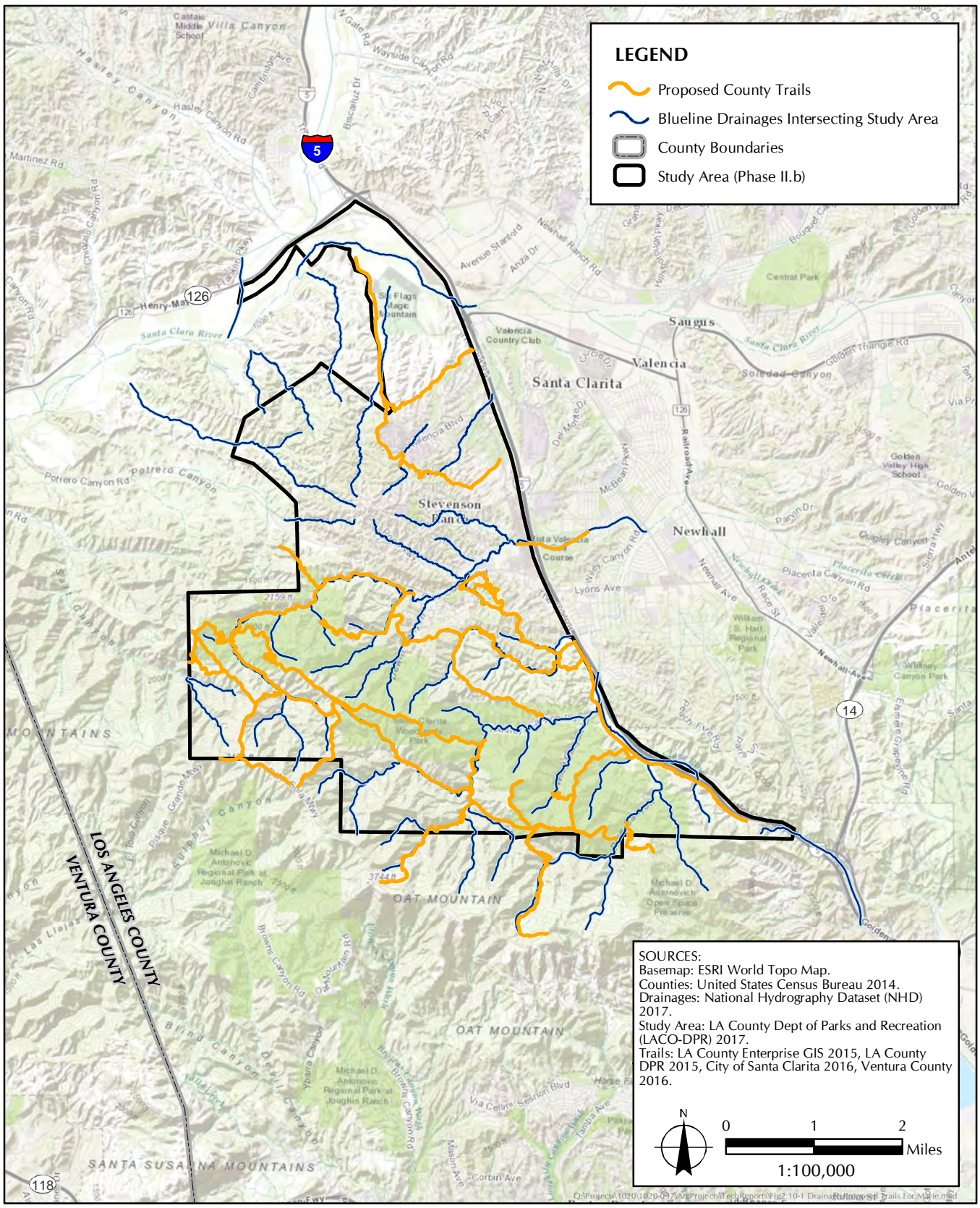


Figure 2.10-1a
 Blue Line Drainages and Proposed Trails

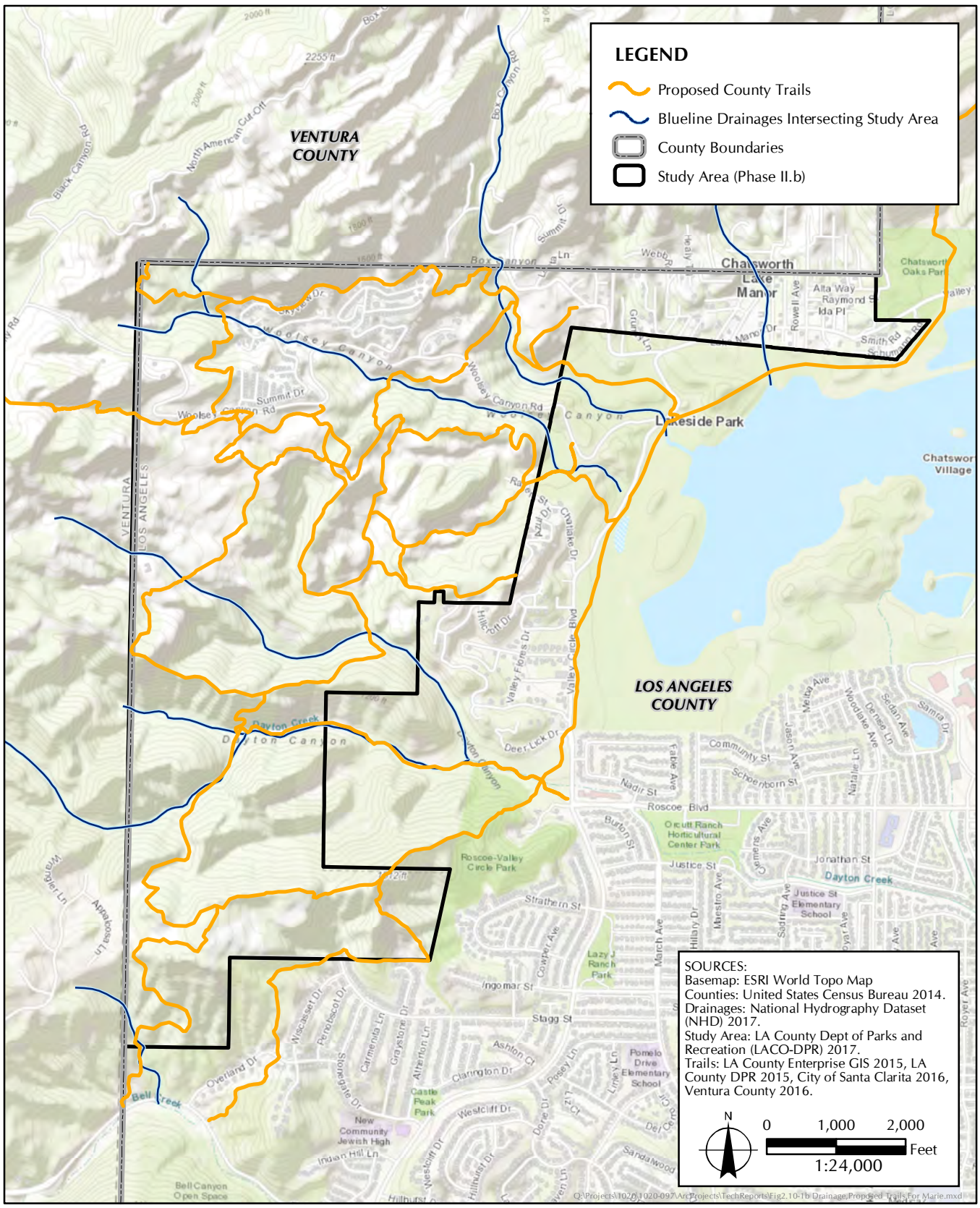


Figure 2.10-1b
 Blue Line Drainages and Proposed Trails

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding substantially altering the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increasing the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner would result in flooding on- or off-site. Situated along the southern flanks of the Santa Susana Mountains, the topography of the Trails Master Plan is characterized by a series of southwest draining canyons that are separated by steep-sloped and narrow ridge tops. Project elements would be required to be designed consistent with the County Trails Manual that provides design specifications to conserve the existing drainage pattern by requiring that trails be designed taking the existing land contours into consideration and using design measures such as out-sloping and rill bars to allow overland flow to cross over the trail as quickly as possible, thus maintaining existing land contours and drainage patterns.

However, given the steep topography and the size of the study area, it anticipated that the full build-out of proposed project would require crossing of up to 97 drainages (see Figure 2.10-1). However, the proposed project would be expected to impact up to 131.7 acres including proposed trails and proposed facility locations, which constitutes a very minor area, less than one percent of the study area; therefore, there would be no substantial alteration of the drainage pattern or changes in surface runoff that would result in flooding on- or off-site. Furthermore, the trails plan has been designed to minimize the number of trail crossings. Where drainages cannot be clear-spanned, and require construction within waters of the United States or waters of the State, they may be subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE under Section 404 of the Federal CWA or under Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code. The discharge of dredged or fill materials into wetlands and waters of the United States or the alteration of a natural drainage subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE and/or subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW would have the potential to result in erosion or compromise the natural flood conveyance functions, constituting a significant impact. Conformance with the mitigation measures required to use a Nationwide Permit, or obtain an individual permit under Section 404 of the CWA, or a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement under Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code, would reduce impacts to below the level of significance. Impacts would be further reduced through compliance with the County’s LID ordinance. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

e) Add water features or create conditions in which standing water can accumulate that could increase habitat for mosquitoes and other vectors that transmit diseases such as the West Nile virus and result in increased pesticide use?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding increasing habitat for mosquitoes or other vectors that transmit diseases. The proposed project would not add water features or create conditions in which standing water would accumulate or that would increase habitat for mosquitoes and other vectors that transmit diseases such as the West Nile virus and result in increased pesticide use. Additionally, Los Angeles County has a “pack it in...pack it out” policy. This common saying is a simple yet effective way to get hikers to take their trash home with them. Furthermore, all trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual. Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

f) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hydrology and water quality regarding creating or contributing runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or providing substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The proposed project would be required to be designed in accordance with the recommendations of the County Trails Manual, including the use of erosion control devices. Potential contributions to surface runoff from impervious surfaces would be reduced to below the level of significance through compliance with the County's LID Ordinance, requiring the use of two BMPs. Implementation of BMPs, required pursuant to the County's LID Ordinance, would be expected to reduce impacts to below the level of significance. The proposed project would consist of primarily natural pervious surfaces and would not be expected to increase stormwater runoff. Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

g) Generate construction or post-construction runoff that would violate applicable stormwater NPDES permits or otherwise significantly affect surface water or groundwater quality?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding the generation of construction or post-construction runoff that would violated applicable stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or otherwise significantly affect surface water or groundwater quality. The depth to groundwater within the Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin has been reported at 10 to 100 feet below the ground surface in the project study area.⁵³ However, given the steep topography and the size of the study area, it anticipated that the full build-out of proposed project would require crossing of up to 97 drainages (see Figure 2.10-1). However, the proposed project would be expected to impact up to 131.7 acres, including proposed trails and proposed facility locations, which constitutes a very minor area, less than one percent of the approximately 14,808-acre study area; therefore, there would be no substantial alteration of the drainage pattern or changes in surface runoff that would result in flooding on- or off-site. Furthermore, the proposed project has been designed to minimize the number of trail crossings. The proposed project would not generate construction or post-construction runoff that would violate existing NPDES permits or otherwise significant affect surface water or groundwater quality. Impacts would be reduced to below the level of significance through preparation and implementation of a SWPPP and through compliance with the County's LID ordinance. Furthermore, all trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

h) Conflict with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.84)?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hydrology and water quality regarding conflicts with the Los Angeles County LID Ordinance. Procedures from the County's LID Standards Manual would be followed to determine the difference in the proposed project's pre- and post-development runoff volumes

⁵³ Hydrologic Region South Coast, Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin, Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin, Bulletin 118. Accessed 20 September 2017. Available at: http://www.water.ca.gov/pubs/groundwater/bulletin_118/basindescriptions/4-4.07.pdf

and potential pollutant loads. All development would occur in compliance with the County's LID Ordinance. Where impervious surface is added as a result of the construction of restrooms, parking areas, or hardscape associated with appurtenant structures, impacts related to the loss of pervious surfaces that facilitate groundwater recharge would be reduced to below the level of significance through compliance with the County's LID ordinance, requiring the use of two BMPs. Furthermore, all trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual. Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

i) Result in point or nonpoint source pollutant discharges into State Water Resources Control Board-designated Areas of Special Biological Significance?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hydrology and water quality regarding resulting in a point or nonpoint pollutant discharge into State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)-designated Areas of Special Biological Significance. Construction activities associated with trail development would include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads and trail staging areas. These construction activities have the potential to occur within and adjacent to state and federal wetlands and or waters of the United States on-site. Impacts would include disruption of streams and wetlands as new trails are developed and dredge and fill activities associated with trail development. The discharge of dredged or fill materials in to wetlands and waters of the United States would be subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and would require a Water Quality Certification or Waiver of Water Quality Certification from the Los Angeles RWQCB. It is possible that the work could be authorized pursuant to one of the pre-authorized Nationwide Permits. Furthermore, all trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual. Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

j) Use onsite wastewater treatment systems in areas with known geological limitations (e.g. high groundwater) or in close proximity to surface water (including, but not limited to, streams, lakes, and drainage course)?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems in areas of known geological systems or in close proximity to surface water. The proposed project does not propose the use onsite wastewater treatment systems. Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

k) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding otherwise substantially degrading water quality. Construction or maintenance of trails that require grading in excess of 1 acre have the potential to violate water quality standards, particularly in relation to total dissolved sediments and be subject to General Construction Permit. Impacts would be reduced to below the level of significance through preparation, and implementation, of a SWPPP. There is one impaired water body within the proposed project study area: the Santa Clara River (in the Phase II.a area). Recreation is an allowable use pursuant to the Basin Plan; therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with the Basin Plan. Furthermore, all trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

l) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, or within a floodway or floodplain?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hydrology and water quality regarding placing housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. The proposed project would not include the construction of new or relocation of existing housing. Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

m) Place structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows, within a 100-year flood hazard area, floodway, or floodplain?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding placing structures within a 100-year flood hazard area. There are six canyons within the project study area that have mapped 100-year floodplains, indicating these areas have a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year (see Figure 5.1-3, *FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas*, in Appendix F). These canyons all drain towards the Santa Clara River and include portions of Rice Canyon, Towsley Canyon, Gavin Canyon, Lyon Canyon, and Pico Canyon. Additionally, Potrero Canyon is within the Phase II.a area, and also drains to the Santa Clara River. There are no flood risk areas within the Phase II.b area. The proposed project would include the construction of new or relocation of existing structures. However, the proposed structures would be required to be designed in accordance with the recommendations of the County Trails Manual, which would reduce impacts to below the level of significance. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

n) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to hydrology and water quality regarding exposing people or structures to risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The project area is near the Castaic Dam. The Castaic Dam is an embankment dam in northern Los Angeles County, California, near the rural unincorporated community of Castaic, located in the northern part of Los Angeles County, California. The dam was built by the California Department of Water Resources and construction was completed in 1973. The lake has a capacity of 325,000 acre-feet (401,000,000 square meters) and stores drinking water for the western portion of the Greater Los Angeles Area. The distance from Castaic Dam to the Phase II.a area is 5.2 miles south; the distance from Castaic Dam to Phase II.b area is 19.3 miles south; the distance from Castaic Dam to the nearest proposed trail corridor (segment ESC1 of “Entrada to Santa Clara River” trail corridor) is 5.8 miles south. Floods that could result from failure of the Castaic Dam could expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding. However, the proposed project would not substantially affect this risk. Furthermore, all trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trail Manual. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and mitigation would not be required.

o) Place structures in areas subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

The proposed project would result in no impact to hydrology and water quality regarding placing structures in areas subject to inundation by seiche or tsunami. Although mudflow events likely would be relatively uncommon, the steep topography in the soil- and colluvium-covered bedrock terrain may generate mud- or debris-flows that could enter the project area from the hillside areas. However, the proposed project would be required to be designed in accordance with the recommendations of the County Trails Manual, which would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to land use and planning, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Land use and planning in the Phase II.a area was evaluated with regard to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (One Valley One Vision). Land use and planning in the Phase II.b area was evaluated with regard to the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 (County General Plan), the Los Angeles County Hillside Management Ordinance, and the Los Angeles County Zoning Code.

Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in no impact to land use and planning regarding the division of an established community. The proposed project is intended to provide greater connectivity to open space and recreation opportunities for Los Angeles County residents and visitors, through the development of a network of multi-use trails. The Phase II.a area is entirely within the boundaries of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (SCVAP). The SCVAP contains policies that support the development of trails in the plan area in both its Circulation and Conservation and Open Space Elements.⁵⁴ The Phase II.b area is entirely within unincorporated Los Angeles County. The County General Plan guides the long-term conservation of natural resources and the preservation of open space areas in the County. Policy C/NR 2.2 encourages the development of multi-benefit dedicated open space.⁵⁵ Rather than dividing established communities, the proposed project would result in greater connectivity due to the planned network of trails. Therefore, there would be no impact to land use and planning regarding the division of an established community, and no mitigation would be required.

b) Be inconsistent with the applicable County plans for the subject property including, but not limited to, the General Plan, specific plans, local coastal plans, area plans, and community/neighborhood plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would result in no impact to land use and planning regarding being inconsistent with applicable County plans for the subject property including, but not limited to, the County General Plan, specific plans, local coastal plans, area plans, and community/neighborhood plans. The SCVAP contains policies and plans that support the development of trails in the plan area in both its Circulation and Conservation and Open Space elements.⁵⁶ The County General Plan guides the long-term conservation of natural resources and the preservation of open space areas in the County. Policy C/NR 2.2 encourages the development of multi-benefit dedicated open space.⁵⁷ In addition, the County General Plan, specifically

⁵⁴ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf

⁵⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf

⁵⁶ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf

⁵⁷ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf

Policies P/R 4.1 through 4.6, encourages improved accessibility and connectivity to a comprehensive trail system including rivers, greenways, and community linkages.⁵⁸ The entirety of the project study area is located outside the coastal zone. Therefore, there would be no impact to land use and planning regarding inconsistencies with applicable County plans for the subject property within the project study area, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Be inconsistent with the County zoning ordinance as applicable to the subject property?

The proposed project would result in no impact to land use and planning regarding inconsistencies with the County zoning ordinance. As shown in Section 1, *Project Description*, there are 16 zoning designations within the project study area, predominantly Open Space (OS), Light Agricultural (A-1), Heavy Agricultural, (A-2), and Single-Family Residence (R-1) (see Table 1.7-1, *Proposed Project Area Zoning Designations*). Riding and hiking trails are a permitted use in 8 of the 16 zones and a permitted use after hearing officer approval, planning director approval, or approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the remaining 8 zones (Table 1.7-1). Therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with the County zoning ordinance as applicable to the subject property within the project area, and no mitigation would be required.

d) Conflict with Hillside Management criteria, Significant Ecological Areas conformance criteria, or other applicable land use criteria?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to land use and planning regarding Hillside Management Criteria, Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs), or other applicable land use criteria. Portions of the project study area overlap three SEAs designated pursuant to the County General Plan: the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills SEA, the Valley Oaks Savannah SEA, and the Santa Clara River SEA (see Figure 1.6-2, *Los Angeles County Land Use Designations*). Approximately 0.4 square miles of the westernmost portion of the Santa Clara River SEA is within the Phase II.a area. Approximately 0.3 square miles of the Valley Oaks Savannah SEA is within the Phase II.a area. Approximately 13.9 square miles of the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills SEA is within the project study area (12.4 square miles in Phase II.a and 1.5 square miles in Phase II.b). The trails in the project study area would be designed to standards of the County Trails Manual. The proposed project would not conflict with Los Angeles County Municipal Code Title 22, § 22.56.215 – Significant Ecological Areas because trails and recreation facilities are an allowed use in SEAs, and any trails project under the proposed project would be required to comply with the SEATAC CUP application process.⁵⁹ Therefore, the proposed project would not impact the special status afforded to the habitats and plant and animal species present within the SEAs. The recreational trails in the project study area that cross through areas with slopes of greater than 25 percent would be subject to the requirements and design standards of the Hillside Management Ordinance and hillside design standards in the Conservation and Natural Resources Element of the County General Plan. This would include preserving the physical shape of the hillside and maintaining pleasant views.⁶⁰ All trail facilities would be designed in accordance with the County Trails Manual. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to land use and planning regarding conflicts with the Hillside Management Area

⁵⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch10.pdf

⁵⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf

⁶⁰ Los Angeles County Municipal Code, Title 22, Division 1, Chapter 22.56.217. https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TTT22PLZO_DIV1PLZO_CH22.56COUSPEVA_NOUSTEUSDIRE_PT1COUSPE_22.56.215SIECARDRE, accessed August 2, 2017.

Ordinance, Significant Ecological Areas conformance criteria, or other applicable land use criteria, and no mitigation would be required.

12. MINERAL RESOURCES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact on mineral resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Mineral resources in the project study area were evaluated with regard to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA),⁶¹ Mineral Land Classification of the Greater Los Angeles Area: Classification of Sand and Gravel Resource Areas,⁶² the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035,⁶³ the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision,⁶⁴ the County Trails Manual,⁶⁵ and the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.⁶⁶

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to mineral resources regarding the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. The project study area encompasses approximately 22 square miles within the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area (Phase II.a area) and approximately 2 square miles within the San Fernando Valley Planning Area (Phase II.b area). The Phase II.a area contains several mineral resources. Traditionally, gold mining and oil production have been the dominant mineral extraction activities in and around the Santa Clarita Valley. Other significant minerals including construction aggregate such as sand and gravel as well as titanium, tuff, and rock can be found. The project study area contains mineral resources that are classified and subject to regulation under SMARA. SMARA requires adoption of state policy for the reclamation of mined lands and conservation of natural resources, regulates mining activities, and directs classification and mapping of mineral resources by State Geologists to show the occurrence or likely occurrence of economically significant mineral deposits. Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) are classified according to the existence or nonexistence of significant mineral deposits. The northernmost portion of the Phase II.a area is located within an MRZ-2 as classified by geologically surveyed data to contain significant mineral deposits or areas where geologic information indicates the possible presence of resources.⁶⁷ The Phase II.a area is covered by the Santa Clarita Valley Plan, which establishes MRZs by assessment of active sand and gravel mining operations, geologic reports and maps, and field

⁶¹ California Public Resources Code, Section 2710, Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

⁶² Joseph, Stephen E., Russell V. Miller, Siang S. Tan, and Roy W. Goodman. 1987. Part V: Mineral Land Classification of the Greater Los Angeles Area: Classification of Sand and Gravel Resource Areas, Saugus-Newhall Production-Consumption Region. Available at: ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/sr/SR_143/PartV/

⁶³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf

⁶⁴ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

⁶⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

⁶⁶ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 27 May 2003. Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/newhall_ranch_specific_plan/

⁶⁷ California Public Resources Code, Section 2710, Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

investigations.⁶⁸ Designated sand, gravel, and rock (MRZ-2) resources are primarily concentrated along waterways within the Phase II.a area including portions of the Santa Clara River Valley floodplain, which incorporates Castaic Creek and Castaic Junction (Figure 2.12-1, *Known Mineral Resources*). The County General Plan identifies no MRZs within the Phase II.b area.⁶⁹

Historically extracted minerals including gold, natural gas, and oil were also identified within the project study area. The Phase II.a area contains active, buried, inactive, and plugged oil wells as well as oil field boundaries. Active oil wells and oil field lease boundaries are depicted in Figure 2.12-1. There are four active oil wells within the Phase II.a area and no active oil wells within the Phase II.b area. No active oil wells are located where trail facilities are proposed; the closest a proposed trail facility comes to one of the four active oil wells in the Phase II.a area is approximately 729 feet.

SMARA requires that significant mineral resources be protected from encroachment by incompatible development, as they provide a needed resource to support construction and areas containing significant mineral aggregate resources are designated by an MRZ zoning overlay district that permits extraction along with other compatible uses. The Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan contains policies to protect significant state-designated mineral resources from incompatible development in conformance with SMARA regulation and also works to ensure that extraction and reclamation activities are compatible with other development activities as well as ensuring all adverse environmental impacts are mitigated.⁷⁰

The County General Plan contains a Mineral and Energy Resources section within the Conservation and Natural Resources Element that addresses the use and management of valuable energy and mineral resources in the unincorporated areas of the County.⁷¹ The Los Angeles Metropolitan Area is the largest producer and consumer of construction aggregates in the country, and thus mineral resources are pivotal to the Southern California economy. The County is dependent on the California Geological Survey to identify deposits of regionally-significant aggregate resources where clusters or belts of mineral deposits are designated as MRZ-2s.

The County Trails Manual requires compliance in the elements of all project trails designed in the County. The proper trail development and maintenance would be determined by site-specific conditions and would differ depending on the location. Trail requirements include avoidance of environmentally sensitive features by evaluating feasible alternative routes, minimizing potential impacts to the maximum extent possible, and designing alignments located in areas where grade and obstacles would not pose a problem for trail access. In areas with site-specific environmental constraints, trails would adhere to the guidelines to reduce impacts to the surrounding environment.⁷²

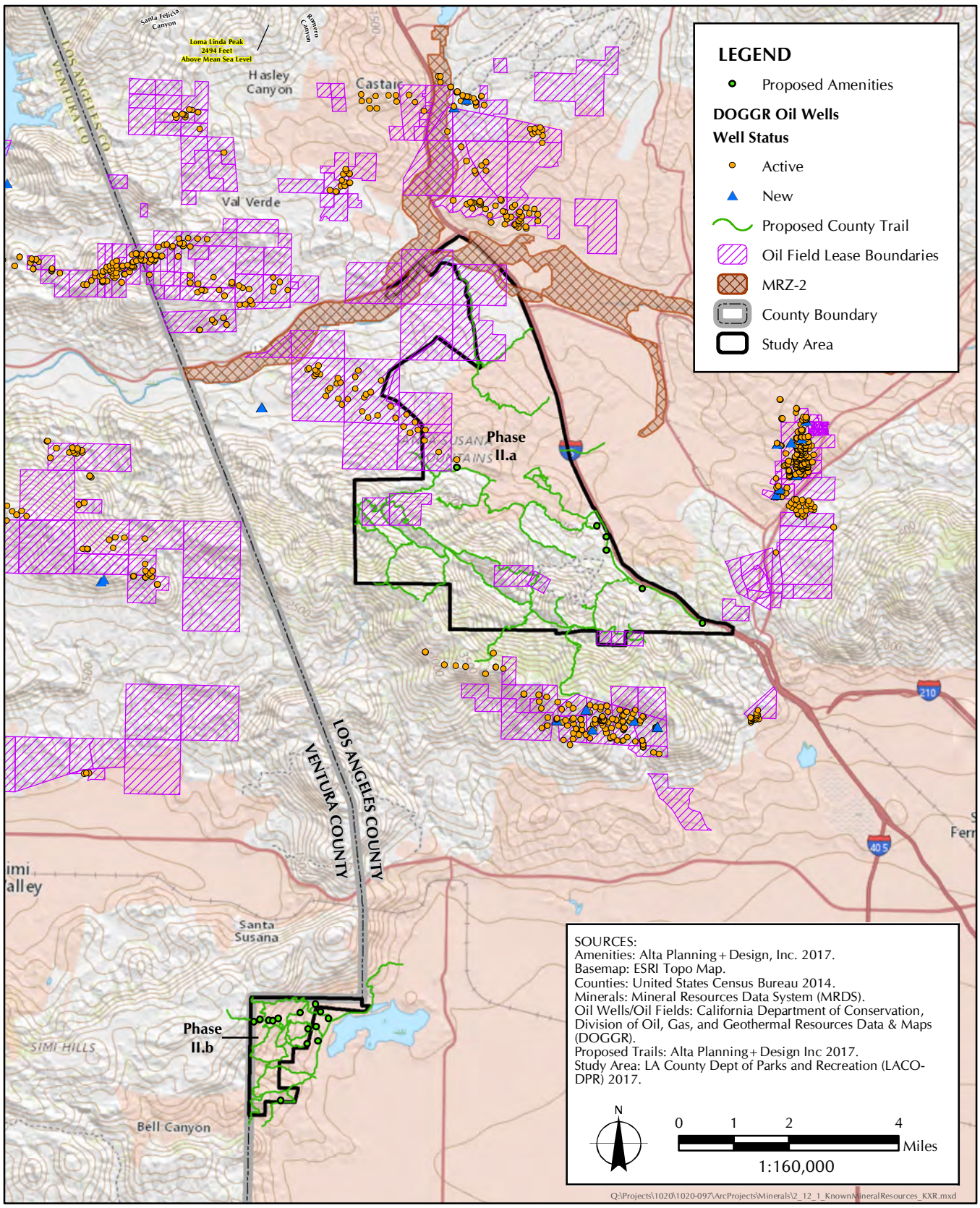
⁶⁸ Joseph, Stephen E., Russell V. Miller, Siang S. Tan, and Roy W. Goodman. 1987. Part V: Mineral Land Classification of the Greater Los Angeles Area: Classification of Sand and Gravel Resource Areas, Saugus-Newhall Production-Consumption Region. Available at: ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/sr/SR_143/PartV/

⁶⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. May 2014. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Figure 9.6: Mineral Resources. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_2035_2014-FIG_9-6_mineral_resources.pdf

⁷⁰ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Conservation and Open Space Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

⁷¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf

⁷² County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>



LEGEND

- Proposed Amenities

DOGGR Oil Wells

Well Status

- Active
- ▲ New

- Proposed County Trail
- ▨ Oil Field Lease Boundaries
- ▨ MRZ-2
- ▭ County Boundary
- ▭ Study Area

SOURCES:
 Amenities: Alta Planning+Design, Inc. 2017.
 Basemap: ESRI Topo Map.
 Counties: United States Census Bureau 2014.
 Minerals: Mineral Resources Data System (MRDS).
 Oil Wells/Oil Fields: California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources Data & Maps (DOGGR).
 Proposed Trails: Alta Planning+Design Inc 2017.
 Study Area: LA County Dept of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

0 1 2 4 Miles
 1:160,000



FIGURE 2.12-1
 Known Mineral Resources

Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to mineral resources regarding loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state, and no mitigation would be required.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

The proposed project would result in no impacts regarding the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated within a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. The project study area is subject to the provisions of the County of Los Angeles General Plan and Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. The Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan⁷³ identifies local mineral resources stating the close proximity to waterways including the Santa Clara River, Castaic Creek, and east of Sand Canyon Road. While there are minerals within the project study area, the proposed trail corridors would not cross into the MRZs and thus would not affect the availability of locally important mineral resources. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts regarding the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site, and no mitigation would be required.

⁷³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 27 November 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Update. Available at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/ovov>

13. NOISE

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to noise, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Noise Technical Report* (Appendix G).

Would the project result in:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08), or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to noise regarding exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08), or applicable standards of other agencies. The use of project design features and best management practices (BMPs) would reduce potential impacts to below the level of significance. The baseline conditions for ambient noise levels in the project study area were characterized based on noise monitoring conducted at four locations near potential sensitive receptors (see Figure 4.1-1, *Noise Monitoring Sites*, in Appendix G). Ambient noise levels were established by continuously recording noise measurements in 15-minute intervals with a Larson Davis Spark 706RC Noise Dosimeters (serial number 18171) from 8:49 a.m. through 4:36 p.m. on June 28, 2017, as described in Appendix G. The average of the A-weighted ambient noise level for all four monitoring sites at the project study area is 58.3 dBA (Table 2.13-1, *Ambient Noise Levels*). The highest L_{eq} recorded was 76.8 dBA located within the Phase II.a area at Site B.

**TABLE 2.13-1
AMBIENT NOISE LEVELS**

Monitoring Site	Sensitive Receptor	Average L_{eq} (dBA)	Maximum L_{eq} (dBA)	Minimum L_{eq} (dBA)
A (Phase II.a)	Rural/Open Space	57.1	63.4	56.3
B (Phase II.a)	Schools/Residential	57.8	76.8	51.4
C (Phase II.b)	Residential	64.4	73.7	51.9
D (Phase II.b)	Residential	54	73.1	50.5

NOTE: L_{eq} : The equivalent-continuous sound (L_{eq}) is the level of a constant sound, expressed in decibels (dB), which in a given time period ($T=T_2 - T_1$) has the same energy as a time varying sound. For the Spark dosimeters, a L_{eq} value is recorded for two different time intervals. First, a L_{eq} is recorded for the entire record's run time. Second, a L_{eq} is recorded for each individual time history sample.

dBA: A-weighted decibels (dBA) are an expression of the relative loudness of sounds in air as perceived by the human ear. In the A-weighted system, the decibel values of sounds at low frequencies are reduced compared with unweighted decibels, in which no correction is made for audio frequency.

According to the County of Los Angeles Municipal Codes, mobile equipment shall not generate noise levels above 75 dBA for single-family residences, and stationary equipment shall not generate noise levels above 60 dBA for single-family residences during weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Furthermore, daily construction activities would be subject to County noise regulations, which state that construction equipment may not operate between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday, or at any time on Sunday or holidays. Construction activities are not expected to occur outside of this time frame.

The analysis in Appendix G predicted distance at which noise impacts would be below the level of significance for the four construction phases indicates that construction impacts would be below the level of significance when activities occur more than 251 feet from a sensitive receptor. The noise monitoring and modeling conducted by Sapphos Environmental, Inc. in June 2017 identified 510 parcels with potentially sensitive receptors (>99 percent were residential land uses) within 251 feet of the proposed trail alignments. These included any existing or proposed residences inside the project study area or communities in the vicinity of the project study area. These sensitive land uses included residences, churches, short-term accommodations (hotels, motels, and camps), schools, hospitals, and day care centers. Sensitive receptors are located in the northeast portion of the Phase II.a area, including the Stevenson Ranch community in Santa Clarita Valley; and the northern and southern portions of the Phase II.b area, including the Canoga Park, Chatsworth, and West Hills communities within the City of Los Angeles. Impacts to noise from construction, operation, and maintenance of trails for sensitive receptors located within 251 feet would be avoided by complying with the County Noise Ordinance and by incorporating temporary noise barriers, baffles, or blankets as project design features during outdoor construction activities. These project design features would be installed at construction staging areas and at proposed facility locations to reduce the noise levels attributed to ground clearing, excavations, and erection of structures (Appendix G). Therefore, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to noise regarding exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08), or applicable standards of other agencies. No mitigation would be required.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

The proposed project would result in no impact to noise regarding exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Ground-borne vibration in the project study area is limited to minor traffic-induced vibrations from nearby streets, highways, and freeway vehicular traffic. Furthermore, there are no current construction projects, oil fields, mining operations, blasting, or other activities resulting in ground-borne vibrations in the vicinity. Construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project would not require blasting, drilling, or other activities that would result in excessive ground-borne vibrations. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact regarding exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels, and no mitigation would be required.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from parking areas?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to noise regarding a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. The average of the A-weighted ambient noise level for the four monitoring sites is 58.3 dBA (see Table 2.13-1). The highest L_{eq} recorded was 76.8 dBA at Site B. Freeways are a primary source of ambient noise in the Santa Clarita Valley, most noticeably within the Stevenson Ranch community location. The primary source of noise during operation of the proposed project would be conservational noise from recreational uses such as hiking, bike riding, and equestrian riding. Noise from typical conversations on trails would be negligible at sensitive receptor locations when compared with the average ambient noise in the project study area. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from parking areas, and no mitigation would be required.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from amplified sound systems?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to noise regarding a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from amplified sound systems. The use of project design features and BMPs would reduce potential impacts to below the level of significance. The average of the A-weighted ambient noise level for the four monitoring sites is 58.3 dBA (see Table 2.13-1). Noise impacts associated with the construction of the proposed project are expected to occur in three phases: ground clearing, excavations, and erections of poles and facilities. The average noise levels associated with these construction phases where all pertinent equipment is present and operating at a reference distance of 50 feet are presented in Table 2.13-2, *Construction Activity Noise Levels at 50 Feet*. By assigning the highest potential noise level during construction at 89 dBA during excavations (L_1) at a distance of 50 feet (d_1), the distance at which construction activities would reach a maximum of 75 dBA (L_2) and still be in compliance with Title 12, Chapter 8 of the Los Angeles County Municipal Codes for construction noise restrictions, is approximately 251 feet (d_2). This distance, along with the other predicted distances at which the noise impacts would be below 75 dBA for each construction phase, are presented in Table 2.13-3, *Predicted Distance at Which Noise Impact Would Be below Level of Significance*.

**TABLE 2.13-2
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY NOISE LEVELS AT 50 FEET**

Activity	Noise Level at 50 Feet (dBA)
Ground clearing	84 ± 6 dBA
Excavations	89 ± 6 dBA
Erection of structures	85 ± 5 dBA

SOURCE: VSA & Associates. 7 January 2008. *Altadena Crest Trail Improvement Noise Impact Analysis*. Whittier, CA.

**TABLE 2.13-3
PREDICTED DISTANCE AT WHICH NOISE IMPACT
WOULD BE BELOW LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Construction Phase	Distance at Which Noise Impact Will Be below 75 dBA	Number of Sensitive Receptors within This Distance
Ground clearing	141 feet	325
Excavations	251 feet	520
Erection of structures	158 feet	351

NOTE: According to Title 12, Chapter 8 of the Los Angeles County Municipal Codes, construction activities for mobile equipment may not exceed 75 dBA during weekly daytime hours from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for single-family residential. Construction activities are not expected to occur during nighttime hours from 8 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

The distance at which noise impacts would be below the threshold of significance for the different construction phases ranges from 141 to 251 feet. Any impacts to sensitive receptors within the referenced distances would be avoided by complying with the County Noise Ordinance limiting construction and maintenance activities to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, and prohibiting work on federal holidays and Sundays; and by limiting noise levels to below 75 dBA for mobile equipment and 60 dBA for stationary equipment through the use of temporary noise barriers, baffles, or blankets as project design features during outdoor construction activities. These project design features would be installed at

construction staging areas and at proposed facility locations to reduce the noise levels attributed to ground clearing, excavations, and erection of structures. Furthermore, due to the short-term nature of project construction, sensitive receptors would not be expected to be significantly affected by the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to noise regarding a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from amplified sound systems, and no mitigation would be required.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to noise regarding exposing people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels, for a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The project study area is not within an airport land use plan, or within 2 miles of a public airport. The nearest public airports to the proposed project area are the Van Nuys Airport, located approximately 9 miles southeast of Phase II.a and approximately 9 miles east from Phase II.b; and the Whiteman Airport, located approximately 8 miles southeast of Phase II.a and 12.5 miles northeast of Phase II.b (see Figure 5.1.4-1, *Public and Private Airports*, in Appendix G). Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

The proposed project would result in no impact to noise regarding to exposing people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels, for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The project study area is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip (see Figure 5.1.4-1 in Appendix G). Therefore there would be no impact, and mitigation would not be required.

14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to population and housing, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in no impact to population and housing regarding inducing substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure). The project study area encompasses approximately 22 square miles within the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area (Phase II.a area) and approximately 2 square miles within the San Fernando Valley Planning Area (Phase II.b area).^{74,75} The project study area is located within the North Los Angeles (Phase II.a area) and San Fernando Valley (Phase II.b area) Subregions of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).⁷⁶ The latest growth forecast was completed as part of the 2016–2040 RTP/SCS, which was adopted April 7, 2016. According to SCAG’s Growth Forecast, the population of the entire unincorporated Los Angeles County Area is expected to grow from 1,040,700 residents in the year 2012 to 1,273,000 residents in the year 2040, and the number of occupied housing units is expected to increase from 292,700 units in the year 2012 to 392,400 units in the year 2040. This growth represents an approximately 18 percent increase in population and a 25 percent increase in housing over the 28-year period (Table 2.14-1, *Unincorporated Los Angeles County Growth Forecast*).⁷⁷

**TABLE 2.14-1
UNINCORPORATED LOS ANGELES COUNTY GROWTH FORECAST**

	2012	2020	2035	2040
Population	1,040,700	1,106,600	1,216,100	1,273,700
Household	292,700	332,700	371,800	392,400
Employment	222,900	237,500	272,400	288,400

SOURCE: Southern California Association of Governments. n.d. Current Demographics & Growth Forecast, Subarea Forecast. Available at: <http://www.scag.ca.gov/DataAndTools/Pages/GrowthForecasting.aspx>

⁷⁴ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

⁷⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County General Plan 2035. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan.pdf

⁷⁶ Southern California Association of Governments. n.d. SCAG Members & Partners Tab: SUBREGIONS. Available at: http://www.scag.ca.gov/about/Lists/SCAG_Members_Parners_Tab/DispForm.aspx?ID=2

⁷⁷ Southern California Association of Governments. n.d. Current Demographics & Growth Forecast, Subarea Forecast. Available at: <http://www.scag.ca.gov/DataAndTools/Pages/GrowthForecasting.aspx>

The proposed project would not directly induce population growth because it involves no new homes or businesses. Although some of the trail segments considered under the proposed project would be designed and constructed concurrently with residential development that may require the extension of roads or other infrastructure, the proposed project does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure to support new trails and related facilities. The proposed project is consistent with the goals and policies articulated in the County General Plan and would serve the recreational needs of the existing and projected County population and would assist the County in meeting the anticipated public demand for an additional 1,000 miles of trails by 2020.⁷⁸ Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts regarding substantial population growth in an area, and no mitigation would be required.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, especially affordable housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed project would result in no impact to population and housing regarding displacing substantial numbers of existing housing, especially affordable housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The proposed project would not displace any housing. Therefore there would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed project would result in no impact to population and housing regarding displacing substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The proposed project would not displace any people. Therefore there would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

d) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?

The proposed project would result in no impact to population and housing regarding cumulatively exceeding official regional or local population projections. The proposed project involves proposed multi-use trails and related trailheads, equestrian facilities, bike skills areas, parking areas, and other supporting trail facilities that would be designed and constructed per trail easements or open space dedications that accommodate trails, including developer trail and recreation obligations. As the proposed project would not induce population growth, it would not affect regional or local population projections. The proposed project is consistent with the goals and policies articulated in the County General Plan and would serve the recreational needs of the existing and projected County population. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact regarding cumulatively exceeding regional or local population projections, and no mitigation would be required.

⁷⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to public services, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Public services at the project study area were evaluated with regard to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan One Valley One Vision,⁷⁹ the Los Angeles County Fire Department website,⁸⁰ the County Trails Manual,⁸¹ the County of Los Angeles Fire Code (Title 32),⁸² the Safety Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035,⁸³ the Parks and Recreation Element of the County General Plan,⁸⁴ and the County of Los Angeles Public Library website.⁸⁵ Coordination was undertaken with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department as well as review of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department website.⁸⁶

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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a) Would the project create capacity or service level problems, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to public services regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection services. As described in Section 2.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the majority of the project study area is situated in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Figure 2.9-2, *Fire Hazard Severity Zones*). The proposed project would allow development of trails and trail-related structures in areas that have been designated as High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, where there is the potential for exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss,

⁷⁹ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

⁸⁰ County of Los Angeles Fire Department. Accessed 31 August 2017. Find Services in Los Angeles County. Available at: <http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/fire-station-listings/>

⁸¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

⁸² Municode Library. Accessed 30 August 2017. Los Angeles County, CA: Title 32 – Fire Code. Available at: https://www.municode.com/library/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TTT32FICO

⁸³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan. Chapter 12: Safety Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch12.pdf

⁸⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan. Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch10.pdf

⁸⁵ County of Los Angeles Public Library. Accessed 6 September 2017. County of Los Angeles Public Library: Statistics. Available at: <http://www.colapublib.org/aboutus/info.html>

⁸⁶ Los Angeles County Sheriff Department. Accessed 7 September 2017. Website available at: <http://sheriff.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/las>

injury or death involving wildland fires. However, the County building permit process reduces the potential exposure of people and structures to significant loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires to below the level of significance, through the requirement to use fire-resistant construction materials such as for roofs and design features such as enclosing eaves, and through the requirement for submittal and approval of a fuel modification plan, prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

Mutual aid agreements are maintained with local, state, and federal agencies (Figure 2.15-1, *Federal, State, and Local Fire Responsibility Areas*). As part of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, the entire Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan area, including the entire project study area, receives urban and wildland services from the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), including fire protection services, fire prevention services, emergency medical services, hazardous materials services, and urban search and rescue services.⁸⁷ According to the Safety Element of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, LACoFD has adopted a goal of responding to calls in urban areas within 5 minutes, in suburban areas within 8 minutes, and in rural areas within 12 minutes.⁸⁸ However, actual response times vary due to distances and road conditions.

The Phase II.a area is within the service areas of LACoFD Station #124. Additionally, there are several fire stations near the Phase II.a area. Station #126, which also serves in Battalion 6 and is located in the community of Santa Clarita, provides fire and rescue services and safe haven services for unincorporated Los Angeles County and for cities in the County which contract with it, including forest areas. Station #76 is located in Valencia. Fire Station #143 opened in 2016.⁸⁹ Fire Station #156 became operational in 2011. The Phase II.b area is located within the service areas of LACoFD Station #75 (Figure 2.15.2, *Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Station Services Areas*).

The LACoFD has adopted the State Fire Code standards for new development in hazardous fire areas. Fire prevention requirements include provision of access roads, adequate road width, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas. In addition, proof of adequate water supply for fire flow is required within a designated distance for new construction in fire hazard areas.

The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth because it involves no new homes or businesses, and it does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure to support new trails and related facilities. However, the proposed project would be expected to serve as a regional recreation facility in the County of Los Angeles that would accommodate day use from local residents and from throughout the area, which has the potential to result in a very minor increase in emergency response, search and rescue, and other fire protection services if any injuries, missing persons, or fire incidents occur. County trails are designed in accordance with the County Trails Manual and therefore generally have more negotiable grades, visibility, and maintenance to more readily accommodate a safer recreational experience than social trails that are developed in the absence of design guidelines. Consistent with Section 4.3.6, *Way-finding Signs*, of the County Trails Manual, the proposed project would include reassurance marker signs at every quarter mile of trail that identify the name of the trail and quarter milepost number in order to orient search and rescue services in the case of an emergency. The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation would be responsible for providing updated data to LACoFD marking the location of each quarter milepost along the trail for emergency response purposes.

⁸⁷ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Chapter 5: Safety. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-ch_05_safety.pdf

⁸⁸ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

⁸⁹ County of Los Angeles Fire Department. December 2016. Officials Dedicate Fire Station 143 in Castaic. Available at: <https://www.fire.lacounty.gov/officials-dedicate-fire-station-143-castaic/>

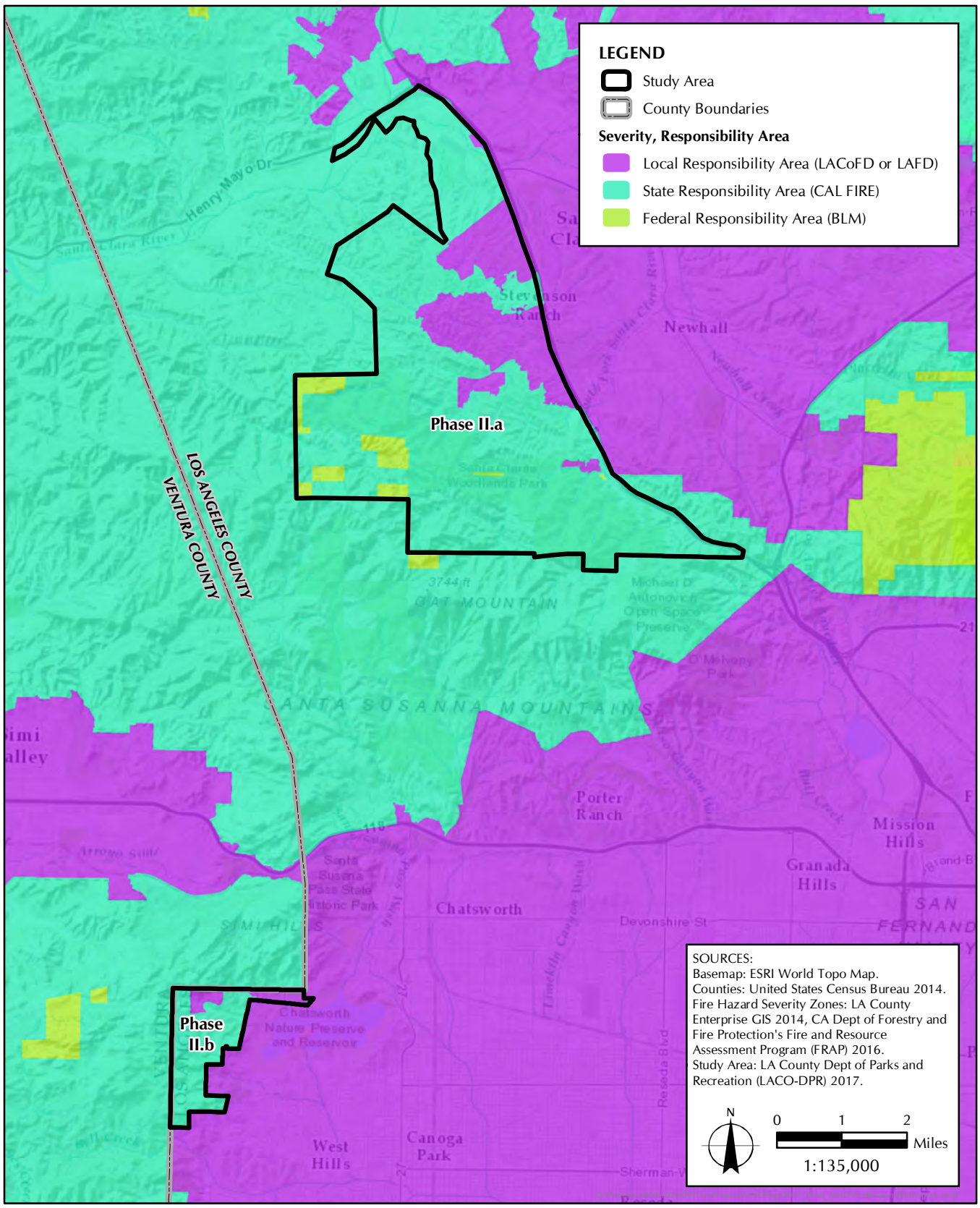


FIGURE 2.15-1
 Federal, State, and Local Fire Responsibility Areas

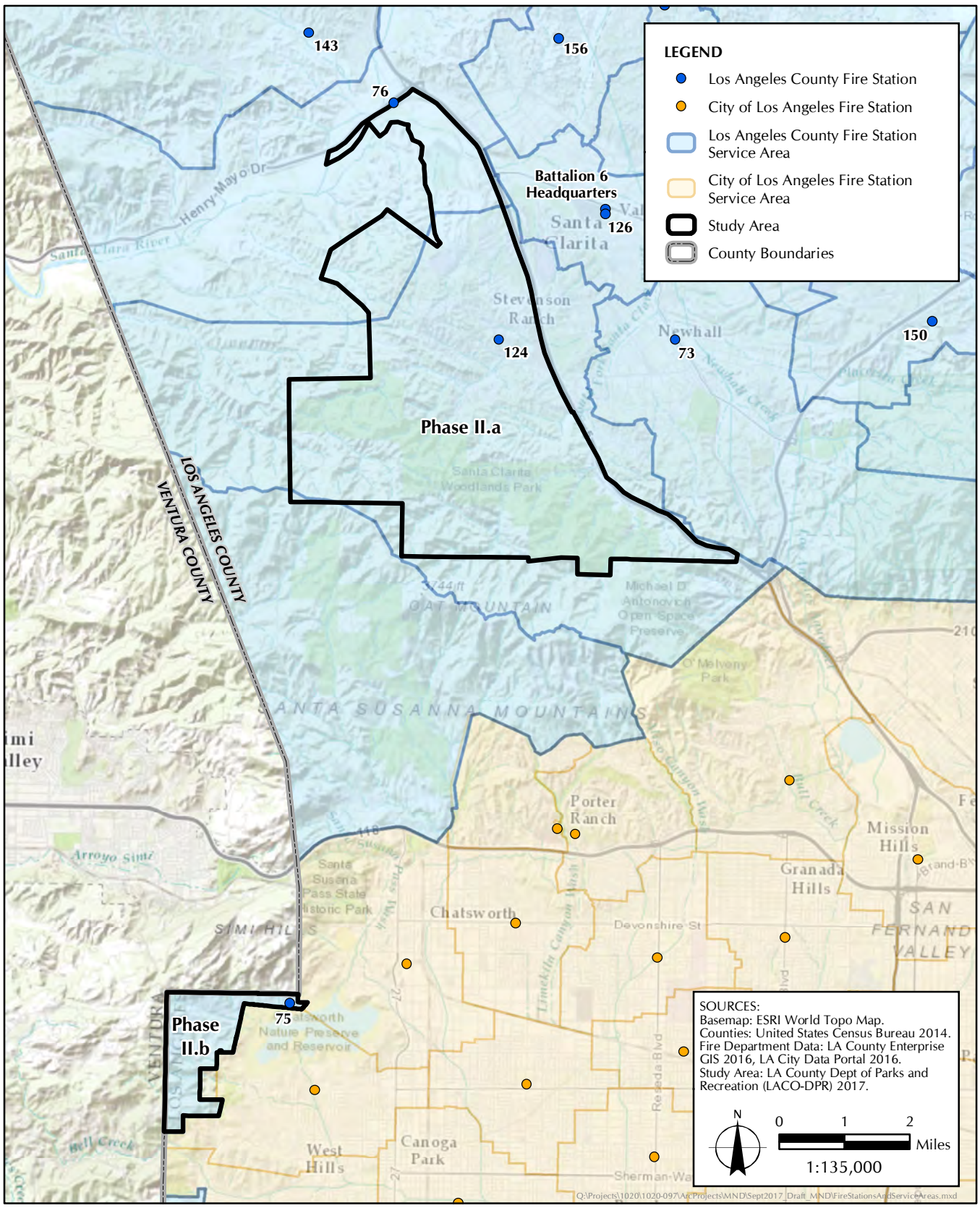


FIGURE 2.15-2
 Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Stations and Service Areas

Consistent with the County Trails Manual, landscaping around trailheads and along trails would be designed to balance fire mitigation with habitat conservation and slope preservation.⁹⁰ In accordance with County Codes, fires are only permitted in signed and designated areas of County Parkland (County Code 17.04.590), fireworks or other combustible materials are not permitted along any trail (County Code 17.04.520 and 17.04.610), and firearms are not permitted on County trails except in designated areas (County Code 17.04.620 and 17.08.300).⁹¹ Structures and parking lots would be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the County of Los Angeles Fire Code (Title 32).⁹² Fire prevention requirements would include provision of access roads, adequate road width, and clearance of brush around structures located in hillside areas. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection services, and no mitigation would be required.

Sheriff protection?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to public services regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for sheriff protection services. Sheriff protection services in unincorporated Los Angeles County are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). According to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, the Santa Clarita Valley Station of the LASD oversees general law and traffic enforcement within the City of Santa Clarita, while the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has jurisdiction over traffic on State highways and in unincorporated County areas. According to the 2012 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station has insufficient space to meet current staffing and future needs.⁹³ The Sheriff's Department also operates a storefront substation in Newhall. The LASD provides helicopter air support, search and rescue coordination, and the Career Offenders Burglary Robbery (COBRA) unit, which handles juvenile and gang-related crimes. The LASD is planning for the expansion of the main station, and is also planning to expand staffing levels to meet the needs of the Santa Clarita Valley's growing population. The project study area is located within the service area of the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff Station, an approximately 648-square-mile service area that includes portions of the Angeles National Forest. The Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff Station is located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the Phase II.a area and approximately 13 miles from the Phase II.b area, at 23740 Magic Mountain Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91355 (Figure 2.15-3, *Los Angeles County Sheriff Stations*).

⁹⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

⁹¹ Municode Library. Accessed 13 March 2016. Los Angeles County, CA: Part 3 – Park Rules and Regulations. Available at: https://www.municode.com/library/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TTT17PABEOTPUAR_CH17.04PAREAR_PT3PARURE

⁹² Municode Library. Accessed 13 March 2016. Los Angeles County, CA: Title 32 – Fire Code. Available at: https://www.municode.com/library/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TTT32FICO

⁹³ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

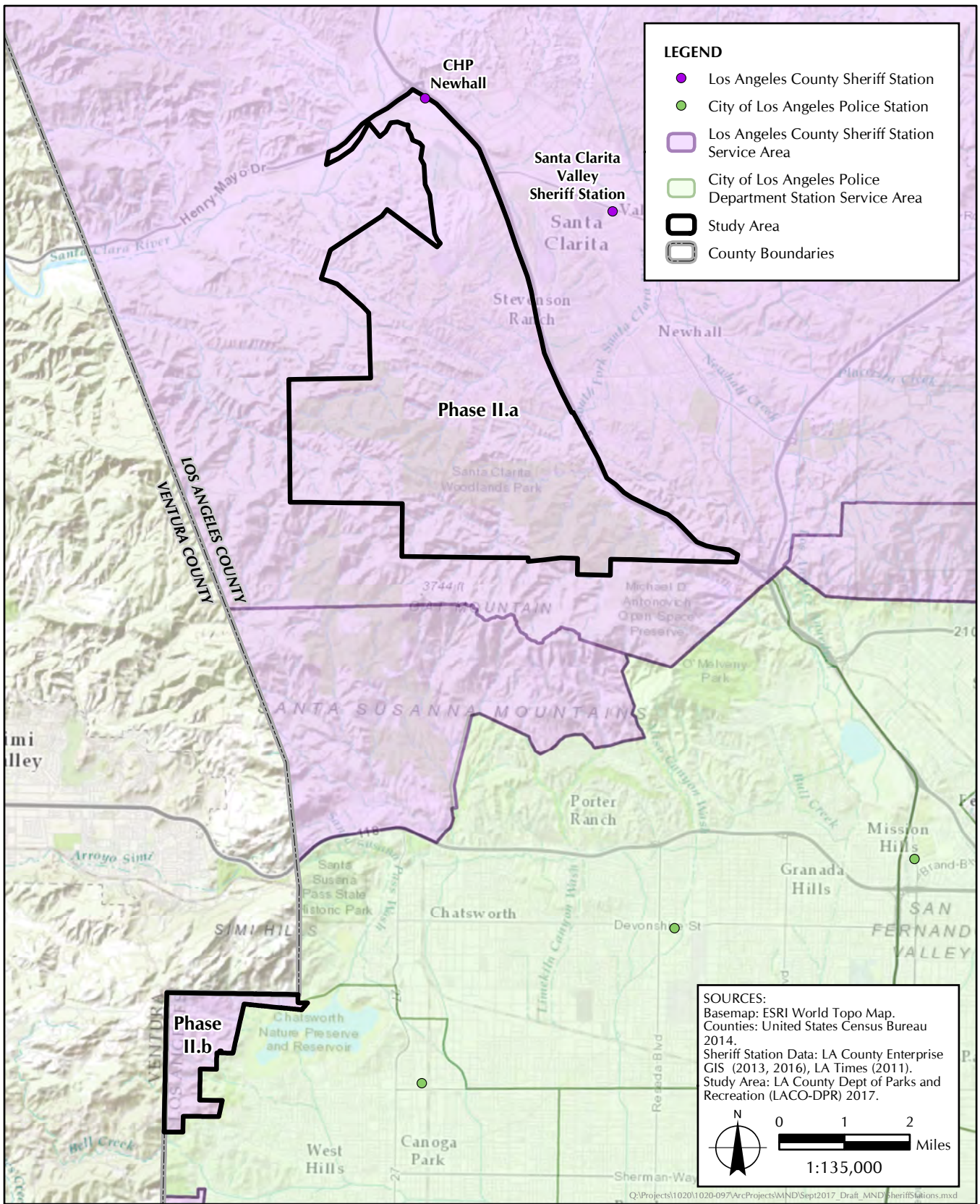


FIGURE 2.15-3
 Los Angeles County Sheriff Stations

The Safety Element of the County General Plan establishes that the LASD requires a staff level of one deputy sheriff per each 1,000 population to effectively and efficiently fulfill all of its functions.⁹⁴ The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth because it involves no new homes or businesses, and it does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure to support new trails and related facilities. However, the proposed project would serve as a regional recreation facility that would generate day use from throughout the area, which has the potential to result in a very minor increase in emergency response, search and rescue, and other sheriff services if any injuries or crime incidents occur as a result of local recreational users and additional one-day recreation users from the region. Multiple studies have shown that adopted trails tend to result in a negligible increase, neutral effect, or reduction in crimes including vandalism, theft, and trespassing, in the area through regular use and high visibility of users.^{95,96,97} The proposed project avoids Pitchess Detention Center, which is located in the southern portion of the project study area. During coordination with LASD in the agency/community outreach planning phase for the proposed project, LASD asked that trails be designed to not interfere with operations at Pitchess Detention Center. LASD also asked about providing specific quarter-mile trail markers to be used and GIS shapefiles of trails to be provided to LASD upon development of trails with trail marker locations to facilitate emergency response and evacuation. This feedback has been integrated into the scope of the proposed project. The proposed project was designed to ensure that trails are not located within the vicinity of correctional facilities within Pitchess Detention Center to maintain safety and security for recreation users and residents.

Consistent with Section 4.3.6, *Way-finding Signs*, of the County Trails Manual, the proposed project would include reassurance marker signs at every quarter mile of trail that identify the name of the trail and quarter milepost number in order to orient search and rescue services in the case of an emergency. The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation would be responsible for providing updated data to LASD marking the location of each quarter milepost along the trail to facilitate emergency search and rescue efforts. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for sheriff protection services, and no mitigation would be required.

Schools?

The proposed project would result in no impact to public services regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for school services. The project study area is served by one existing public high school, one existing public middle school, and three existing public elementary schools located within a quarter-mile radius of the Phase II.a area (Figure 2.15-4, *Public Schools*). The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth because it involves no new homes or businesses, and it does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure to support new trails and related facilities.

⁹⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan. Chapter 12: Safety Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch12.pdf

⁹⁵ Greer, Donald L., University of Nebraska at Omaha. October 2001. Nebraska Rural Trails: Three Studies of Trail Impact. Available at: http://headwaterseconomics.org/wphw/wp-content/uploads/Trail_Study_5-nebraska-rural-trails.pdf

⁹⁶ Seattle Engineering Department. May 1987. Evaluation of the Burke-Gilman Trail's Effect on Property Values and Crime. Available at: http://headwaterseconomics.org/wphw/wp-content/uploads/Trail_Study_82-burke-gilman-trail-property-values.pdf

⁹⁷ National Park Service. January 2008. Benefits of Trails & Greenways. Available at: <http://www.cdlandtrust.org/sites/default/files/publications/Benefits%20of%20Trails-NPS.pdf>

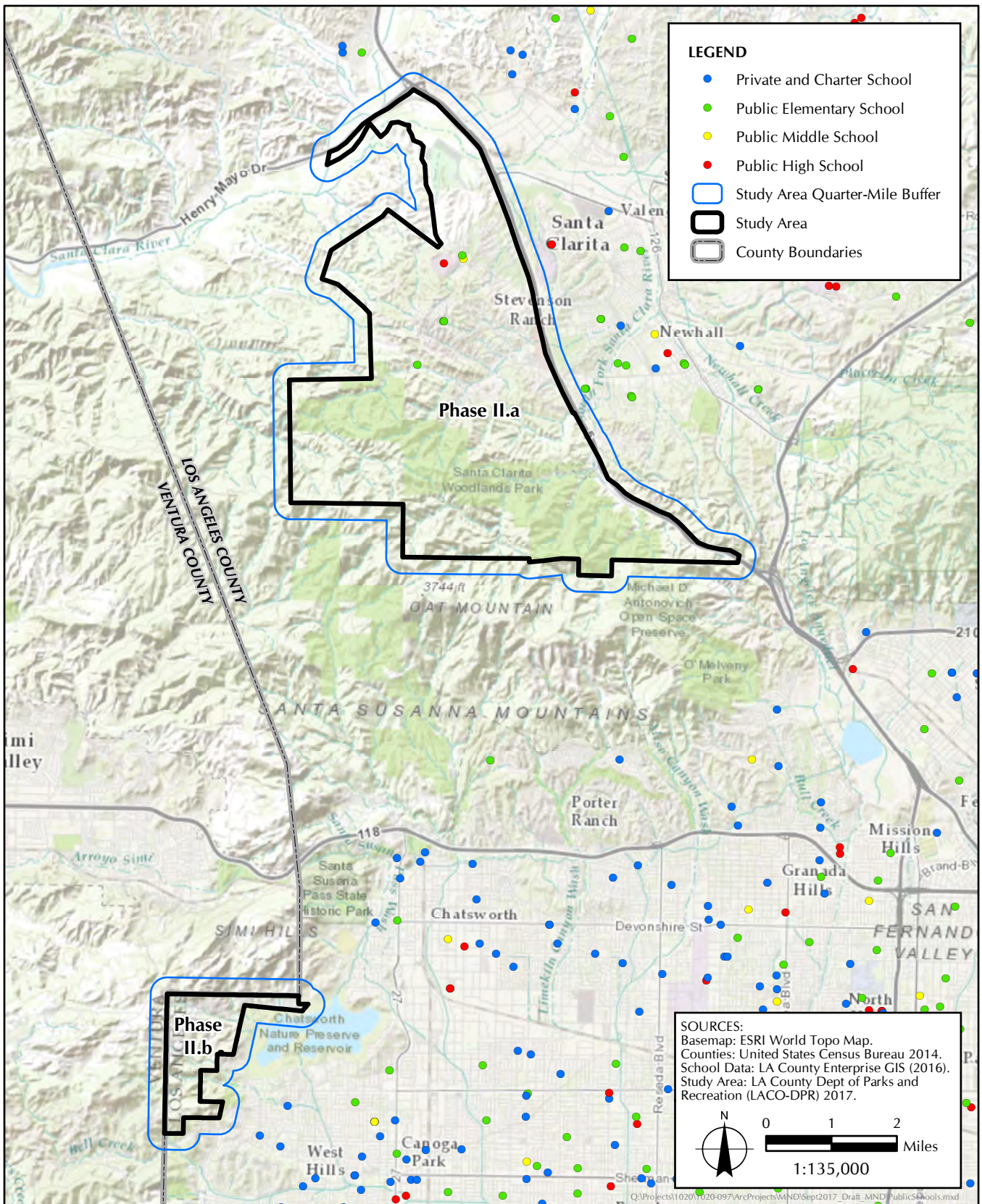


FIGURE 2.15-4
Public Schools

Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios for schools, and no mitigation would be required.

Parks?

The proposed project would result in no impact to public services regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for park services. The proposed project would provide approximately 70.3 miles of new trails and up to 30.5 acres of recreational facilities, including up to 15 acres of bike skills areas, four simple trailheads, two equestrian facilities, and eight trailhead and staging areas and trail facilities (see Section 2.16, *Recreation*, for information regarding existing parks). Based on the County's goals of providing 1 mile of trails per 1,000 population (approximately 50 feet of trail for each trail user) and providing approximately 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 population, the proposed project would serve 77,925 persons (70,300 through proposed trails and 7,625 through other proposed recreational facilities).^{98,99} The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth because it involves no new homes or businesses, and it does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure to support new trails and related facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios for park services, and no mitigation would be required.

Libraries?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to public services regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for library services. The Los Angeles County Public Library provides library services to over 3.5 million residents living in unincorporated Los Angeles County and within 49 of the 88 incorporated cities of the County within a service area of 3,000 square miles.^{100,101} One library is located within the Phase II.a area: the Stevenson Ranch Public Library in Stevenson Ranch (Figure 2.15-5, *Public Libraries*). The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth because it involves no new homes or businesses, and it does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure to support new trails and related facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios for library services, and no mitigation would be required.

⁹⁸ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

⁹⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan. Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch10.pdf

¹⁰⁰ County of Los Angeles Public Library. 2017. County of Los Angeles Public Library: About Us. Available at: <http://www.colapublib.org/aboutus/>

¹⁰¹ County of Los Angeles Public Library. 10 September 2017. County of Los Angeles Public Library: Statistics. Available at: <http://www.colapublib.org/aboutus/info.html>

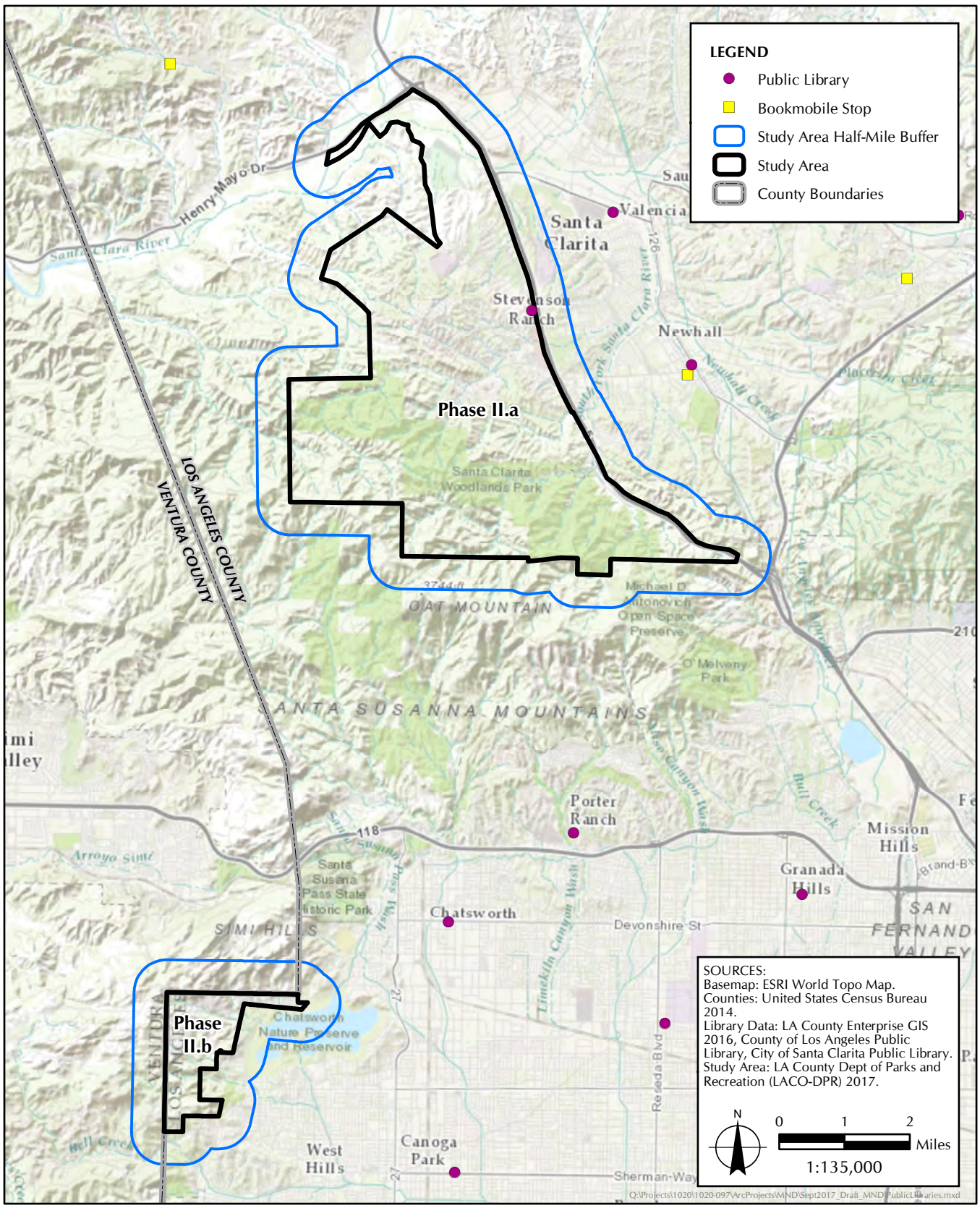


FIGURE 2.15-5
Public Libraries

Other public facilities?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to public services regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities. The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth because it involves no new homes or businesses, and it does not propose the extension of roads or other infrastructure to support new trails and related facilities. However, the proposed project would be expected to serve as a regional recreation facility in the County of Los Angeles that would generate day use from throughout the area, which has the potential to result in a very minor increase in emergency response service facilities beyond the local population if any injuries occur to one-day recreation users from the region. The proposed project would provide approximately 70.3 miles of new trails and up to 30.5 acres of recreational facilities, including up to 15 acres of bike skills areas, four simple trailheads, two equestrian facilities, and eight trailhead and staging areas and trail facilities. The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Trails website includes a list of Safety & Etiquette guidelines to promote the safe use of recreation on trails.¹⁰²

The project study area is served by the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital (HMNMH), which is located at 23845 McBean Parkway, Valencia, CA 91355, approximately one mile east of the Phase II.a area. (Figure 2.15-6, *Hospitals*). This hospital is a 238-bed acute care hospital and is in need of expansion. The hospital is engaged in a long-term planning process for construction a new inpatient hospital building that will add up to 120 new beds, new medical office buildings, a new central plant, new parking structures and addition of a helipad.¹⁰³ The Safety Element of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan establishes that HMNMH is one of the 13 designated Disaster Resource Centers (DRCs) in Los Angeles County.¹⁰⁴ As the designated DRC site, HMNMH is the lead for 11 other hospitals. DRCs are hospitals that address surge capacity in a disaster through procurement, storage, maintenance, and security of extra medical equipment, supplies, and pharmaceuticals. The project study area is also served by the West Hills Hospital and Medical Center, which is located at 7300 Medical Center Dr., West Hills, CA 91307, approximately 1.75 miles southeast of the Phase II.b area. (Figure 2.15-6). The hospital is a 225-bed hospital that includes an expansive Emergency Department with medical helicopter transport landing site.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰² County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Trails. 10 September 2017. Safety Guidelines: Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/SafetyGuidelines>

¹⁰³ Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital. 2017. Community Health Needs Assessment 2016. Available at: <http://www.henrymayo.com/media/file/Henry%20Mayo%20CHNA%202016.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

¹⁰⁵ West Hills Hospital & Medical Center. n.d. Fact Sheet. Available at: <http://westhillshospital.com/util/documents/WHH-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

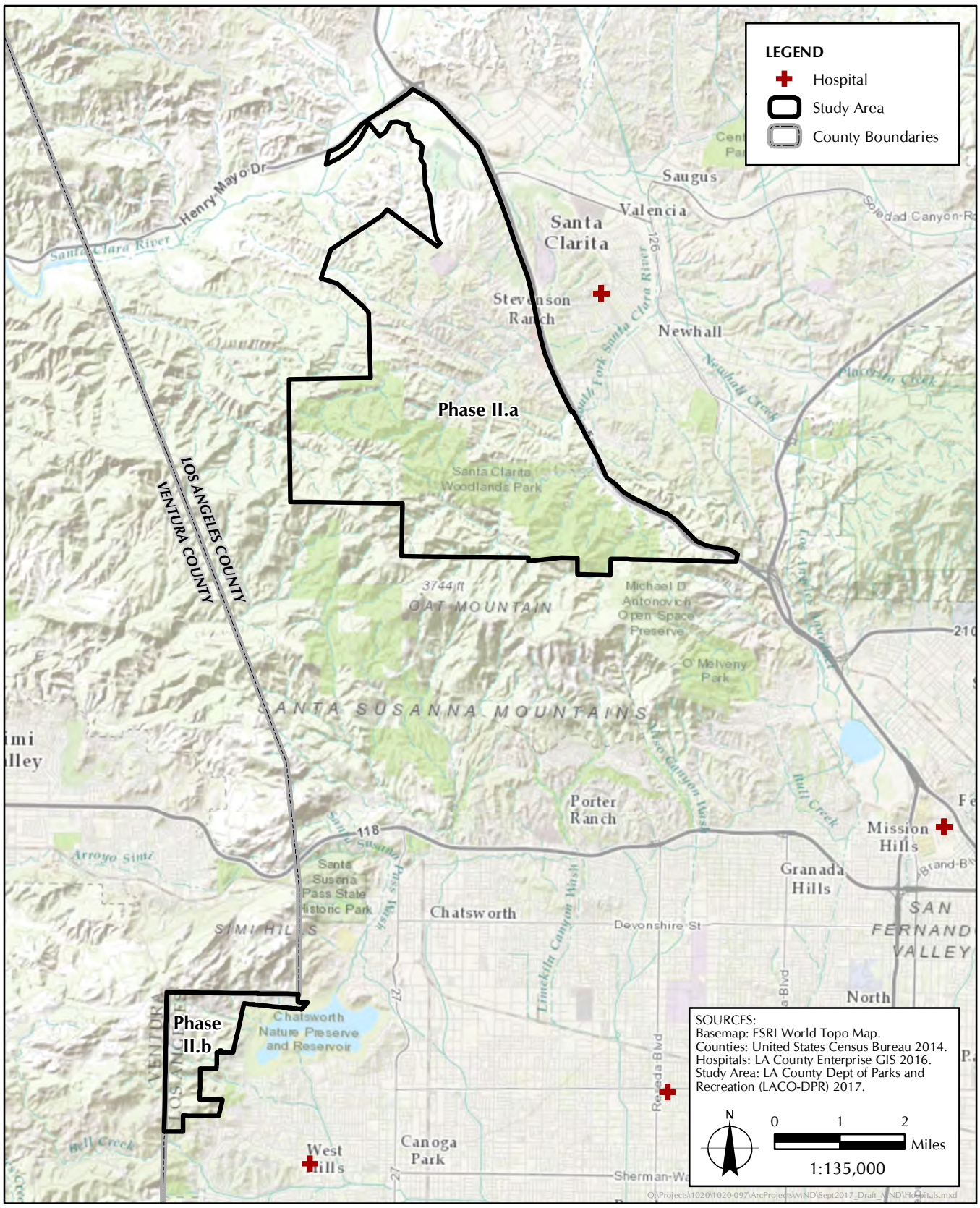


FIGURE 2.15-6
Hospitals

At the proposed project, as at the existing Valmont Bike Park in Boulder, Colorado, the potential for bodily injury exists when engaging in off-road cycling even when riders do take personal responsibility for their own safety and actions at the parks.¹⁰⁶ According to the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department, who tracked accidents at the park immediately after it opened on June 11, 2011, through reports from staff, volunteers, and emergency calls, Valmont Bike Park accidents including scrapes, bruises, cuts, and a few broken collarbones and broken wrists dramatically dropped after the first month since the park opened.¹⁰⁷ Thus, there would be expected to be some increase in emergency response calls following the opening of the bike skills areas element of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding creating capacity or service level problems, or resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities, and no mitigation would be required.

¹⁰⁶ City of Boulder, CO. 2016. Inquire Boulder: Valmont Bike Park Frequently Asked Questions. Available at: <http://user.govoutreach.com/boulder/faq.php?cid=23426>

¹⁰⁷ Fields, Jenn, Daily Camera News. 19 July 2011. Official: Boulder's Valmont Bike Park Accidents Are Down. Available at: http://www.dailycamera.com/news/ci_18510137

16. RECREATION

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to recreation, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Recreation at the project study area was evaluated with regard to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan One Valley One Vision,¹⁰⁸ the County Trails Manual,¹⁰⁹ the Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment,^{110,111} and the Parks and Recreation Element of the County General Plan.¹¹²

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p>a) 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?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to recreation regarding increasing 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. The proposed project would facilitate increased access to existing local parkland in an area that has moderate to adequate access to local parkland and would also provide additional local recreation opportunities, including bike skills areas, that would be expected to increase access to a substantial portion of the existing local parkland. Additionally, the proposed project, through the provision of trails, would increase access to regional parkland. There are at least five regional parks, seven community parks, two neighborhood parks, and one pocket park that serve the project study area. Six of 15 existing parks have authorized or social trails that provide access to park facilities. The proposed project would provide new connections to all five regional parks within the project study area (see Table 2.16-1, *Regional Parkland within Project Study Area*) and one of two neighborhood parks (Jake Kuredjian Park), and one pocket park (Chatsworth Oaks Park) within the park service area of the project study area. However, as stated in the 2016 Park Needs Assessment, the Phase II.a area has three times the County average of parkland per 1,000 people; therefore, the increased use is net expected to result in deterioration of parks. Eight of the prioritized projects within Study Area ID #49 addressing the Phase II.a area involved installation of new, replacement, or expansion of existing recreational facilities; one prioritized projects involved maintenance or repairs to existing facilities; and prioritized project #10 is to “add trails at areas between schools and communities.” There are three K-12 schools located immediately southwest of the “moderate” park need area. The proposed project would provide trail connections at areas between schools and communities within the Phase II.a area, such as the proposed Pico Canyon, Pico Park, Pico Channel,

¹⁰⁸ County of Los Angeles. 2012. Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/view/santa_clarita_valley_area_plan/

¹⁰⁹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

¹¹⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 9 May 2016. Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment. Unincorporated Stevenson – Newhall Ranch – Castaic – Val Verde. Available at: http://lacountyparkneeds.org/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_049.pdf

¹¹¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 9 May 2016. Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment. City of LA Chatsworth – Porter Ranch / Uninc. Northridge – Canoga Park – Oat Mountain. Available at: http://lacountyparkneeds.org/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_152.pdf

¹¹² County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan. Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch10.pdf

Minnie-Lotta, and Minnie-Lotta to Lyons trail corridors. The proposed project would provide park access to the northwestern corner of the Phase II.b area through the proposed RIVA, Woolsey to RIVA, and Woolsey to Sage Ranch trail corridors. Furthermore, trails have the greatest capacity to absorb park users.

Regarding regional recreation, the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area had a surplus of approximately 12,798 acres to support its population in 2010, with approximately 53 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 persons.¹¹³ In 2010, the San Fernando Valley Planning Area had a deficit of 9,931 acres of regional parkland to support its population, with approximately 0.3 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 persons. A total of 651,190.3 acres of regional parkland facilities are located within the regional service area vicinity of the project study area (Figure 2.16-1, *Regional Recreational Resources*; Table 2.16-1). Sage Ranch Park, a 611.3-acre regional park managed by the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA), is located immediately northwest of the Phase II.b area.

**TABLE 2.16-1
REGIONAL PARKLAND WITHIN PROJECT STUDY AREA**

Type of Regional Recreation Facility	Name of Facility	Facility Size (acres)	Management Agency
Phase II.a Area			
Community Regional Park	Pico Canyon Park ¹	21.3 acres	County of Los Angeles
Community Regional Park	Mentryville ²	69 acres (<i>within Santa Clarita Woodlands Park</i>)	MRCA
Regional Park	Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon ³	175.0 acres	SMMC
Regional Park	Santa Clarita Woodlands Park ³	3,497.3 acres	MRCA
Subtotal – Phase II.a Area		3,698.6 acres	
Phase II.b Area			
Regional Park	Dayton Canyon Park ^{4,5,6}	359.0 acres	MRCA and SMMC
Subtotal – Phase II.b Area		359.0 acres	
Total Acres Regional Parkland within Project Study Area		4,052.6 acres	

SOURCES:

¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 25 October 2016. Department of Parks and Recreation Countywide Parks and Open Space. Available at: <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2016/10/25/departments-of-parks-and-recreation-county-parks-and-open-space/>

² Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Accessed 25 August 2017. Mentryville. Available at: <http://www.lamountains.com/parks.asp?parkid=35>

³ California Protected Areas Database (CPAD). Accessed 18 August 2017. CPAD 2017a Release. Available at: <http://www.calands.org/>

⁴ Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority. 7 June 2017. Memorandum: Agenda Item VI(r): Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of a donation of an undivided 50-percent interest, or full interest, in approximately 5 acres of land, APN 2017-010-008, in Dayton Canyon, Simi Hills, unincorporated Los Angeles County. Available at: http://mrca.ca.gov/pdf/attachment4093_Staff%20Report.pdf

⁵ Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority. 7 June 2017. Agenda Item VI(r): Resolution No. 17-97. Available at: http://mrca.ca.gov/pdf/attachment4093_Resolution.pdf

⁶ Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority. 7 June 2017. Agenda Item VI(r) 6/7/17. Map. Available at: http://mrca.ca.gov/pdf/attachment4093_Map.pdf

¹¹³ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch10.pdf

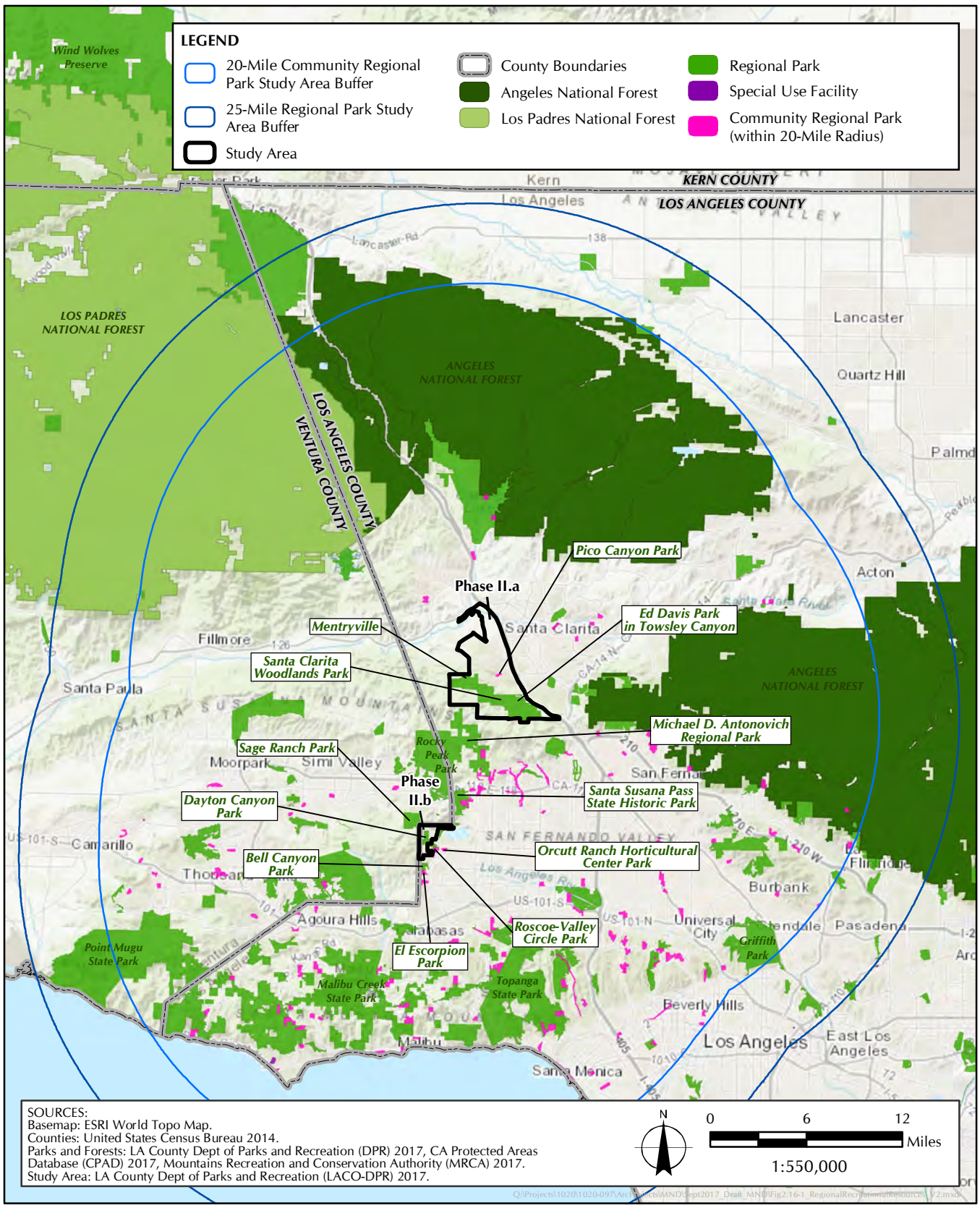


FIGURE 2.16-1
 Regional Recreational Resources

Regarding local recreation, the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area had a deficit of approximately 308 acres to support its unincorporated population in 2010, with approximately 0.7 acres of local parkland per 1,000 persons.¹¹⁴ In 2010, the San Fernando Valley Planning Area had a deficit of approximately 20 acres, with approximately 0.2 acres of local parkland per 1,000 persons living in unincorporated territory. A total of 130.6 acres of local parkland facilities are located within a two-mile radius of the project study area (Table 2.16-2, *Existing Local Parks within Service Areas of Project Study Area*). There are no park nodes within a quarter-mile radius of the project study area. There are no pocket parks within a quarter mile radius of the Phase II.a area. There are no local parks within the Phase II.b area. Existing local recreation resources within the local park service areas are scattered within the developed areas of Stevenson Ranch, the City of Santa Clarita, and the City of Los Angeles (Figure 2.16-2, *Local Recreational Resources*).

**TABLE 2.16-2
EXISTING LOCAL PARKS WITHIN SERVICE AREAS OF PROJECT STUDY AREA**

Type of Local Recreation Facility	Name of Facility	Distance from project study area	Facility Size (acres)	Management Agency
Phase II.a Area				
Neighborhood Park	Jake Kuredjian Park	Within Phase II.a	5.7 acres	County of Los Angeles
Community Park	Newhall Park	1.5 miles northeast	14.3 acres	City of Santa Clarita
Community Park	Dr. Richard H. Rioux Memorial Park	Within Phase II.a	16.6 acres	County of Los Angeles
Community Park	Bridgeport Park	2.0 miles east	16.7 acres	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Community Park	Valencia Heritage Park	1.5 miles east-northeast	17.6 acres	City of Santa Clarita
Local Parkland within Local Park Service Area of Phase II.a Area			70.9 acres	
Phase II.b Area				
Pocket Park	Chatsworth Oaks Park	0.1 mile northeast	2.9 acres	City of Los Angeles
Neighborhood Park	Castle Peak Park	0.3 miles south	3.0 acres	City of Los Angeles
Community Park	Rocky Pointe Natural Park	1.4 miles north	12.9 acres	Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Community Park	Santa Susana Park	1.3 miles north	15.3 acres	Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Community Park	West Hills Recreation Center	0.7 miles south	16.2 acres	City of Los Angeles
Local Parkland within Local Park Service Area of Phase II.b Area			58.7 acres	
Total Local Parkland within Local Park Service Area of Project Study Area			160.0 acres	

SOURCES:

¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 25 October 2016. Department of Parks and Recreation Countywide Parks and Open Space. Available at: <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2016/10/25/department-of-parks-and-recreation-county-parks-and-open-space/>

² California Protected Areas Database (CPAD). Downloaded 18 August 2017. CPAD 2017a Release. Available at: <http://www.calands.org/>

¹¹⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Adopted 6 October 2015. Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan: Chapter 10: Parks and Recreation Element. Available at: http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch10.pdf

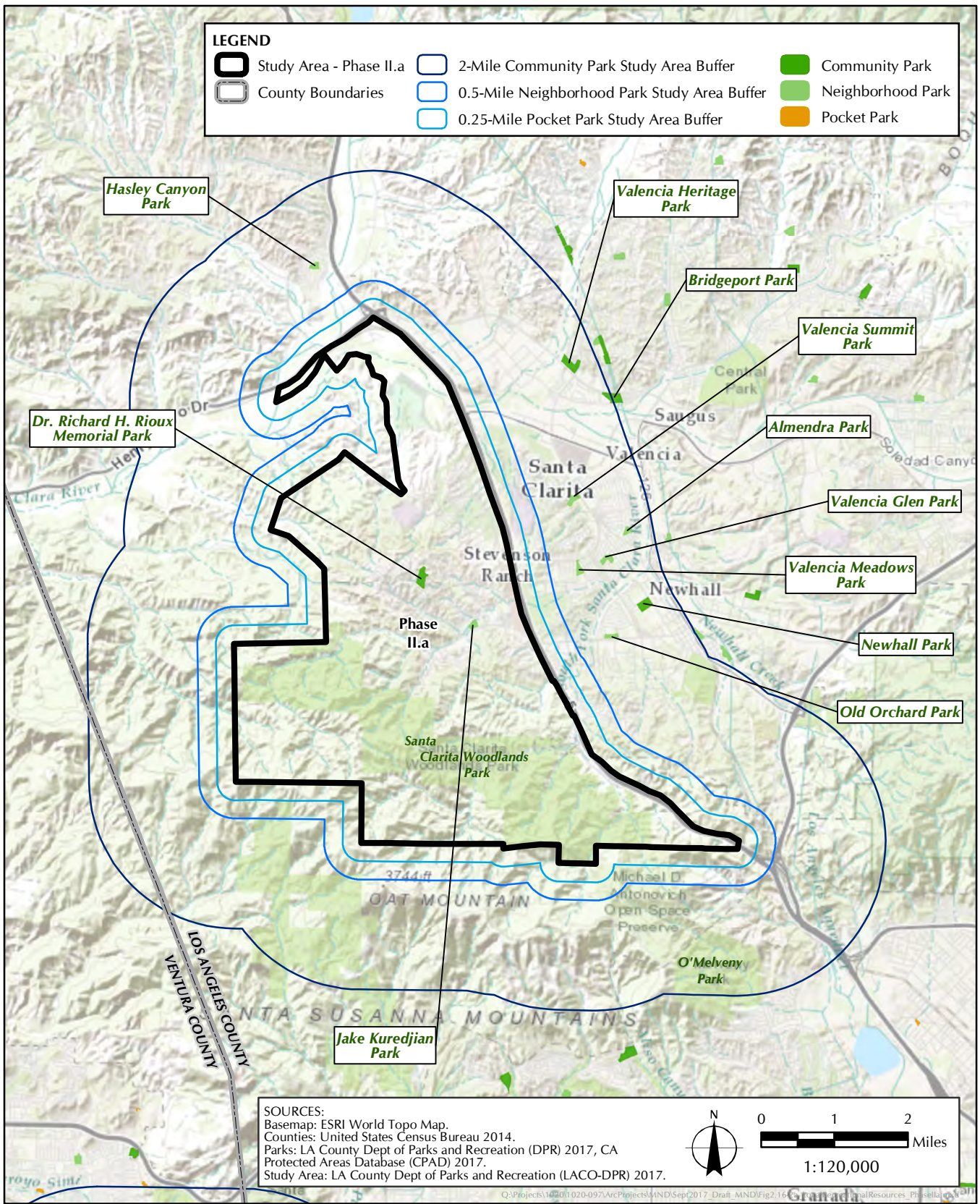


FIGURE 2.16-2a
 Local Recreational Resources (Phase II.a)

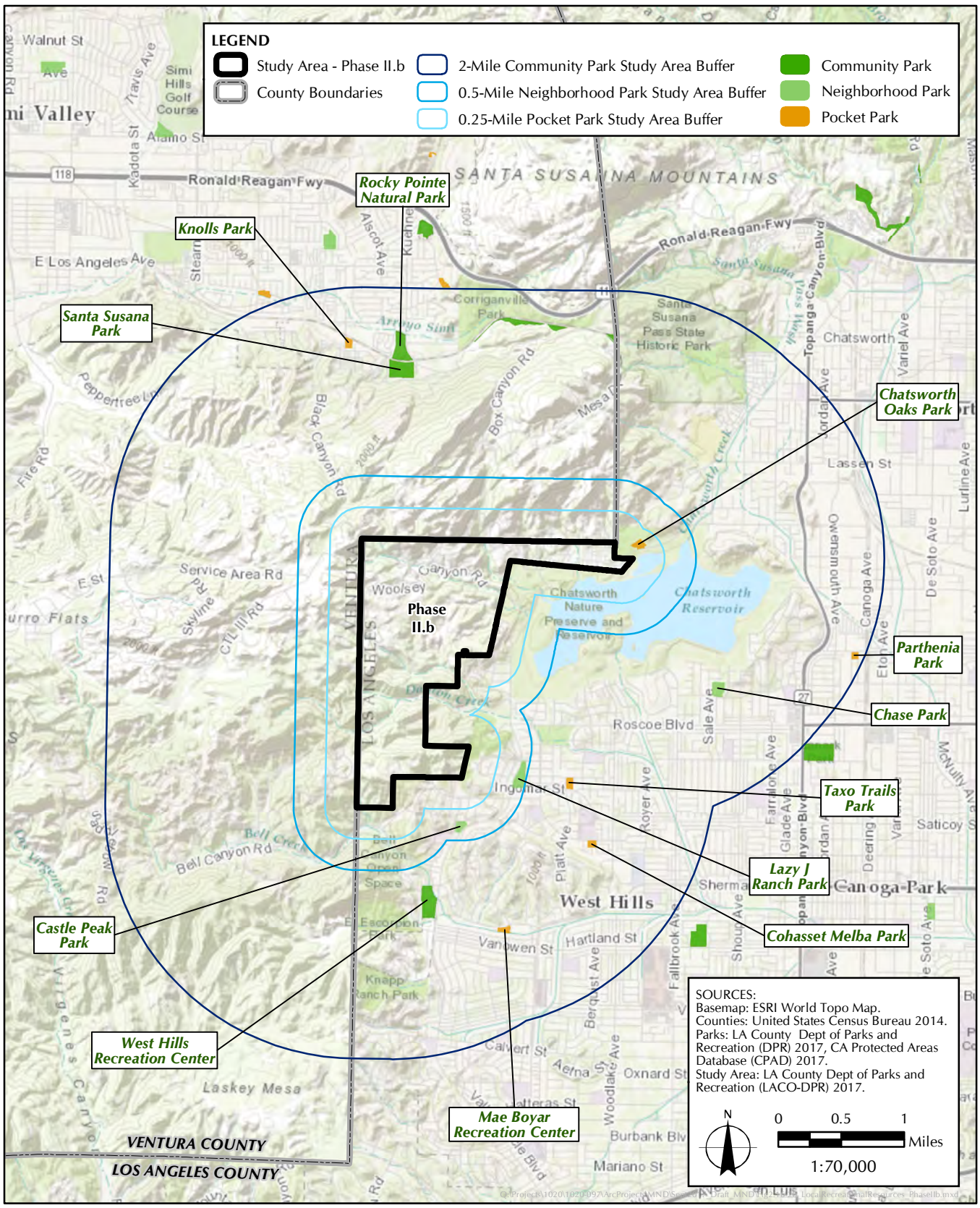


FIGURE 2.16-2b
Local Recreational Resources (Phase II.b)

Section 2.2.3 of the County Trails Manual establishes (through the 2004–2020 Strategic Asset Management Plan) the goal of providing one mile per 1,000 population (approximately 50 feet of trail for each trail user), with an assumption that approximately 11 percent of the population will engage in trail use, as specified by the National Recreation and Park Association.¹¹⁵ Approximately 21.4 miles of existing trails within the Phase II.a area provide local recreation opportunities to serve 2,260 persons (see Table 1.8-1, *Existing Trails*, in Section 1.8, *Background and Existing Conditions*). Based on this goal and approximately 72 miles of existing trails within a 2-mile radius of the project study area, existing trails provide local recreation opportunities to serve (and decrease the local parkland deficit) 7,594 persons. There are 2.8 miles of existing County multi-use trails, 20.3 miles of existing Conservancy managed trails, 6.3 miles of existing California State Parks managed trails, 12.1 miles of existing National Park Service managed trails, 30.5 existing City managed trails including a network of existing City of Santa Clarita multi-purpose trails, a network of City of Santa Clarita bicycle paths, a network of City of Los Angeles separated bicycle lanes, and a network of County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works managed bicycle paths within a two-mile radius of the project study area. According to the 2012 Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California:

- 60.2 percent of respondents utilized unpaved multi-use trails during their last park visit.
- 34.7 percent of respondents reported utilizing an unpaved trail for hiking, biking, or horseback riding at least once or twice a month during the last 12 months. At the same time, 31 percent of respondents reported never using an unpaved trail.¹¹⁶

The proposed trails would provide connections to parks and open spaces, a large commercial district, seven schools, numerous natural features, Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park, the proposed Rim of the Valley trail corridor alignment (RIVA), and existing trails in the City of Los Angeles, City of Santa Clarita, and Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, as well as trails within other jurisdictions as identified in the Trails Master Plan (see Table 1.8-1, *Existing Trails*, in Section 1.8, *Background and Existing Conditions*). Dayton Canyon Park in the Phase II.b area, as well as the existing Pico Canyon Trail, Towsley Canyon Trail, Santa Clara River Trail, and other trails within the Phase II.a area, would experience additional use as a result of new trails providing connections to trails within the Phase II.a area and in the nearby City of Santa Clarita. However, the proposed project would also provide additional trailheads, resting areas, bike skills areas, and related facilities that would be expected to accommodate a substantial amount of increased recreational use in the area as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project would provide approximately 70.3 miles of new trails and up to 30.5 acres of recreational facilities, including up to 15 acres of bike skills areas, four simple trailheads, two equestrian parks, and eight trailhead and staging areas and trail facilities. The proposed project would be expected to directly impact up to 131.7 acres, including approximately 102 acres of proposed trails and approximately 30.5 acres of proposed facility locations, which constitutes less than one percent of the study area. Based on the County's goals of providing one mile of trails per 1,000 population (approximately 50 feet of trail for each trail user) and providing approximately four acres of local parkland per 1,000 population, the proposed project would serve 77,925 persons (70,300 through proposed trails and 7,625 through other proposed recreational facilities). Therefore, impacts to recreation regarding increasing 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 would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

¹¹⁵ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

¹¹⁶ California State Parks, Natural Resources Agency. January 2014. Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California 2012: Complete Findings. Available at: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/2012%20spoa.pdf>

b) Does the project include neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of such facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to recreation regarding including neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities or requiring the construction or expansion of such facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The proposed project involves planning for the construction and maintenance of approximately 70.3 miles of new trails, up to 30.5 acres of bike skills areas, and related facilities which have the potential to result in adverse physical effects on the environment as a result of extensive grading for the bike skills areas and potential impacts to biological, cultural, and tribal cultural resources. During the construction of trails, small portions of existing parks and public rights-of-way would not be available for public use; trail obstructions would be temporary and only constrain trail use along finite segments of the trail during short-term construction on each segment. This is not considered a significant impact to recreation. In the long term, the proposed project would provide improved trail access and encourage greater use of existing trails and adjacent parks, recreational facilities, and open space. The proposed project would have beneficial impacts on recreation, while short-term impacts of project construction regarding biological, cultural, and tribal cultural resources, as analyzed in this Initial Study, would be less than significant after mitigation. The proposed project would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities because it would not directly result in population growth. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding having adverse physical effects on the environment as a result of construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Would the project interfere with regional open space connectivity?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to recreation regarding interfering with regional open space connectivity. A total of 44,723.7 acres of protected public access open space is located within a 25-mile radius of the project study area (Figure 2.16-3, *Regional Open Space*). Nearly 12,000 acres of public access open space are connected to open space within one mile of the project study area (Table 2.16-3, *Public Access Open Space within One Mile of Project Study Area*).

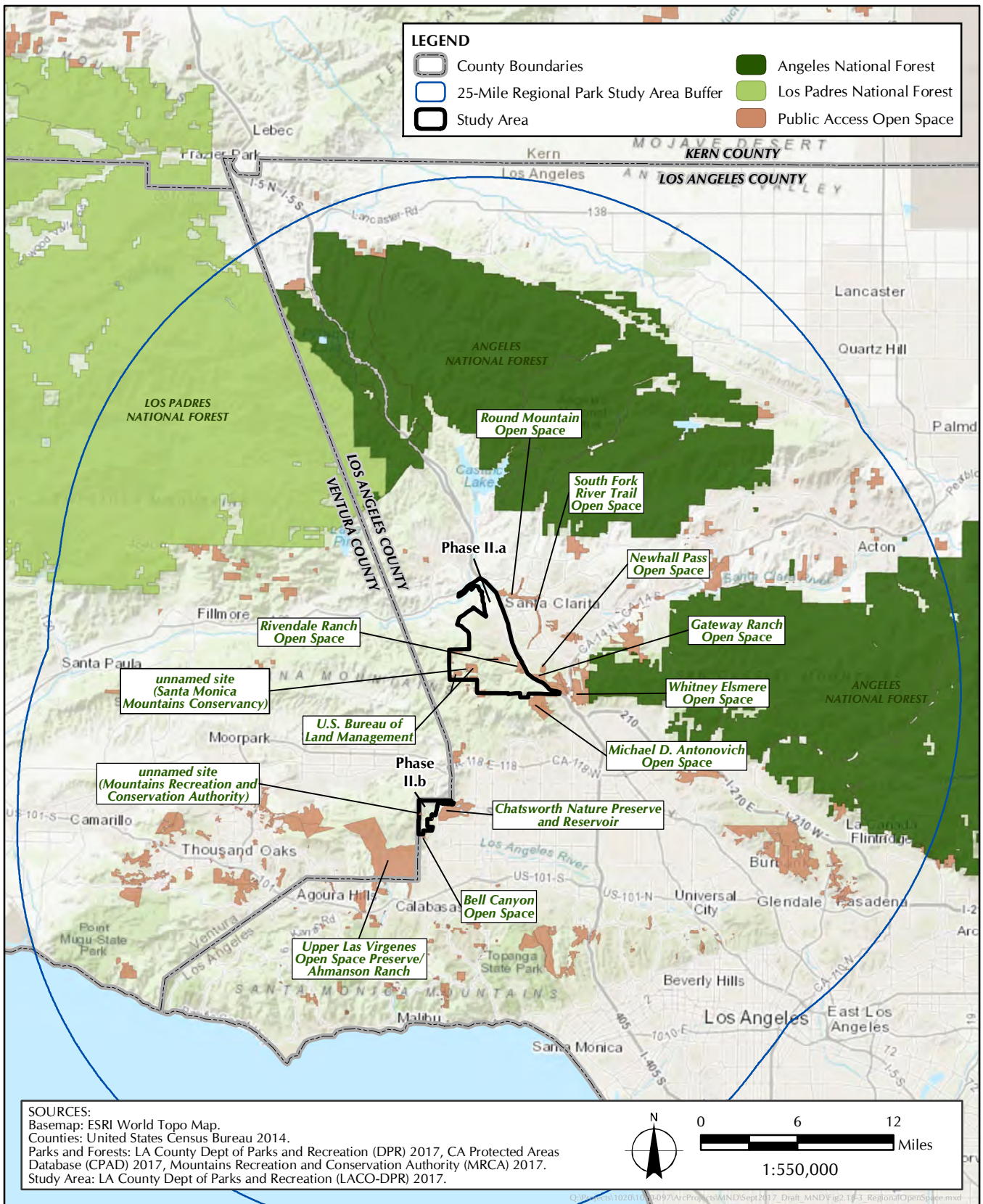


FIGURE 2.16-3
 Regional Open Space

**TABLE 2.16-3
PUBLIC ACCESS OPEN SPACE WITHIN ONE MILE OF PROJECT STUDY AREA**

Name of Public Access Open Space	Distance from Project Study Area	Size (acres)	Management Agency
Phase II.a Area			
Michael D. Antonovich Open Space	Within Phase II.a	6.3 acres	County of Los Angeles
Unnamed Sites: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	10.9 acres within Phase II.a	35.5 acres	SMMC
South Fork River Trail Open Space	0.7 mile east	178.0 acres	City of Santa Clarita
Valley Vista Open Space	Adjacent to eastern edge; partially within Phase II.a	284.5 acres	City of Santa Clarita
Gateway Ranch Open Space	Adjacent to eastern edge; partially within Phase II.a	302.1 acres	City of Santa Clarita
Rivendale Ranch Open Space	Within Phase II.a	357.5 acres	City of Santa Clarita
Round Mountain Open Space	0.1 mile east	446.1 acres	City of Santa Clarita
Newhall Pass Open Space	0.5 mile northeast	624.7 acres	
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Open Space	47.2 acres within Phase II.a	659.6 acres	MRCA
Whitney Elsmere Open Space	0.6 mile east	883.4 acres	City of Santa Clarita
Michael D. Antonovich Open Space Preserve	Adjacent to southern edge	942.8 acres	496.4 acres: MRCA 446.7 acres: Los Angeles County
BLM	574.5 acres within Phase II.a	650.1 acres	U.S. BLM
Public Access Open Space with access within One Mile of Phase II.a Area		5,370.6 acres	
Phase II.b Area			
Bell Canyon Open Space	Adjacent to southern edge	61.7 acres	57.3 acres: MRCA 4.3 acres: SMMC
Chatsworth Nature Preserve and Reservoir	Adjacent to eastern edge	1,025.6 acres	City of Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power
Upper Las Virgenes Open Space Preserve/Ahmanson	0.7 mile south	5,541.4 acres	SMMC
Public Access Open Space with access within One Mile of Phase II.b Area		6,628.7 acres	
Public Access Open Space with access within One Mile of Project Study Area		11,999.3 acres	

SOURCES:

¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. 25 October 2016. Department of Parks and Recreation Countywide Parks and Open Space. Available at: <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2016/10/25/department-of-parks-and-recreation-county-parks-and-open-space/>

² Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Accessed 25 August 2017. Mentryville. Available at: <http://www.lamountains.com/parks.asp?parkid=35>

³ California Protected Areas Database (CPAD). Downloaded 18 August 2017. CPAD 2017a Release. Available at: <http://www.calands.org/>

As the proposed project is a Trails Master Plan for providing a more extensive regional trail system and supporting facilities, it would increase regional open space connectivity as the project study area is being developed. The proposed project would improve regional open space connectivity by increasing recreational access, through a trail system, to regional recreation resources, including Michael D. Antonovich Open Space, MRCA managed Open Space, Rivendale Ranch Open Space, Dayton Canyon Park, and Bell Canyon Open Space. The proposed project would increase the amount of linear open space within the project study area and would not inhibit existing open space connectivity because it would not involve the planning of any large structures or barriers to open spaces. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts to recreation regarding interfering with regional open space connectivity, and no mitigation would be required.

17. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to transportation/traffic, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Traffic and Parking Assessment* (Appendix H).

Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<p>a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in no impacts to transportation/traffic regarding conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit. The proposed project would be in conformance with the Transportation Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The proposed project would add approximately 70.3 miles of unpaved trails and four new trailheads. Proposed changes to improve convenience and safety for bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians to access proposed trails and facilities would not conflict with multi-modal plans and policies. In addition, the proposed project would improve multimodal connectivity to increase trail access through associated planned trails network. Therefore, there would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

<p>b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program (CMP), including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the CMP for designated roads or highways?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to transportation/traffic regarding conflict with an applicable congestion management program (CMP), including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the CMP for designated roads or highways. The proposed trails are located off-street and would not change the capacity of any street for automobiles or trucks. Temporary impacts during trail construction would be reduced by utilizing established temporary traffic control methods. Therefore, there would be less than significant impacts to traffic operations.

The existing and proposed vehicle trip generation was evaluated at the proposed trailheads (see Table 3, *Inbound/Outbound Vehicle Trip Generation*, of Appendix H). Using a conservative trip generation rate, the number of trips generated to each proposed location, derived as a percentage of total proposed trail mileage, was calculated. The resulting projected peak hour project vehicle trip generation was approximately equivalent to the current peak hour vehicle trip generation. Furthermore, peak trail demand (Saturday AM) will not coincide with peak roadway demand, and so will have minimal impact on traffic conditions during the weekday AM and PM commuter peaks.

During construction, the proposed project would generate short-term vehicle trips due to worker commutes, construction equipment, and other transport of soils, resulting in minor traffic impact. During operation, maintenance of the trails would be provided by the County, generating a very small amount of additional maintenance trips from the existing amount.

During operation, it is anticipated that the proposed project would not generate additional motor vehicle trips beyond the conservative estimates proposed for each trail path. The analysis completed for each of the trail path shows that there would be no direct increase in motor vehicle trips from the proposed project. Instead, operation of the trail system is anticipated to promote a small shift from motor vehicles to alternative forms of transit, and may even result in shorter trips. Proposed project buildout would not generate motor vehicle trips requiring additional analysis of roadways and intersections, and no adverse impact would occur.

Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to transportation/traffic regarding conflict with an applicable CMP, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to transportation/traffic regarding a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks. The proposed project would not alter air traffic patterns in any way. Therefore there would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to transportation/traffic regarding substantially increasing hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment). All facilities would be designed in conformance with the County Trails Plan to maximize safety by adhering to established design and engineering standards. The proposed project does not include roadway changes. The proposed project would designate trails with appropriate signage to protect private properties and recreation enthusiasts. During construction, contractors would utilize traffic warning signs, flag persons, and other measures to maintain access for all properties and to facilitate traffic flow during construction of trails. Construction would occur in conformance with County building codes. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to transportation/traffic regarding resulting in inadequate emergency access. Existing County trail facilities in the area have no mile markers or trail maps, which can create difficulty with respect to timely response and rescue. Proposed trail system components would improve trail markers and therefore augment response in remote areas, taking into consideration access for emergency vehicles, as appropriate. The proposed plan would not impact existing roadways and would not impede existing emergency access. The appropriate agencies that provide emergency services would be given an opportunity to review site plans during the environmental review process for specific projects. The proposed project would conform to the County Trails Manual. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

The proposed project would result in no impacts to transportation/traffic regarding conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities. The proposed project would support policies, plans, and programs related to bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian facilities by encouraging the use of alternative transportation. The County General Plan directs the implementation of regional transportation policies to support increase use of active transportation strategies, including biking, pedestrian activities, and use of public transit. The proposed project would have a beneficial impact with regard to active transportation because it encourages recreation opportunities consistent with the County General Plan and the SCAG 2016–2040 RTP/SCS. Therefore there would be no impact, and no mitigation would be required.

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to tribal cultural resources, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The analysis presented in this section is based on the *Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Cultural Resources Technical Report* (Appendix D).

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code § 5020.1(k), or

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts to tribal cultural resources regarding causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code § 5020.1(k). Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance. Consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) determined that there are no recorded Sacred Sites within the project’s area of potential impact (API) (Appendix D).

Consultation was undertaken with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation (Appendix D). There are previously recorded archaeological resources that may be considered tribal cultural resources in the vicinity of the trails plan. Letters to the recommended tribal organizations and individuals identified by NAHC under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) consultation on behalf of the County resulted in replies from two Native American contacts, Mr. Andrew Salas of the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation and Mr. Rudy Ortega of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. Consultation meetings were conducted between the County and the Tribes.¹¹⁷¹¹⁸

¹¹⁷ Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 21 June 2017. Memorandum for the Record 8: AB 52 Tribal Consultation with Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians.

¹¹⁸ Sapphos Environmental, Inc. 21 June 2017. Memorandum for the Record 9: AB 52 Tribal Consultation with Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation.

The Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians indicated that the project study area has a high level of sensitivity to potential tribal cultural resources, and numerous sites are known from the project study area. Since the trail alignments are conceptual and would ultimately be constructed in small segments over a 30-year planning horizon, the Tribe and County agreed to include mitigation measures ensure that the County undertake consultation with the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians when trail segments are considered for development. The Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians would inform the County if a trail alignment or specific segment of a trail alignment needs to be adjusted to avoid tribal cultural resources, or if other protective measures are warranted to protect tribal cultural resources *in situ*. In addition, the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians would inform the County when Native American monitoring is warranted.

The Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation indicated that the project study area has a high level of sensitivity to potential tribal cultural resources, and that numerous sites are known within the project study area. The Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation are not opposed to the project but wish to ensure that resources are avoided and that a Native American monitor is present during ground-disturbing activities in areas with potential for known tribal cultural resources or for the unanticipated discovery of tribal cultural resources during construction. The Tribe wishes to provide input on the trail naming.

There are previously recorded archaeological sites within the project study area that may be considered Tribal Resources. The local tribal contacts also stated during the AB 52 consultation meeting that traditional use areas exist within the project study area.

The County is working with the tribes to identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be employed to avoid impacts and provide educational opportunities in conjunction with trail development. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CULTURAL-1, CULTURAL-2, and CULTURAL-4 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

The proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts to tribal cultural resources regarding causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance. Consultation with the NAHC has determined that there are no recorded Sacred Sites within the project's API (Appendix D).

Consultation was undertaken with the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation (Appendix D). There are previously recorded archaeological resources that the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) has determined to be significant tribal cultural resources in the vicinity of the trails plan. The County is working with the tribes to identify BMPs that can be employed to avoid impacts and provide educational opportunities in conjunction with trail development.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures CULTURAL-1, CULTURAL-2, and CULTURAL-4 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance. Consultation with the Native American contacts who requested consultation during subsequent project-level development of trail segments will accomplish two objectives: facilitate micrositing¹¹⁹ of the trail to avoid tribal cultural resources and allow the tribes to make a determination of when Native American monitoring is warranted during construction of trail segments. It is anticipated that the County would have a Cultural Resources Management Plan in place to guide the salvage, recordation, and repository of the unanticipated discovery of any significant historic or unique archeological resources, including tribal cultural resources, encountered during trail construction.

¹¹⁹ Micrositing is the process through which the specific location of a trail is determined. Each position must comply with several requirements.

19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

This analysis is undertaken to determine if the proposed project would have a significant impact to utilities and service systems, thus requiring the consideration of mitigation measures or alternatives in accordance with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Utilities and service systems in the project study area were evaluated with regard to the County Trails Manual.¹²⁰

Would the project:	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems regarding exceeding wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Trail facilities, such as restrooms at bike skills areas, equestrian facilities, and trailhead and staging areas that would add additional water or wastewater systems within the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District are proposed to be constructed. The project study area is located in the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles RWQCB and regulated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), which sets standards for development of septic tanks and fields, as well as the use of pit toilets. The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District sets standards for a portion of the project study area that is within their service area. The proposed project would follow procedures in the County Trails Manual, by incorporating restrooms into trailhead and parking locations where water lines and sewage conveyance is possible. In areas without available water, restrooms would be designed to be pit toilets as per U.S. Forest Service guidelines. Restrooms would be designed to demonstrate compliance with the standards of the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation or the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health for OWTS, as applicable.

The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District operates the Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs). The Saugus WRP provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for 6.5 million gallons of wastewater per day. The Saugus WRP operates with the Valencia WRP as part of the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District. No facilities for solids processing are located at the Saugus WRP. Instead, all wastewater solids are conveyed by trunk sewers to the Valencia WRP for treatment.

The Valencia WRP is a tertiary treatment plant with solids processing facilities. The plant provides primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for 21.6 million gallons of wastewater per day. The Valencia WRP processes all wastewater solids generated in the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (i.e. from the Saugus and Valencia WRPs). The wastewater solids are anaerobically digested, stored, and then dewatered using plate and frame filter presses. The dewatered cake, or biosolids, is hauled away for composting. Methane gas is produced during the digestion process and is utilized to generate steam to heat the digesters.

The proposed project identifies up to 20 potential locations for proposed facilities, including four trailheads, two bike skills areas, two equestrian facilities, eight trailhead and staging areas, and four additional trailheads within the City of Los Angeles that would need to be developed by the City of Los Angeles (see Figure 1.9-

¹²⁰ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

1, *Proposed Trails Plan*; Table 1.9-3, *Proposed Facilities*, in Section 1, *Project Description*). As the recommended City of Los Angeles trailheads would not be developed under jurisdiction of the County, this analysis considers the 16 proposed facility locations within the project study area.

For this analysis, it is assumed that there would be a restroom associated with each project facility. It is estimated that up to 16 restroom facilities would likely be developed in conjunction with the proposed project at the two bike skills areas, two equestrian facilities, and eight trailhead and staging areas proposed. One restroom facility would be located within the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (Table 2.19-1, *Proposed Trail Related Restroom Facilities*; Figure 2.19.1, *Sanitation Districts*). The increase in sewage generation associated with the proposed restroom facility within the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District would not exceed the capacity of the wastewater treatment facilities.

**TABLE 2.19-1
PROPOSED TRAIL RELATED RESTROOM FACILITIES**

Sewer or OWTS	Related Facility Type with Restroom	Number of Restrooms
Sewer – Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District	Bike Skills Areas	0
	Equestrian Facilities	0
	Trailhead and Staging Areas	1
	Trailhead	0
	TOTAL SEWER	1
OWTS – Outside County Sanitation District	Bike Skills Areas	2
	Equestrian Facilities	2
	Trailhead and Staging Areas	7
	Trailhead	4
	TOTAL OWTS	15

SOURCE: Wilt, Peter. County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Accessed 29 August 2017. *Sanitation Districts Boundaries*. Available at: <http://www.lacsd.org/aboutus/gis/default.asp>

The increase in sewage generation due to increased trail use is anticipated to be minimal. Therefore, impacts regarding exceeding wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems regarding requiring or resulting in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. The project study area is not currently served by public restrooms. Phase II.a area trail facilities such as restrooms that would add additional water or wastewater systems within the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District are proposed to be constructed (Figure 2.19.1). The project study area is located in the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles RWQCB and regulated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health for OWTS, which sets standards for development of septic tanks and fields, as well as the use of pit toilets. The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District sets standards for the portion of the project study area that is within their service area.

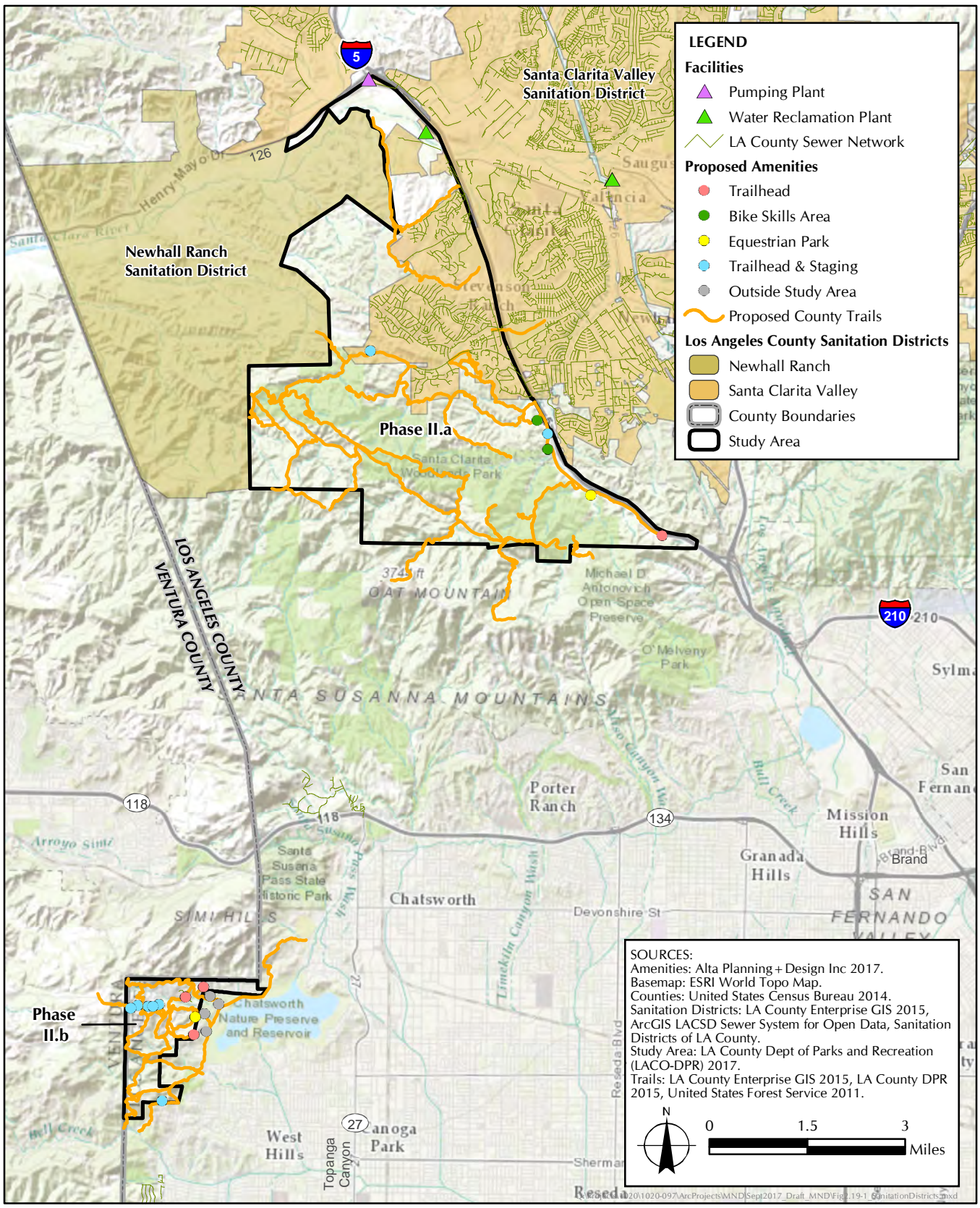


FIGURE 2.19-1
Sanitation Districts

The proposed project would follow procedures in the County Trails Manual by incorporating restrooms into trailhead and parking locations where water lines and sewage conveyance is possible. In areas without available water, restrooms would be designed to be pit toilets as per U.S. Forest Service guidelines. Restrooms would be designed to demonstrate compliance with the standards of the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District or County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health for OWTS, as applicable.¹²¹ The increase in sewage generation due to increased trail use is anticipated to be minimal. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems regarding requiring or resulting in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. There are existing drainage systems within the Phase II.a area (Figure 2.19.2, *Storm Drain Network*). There is no existing storm drain network within the Phase II.b area. Proposed drainage systems and erosion control methods would be required to be designed in accordance with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance as well as the recommendations of the County Trails Manual and would incorporate County Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stormwater. The County Trail Manual requires the use of erosion control devices. The proposed project would consist of primarily natural pervious surfaces and would not be expected to increase stormwater runoff. As part of the review of grading permits, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works requires documentation of the provisions for stormwater flows to prevent erosion and sediment transport onto adjacent properties, adjacent roadways, storm drain systems, and natural drainage courses during the rainy season. These provisions must be shown on a local Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP). In addition, for projects that are one acre or larger, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required to be filed with the RWQCB. The proposed project would comply with these requirements. Therefore, the proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, and no mitigation would be required.

d) Have sufficient reliable water supplies available to serve the project demands from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems regarding having sufficient reliable water supplies available to serve the project demands from existing entitlements and resources, considering existing and projected water demands from other land uses. The project proposes to construct a maximum of 16 restrooms. The Phase II.a area is serviced by the Newhall County Water District and Valencia Water Company. The Phase II.b area is serviced by the City of Los Angeles Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Figure 2.19.3, *Los Angeles County Water Districts*).

¹²¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

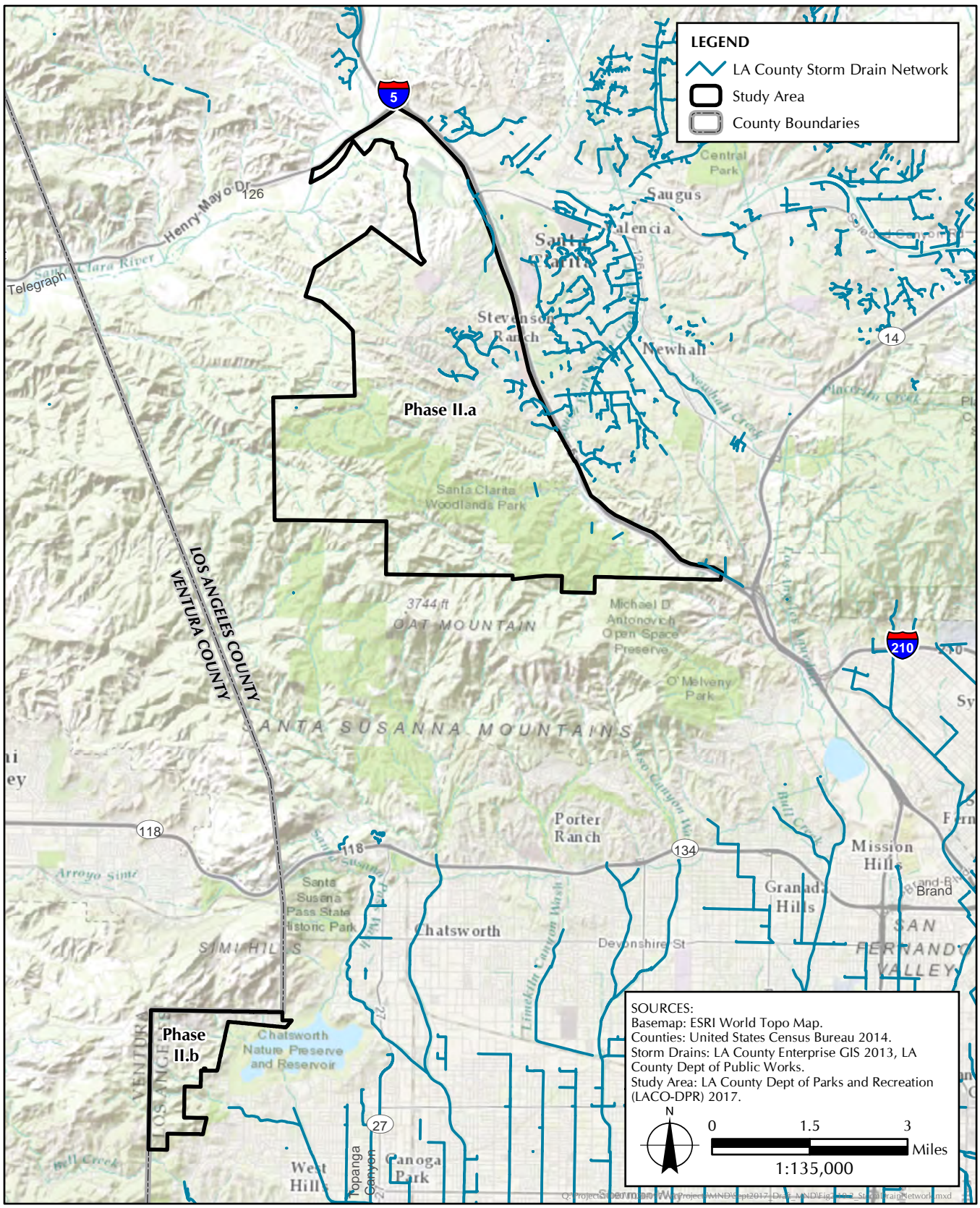


FIGURE 2.19-2
 Storm Drain Network

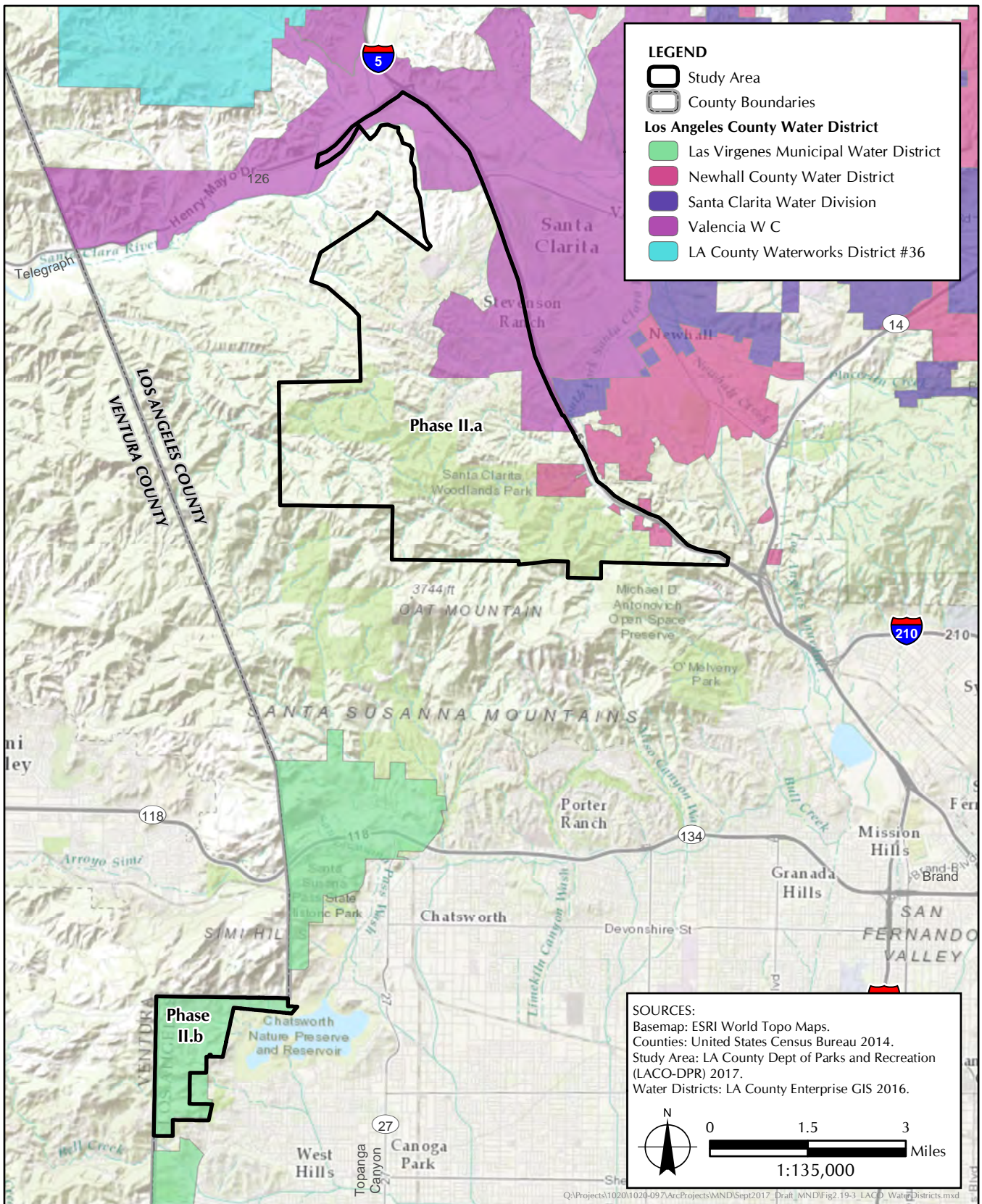


FIGURE 2.19-3
 Water Districts

The proposed project would require water for dust control and cleaning during the construction phase and for irrigation of trees and other landscaping in the long term. Water use for dust control and incidental cleaning during the construction phase would be limited and temporary. The water for these uses would be hauled into the proposed project site and applied directly to the site using a temporary cistern/irrigation system, or applied with a pressurized hose/backpack system. Long-term water demand for plant irrigation would be minimal as the project would utilize native and drought-tolerant plants.

Water demand for restroom faucets, urinals, and toilets would be adequately serviced by the Los Angeles County Water District and the Santa Susana Lake Water Agency. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems regarding resulting in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. The proposed project would not induce substantial population growth directly or indirectly that would result in an increase in solid waste. The proposed project would include the construction and operation of a maximum of 16 restrooms. The proposed project area is serviced by the Santa Clarity Valley Sanitation District (Figure 2.19.1). Restrooms would be designed in compliance with the standards of the Santa Clarity Valley Sanitation District. The Saugus WRP and the Valencia WRP have more than adequate treatment capacity to handle the wastewater generated from the restrooms, if developed. The proposed project is intended to serve existing and anticipated trail users. The proposed project would result in no direct impacts in regard to population growth because it would not involve the construction of new housing units or businesses, nor will there be any major infrastructure system extensions (such as roads, highways, bridges, utility lines, major drainage improvements, or grading) which would make accessible a previously inaccessible area to support population growth and the accompanying need for additional solid waste handling. Therefore, the proposed project would not exceed the capacity limits of the Saugus WRP and the Valencia WRP, and no mitigation would be required.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems regarding being served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs (Figure 2.19.4, *Landfills*). The Chiquita Canyon Landfill is located approximately one-half mile northwest of the Phase II.a boundary. The Chiquita Canyon Landfill is a 639-acre landfill that has been in continuous operation for more than 40 years and is owned and operated by Waste Connections, an integrated solid waste services company. The permitted maximum daily disposal tonnage is currently 6,000 tons as specified in the current conditional use permit (CUP). The "disposal" tonnage refers to the waste disposed only and does not include materials that are diverted from disposal or beneficially re-used. The permitted maximum weekly disposal tonnage is 30,000 tons.

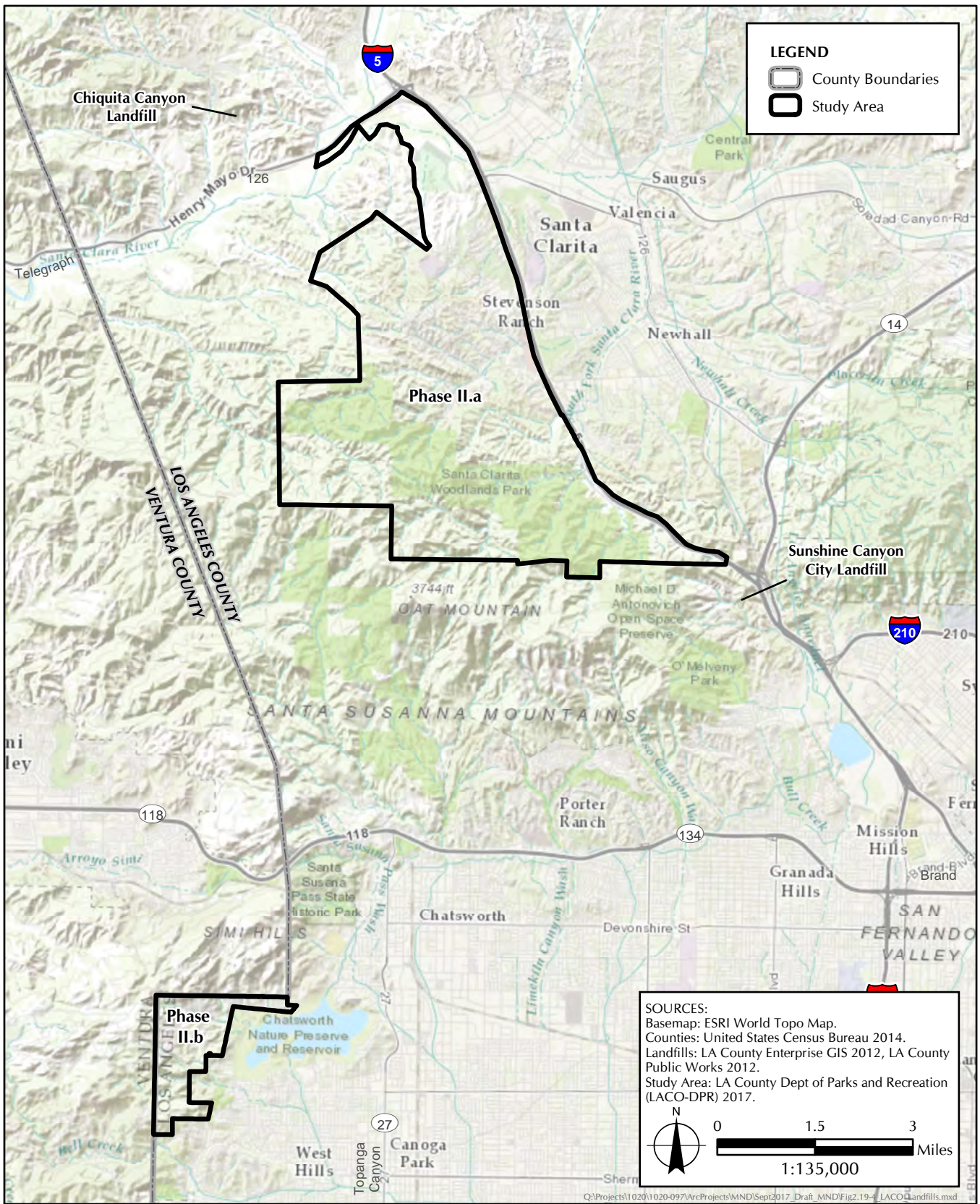


FIGURE 2.19-4
 Landfills

The Sunshine Canyon Landfill is adjacent to the southeast border of the Phase II.a area. The Sunshine Canyon Landfill has served Los Angeles County since 1958. The landfill handles approximately one-third of the daily waste of all of Los Angeles County and is permitted to receive roughly 8,300 tons of waste per day, or more than 2.3 million tons annually.

Construction and maintenance activities for the proposed project would generate solid wastes requiring disposal to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill and Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The construction and maintenance waste that would be generated by the project would be limited to vegetation debris from site clearing, soil export from excavation and grading, and construction wastes from construction of facilities. The County of Los Angeles Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance (Chapter 20.87 of the Los Angeles County Code) requires that a least 50 percent of all construction and demolition (C&D) debris, soil, rock, and gravel removed from a project site be recycled or reused unless a lower percentage is approved by the County of Los Angeles Director of Public Works. The County's Green Building Standards Code (Title 31 of the Los Angeles County Code) was amended in 2013 to require at least 65 percent of nonhazardous construction and demolition debris be recycled or salvaged.

Trail related facilities, such as bike skills areas and trailhead and staging areas, would be equipped with trash and recycling receptacles to collect waste during the operations phase of the proposed project. By adhering to the County of Los Angeles Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts in regard to being served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs, and no mitigation would be required.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems regarding complying with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Construction and maintenance activities for the proposed project would generate solid waste requiring disposal at the Chiquita Canyon and Sunshine Canyon Landfills. The construction and maintenance waste that would be generated by the proposed project would be limited to vegetation debris from site clearing, soil export from excavation and grading, and construction wastes from construction of facilities. The County of Los Angeles Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance (Chapter 20.87 of the Los Angeles County Code) requires that a least 50 percent of all C&D debris, soil, rock, and gravel removed from a project site be recycled or reused unless a lower percentage is approved by the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The County's Green Building Standards Code (Title 31 of the Los Angeles County Code) was amended in 2013 to require at least 65 percent of nonhazardous construction and demolition debris to be recycled or salvaged.

Trail-related facilities, such as bike skills areas and trailhead and staging areas, would be equipped with trash and recycling receptacles to collect waste during the operations phase of the proposed project. By adhering to the County of Los Angeles Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts in regard to complying with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, and no mitigation would be required.

20. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts regarding degrading the quality of the environment, substantially reducing the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, causing a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threatening to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reducing the number or restricting the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminating important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The County has identified mitigation measures to reduce any impacts to below the level of significance.

As stated in Section 2.1, *Aesthetics*, the proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts to the quality of the environment regarding substantially damaging scenic resources within a state scenic highway. The proposed project would be located within the scenic highway corridor of the nearest eligible state scenic highways, Henry Mayo Drive (State Route 126) and the Golden State Highway (Interstate 5). Implementation of Mitigation Measures AES-1 and AES-2 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

As stated in Section 2.4, *Biological Resources*, the proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts regarding degrading the quality of the environment, substantially reducing the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, and substantially reducing the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or threatening to eliminate a plant or animal community. The project study area contains U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated critical habitat for the federally endangered Arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*), the federally and state endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and the federally and state endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). These species are assumed to be present within the project study area (see Figure 5.1-2, *Critical Designated within 5 Miles of the Project Area*, in Appendix C). Existing conditions within the project study area consist of approximately 3,834 acres of critical habitat for listed species (263 acres for arroyo toad, 153 acres for Braunton's milk-vetch, 2,708 acres for coastal California gnatcatcher, 472 acres for least bell's vireo, and 238 acres for southwestern willow flycatcher). Furthermore, there are California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records and suitable habitat for the federally and state listed endangered unarmored threespine stickleback and San Fernando Valley spineflower, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) rare plant slender mariposa lily, Plummer's mariposa lily, Newhall sunflower, and Santa Susana tarplant within 5 miles of the planned trail activities. In addition, CNDDB records and suitable habitat are present for sensitive wildlife species including western pond turtle, crotch bumble bee, western mastiff bat, coastal whiptail, and California glossy snake within 5 miles of the planned trail activities. Approximately 17 acres of critical habitat for listed species could be indirectly impacted through associated construction activities.

Furthermore, there are CNDDDB records and suitable habitat for the federally and/or state-listed species (California Orcutt grass, Braunton's milk-vetch, San Fernando Valley spineflower, unarmored threespine stickle, tricolored blackbird and Swainson's hawk), CNPS rare plants (Blochman's dudleya, chaparral nolina, late-flowered mariposa-lily, Palmer's grapplinghook, Plummer's mariposa-lily, and slender mariposa-lily), and sensitive wildlife species (American badger, California glossy snake coast horned lizard, coastal whiptail, crotch bumble bee, and western mastiff bat) within 100 feet of the planned trail activities that may be disturbed through trail development and associated construction activities.

Construction activities associated with trail development would include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads and trail staging areas. These construction activities have the potential to occur within areas of potentially suitable and occupied habitat for listed and special-status species. Direct impacts would occur during trail construction and would include direct loss of sensitive plant and/or wildlife species resulting from injury, death, or disturbance of these species. Additionally, direct impacts may occur through the direct habitat loss and fragmentation during construction of the trails and associated structures; introduction of non-native plants; and introduction of lighting, dust, and noise during construction. Indirect impacts resulting from the development of trails projects in the proposed project could occur as a result of increased human interaction with sensitive plants and wildlife. This analysis of impacts of trails projects included in the proposed project to sensitive plant and wildlife species and their habitats and designated critical habitat presented here is programmatic, and conservatively assumes that all species with critical habitat and/or CNDDDB records in the project study area are present. The level of impact of subsequent projects would be subject to verification at the project-level of environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Trail development projects would be subject to the provisions of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, as well as Sections 1900–1913, 3511, 4150, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the State Fish and Game Code and Sections 80071–80075 of the State Food and Agriculture Code. Therefore, the proposed project would result in significant impacts to biological resources regarding degrading the quality of the environment, substantially reducing the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, substantially reducing the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or threatening to eliminate a plant or animal community. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-4 would reduce impacts to designated critical habitat by requiring habitat restoration such that occupied habitat is avoided or there is sufficient habitat restoration such that there is no net loss of habitat functions or values.

As stated in Section 2.5, *Cultural Resources*, the proposed project would have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to below the level of significance. The results of the records searches determined that 24 previously recorded prehistoric sites and eight historical built resources are located within the project study area. Projects requiring excavation within 60 feet of previously recorded archaeological resources and historical built resources shall require monitoring. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CULTURAL-1, CULTURAL-2, CULTURAL-3, and CULTURAL-4 would reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

Therefore, the proposed project would have the potential to result in significant impacts regarding degrading the quality of the environment, substantially reducing the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, causing a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threatening to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reducing the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminating important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory, requiring implementation of Mitigation Measures AES-1, AES-2, BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, CULTURAL-1, CULTURAL-2, CULTURAL-3, and CULTURAL-4 to reduce impacts to below the level of significance.

b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?

The proposed project would result in no impact regarding the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals. The proposed project would ensure that trails and other recreational facilities are developed in the project study area concurrently with the development of the project study area. In addition, the proposed project would be designed consistent with the County Trails Manual to ensure conservation of the environment. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts, and no mitigation would be required.

c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. Aside from the proposed project, 14 related private and public projects are proposed or planned in the project study area. The proposed project involves the planned development of recreational trails and trail related facilities as trail easements and open space properties are acquired by DPR, in some instances in combination with the related projects listed in Table 1.13-1, *List of Related Projects*, of Section 1, *Project Description*. Of the 14 related projects listed in Table 1.13-1, 5 projects (Projects H, I, J, K, and L) would include proposed trail alignments within the project study area. The environmental impacts of these projects would add to the impacts of the proposed project on a cumulative basis. However, the impacts of the proposed project would be limited in scope and intensity due to the scattered locations, small scale, extended time frame for construction of all segments, and type of trail improvements proposed. As project impacts would be less than significant after mitigation, impacts associated with the proposed project are not expected to be cumulatively considerable when added to the impacts of related projects in the vicinity of the project study area.

The County is responsible for review of all projects within the project study area through the CEQA process to ensure that these related projects would reduce impacts to below the level of significance through best management practices, project design features, and mitigation measures, where feasible. As stated in Section 2.3, *Air Quality*, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding resulting in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the region is in non-attainment. The County portion of the South Coast Air Basin is a Federal and State nonattainment area for 1-hour ozone, 8-hour ozone, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀ (state), and lead (federal) for near-source monitors. The proposed project would generate these pollutants during the construction of trail improvements. The operations and maintenance phases of the project would not cause a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant, as the proposed project is a recreational trail generating minimal new vehicle trips and requiring minimal equipment for trail maintenance. Short-term cumulative impacts related to air quality could occur if project construction and nearby construction activities were to occur simultaneously. In particular, with respect to local impacts, cumulative construction particulate matter (i.e., fugitive dust) impacts are considered when projects are located within a few hundred yards of each other. Many of the related projects located within the project study area are residential subdivisions with the potential to create significant air quality impacts cumulatively during the construction phase. However, the proposed project is a trails master plan, which provides recreational opportunities close to areas where people live and work. This is consistent

with the strategies in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) for reducing vehicle miles traveled and enhancing public health. Therefore, the proposed project’s emissions would not be cumulatively considerable.

As stated in Section 2.14, *Population and Housing*, the proposed project would result in no impacts regarding cumulatively exceeding official regional or local population projections. The proposed project involves proposed multi-use trails and related facilities that would be designed and constructed per trail easements or open space dedications that accommodate trails, including developer trail and recreation obligations. As the proposed project would not induce population growth, it would not affect regional or local population projections. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impacts regarding cumulatively exceeding regional or local population projections. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts regarding having impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable, and no mitigation would be required.

d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

The proposed project would result in no impact regarding having environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project in regard to human health and safety during construction, operations, and maintenance would be less than significant through consistency with the Best Management Practices and guidelines of the County Trails Manual. The proposed project would also provide additional trailheads, resting areas, bike skills areas, and related facilities that would be expected to accommodate a substantial amount of increased recreational use in the area as a result of the proposed project, in accordance with the goals of the SCAG 2016–2040 RTP/SCS. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact regarding having environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and no mitigation would be required.

Section 3

Mitigation Measures

Based on the findings and associated environmental discussion and analysis provided in Section 2.0, *Environmental Checklist*, it has been determined that the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts to Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources.

Implementation of the specified mitigation measures would reduce all impacts to below the level of significance.

AESTHETICS

Mitigation Measure AES-1: Trails and supporting facilities within a one-mile radius of officially designated and eligible state scenic highways shall be designed, constructed, and maintained (where construction equipment is involved) to avoid damaging or removal of scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, within the scenic highway corridor. If any mature tree must be removed that would alter the viewshed, it shall be replaced at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio. If any new structures or buildings are constructed within a one-mile radius of an officially designated or eligible state scenic highway, landscape screening of the structures and buildings shall be installed on the side(s) of the structure facing the scenic highway to reduce visual impacts to the scenic highway corridor.

Mitigation Measure AES-2: Trails and supporting facilities shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid the drip line of any coast live oak trees and other protected trees that are located along the proposed trail alignments, in order to maintain the visual character of the area. Best Management Practices shall be used during construction and trails maintenance activities to protect the root structures of protected trees:

- A Worker Education and Awareness Program (WEAP) shall inform all construction workers of County Ordinances protecting oak trees and the sensitivity of roots to damage from compaction or excessive water.
- Drip line of oak trees shall be designated as off-limits during construction on all construction drawings and diagrams.
- Fencing and/or flagging shall be used to delineate the drip line of the trees as off-limits during trail construction.
- On-site monitors shall be utilized for periods when trail construction will be undertaken within 100 feet of the drip line of the oak trees.
- If a protected tree must be removed, the same species shall be replaced at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: To mitigate potential impacts on listed, sensitive, and locally important species and their habitats, the County shall require that a habitat assessment by a qualified biologist take place using approved USFWS and CDFW protocols to identify suitable habitat for any listed, sensitive, and locally important species on-site. Where suitable and/or occupied habitat is determined to be present, mitigation shall be implemented such that there is no net loss of habitat functions or values. Opportunities for achieving this performance standard, consistent with the provisions of the federal and state ESAs, may include:

- Demonstration that trails segment projects have been and will be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid disturbance of any occupied habitat, potentially suitable habitat, and designated critical habitat for any listed, sensitive, or locally important species and to minimize impacts to native plant communities, wherever practicable and feasible.

- Consultation with USFWS and CDFW with regards to trail building activities within critical habitat and suitable habitat.
- Implementation of pre-construction habitat surveys to delineate occupied or suitable sensitive species' habitat to facilitate avoidance.
- Formal consultation with the USFWS will be required if a species afforded protection pursuant to the federal ESA is determined to be present as a result of focused protocol surveys. Formal consultation with the CDFW will be required if a species afforded protocol surveys.
- Altering the timing of construction to avoid seasons when sensitive species may be present (i.e., nesting bird season).
- Worker Education and Awareness Program to inform all construction workers of their responsibilities in regards to avoiding and minimizing impacts on sensitive biological resources.
- Designation of suitable habitat as off-limits during construction on all construction drawings and diagrams.
- Use of fencing and/or flagging to delineate environmentally sensitive areas as off-limits during trail construction.
- Use of on-site monitors for periods when trail construction will be undertaken within 250 feet of environmentally sensitive areas.
- When temporary impacts to critical habitat may occur, the development and implementation of a habitat restoration plan shall be required.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: To mitigate potential impacts on riparian, state-sensitive plant communities, state protected wetlands, and federally protected wetlands and waters of the United States, the County shall require that plant community mapping be conducted by a qualified biologist with experience classifying plant communities in Southern California and/or a formal jurisdictional delineation be conducted by a certified wetland delineator to identify any state or federally protected wetlands, riparian areas, and state-sensitive plant communities on-site. Where state designated sensitive plant communities, riparian habitat, state or federally protected wetlands, or waters of the United States are determined to be present, mitigation measures shall be implemented such that there is no net loss of habitat functions or values. Opportunities for achieving this performance standard, consistent with the provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code and Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, may include:

- Demonstration that trail segment projects have been and will be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid disturbance of any state-sensitive plant communities or riparian habitat, or any state or federally protected wetlands or waters of the United States wherever practicable and feasible.
- Conduct pre-construction habitat surveys to delineate sensitive plant communities and riparian habitats to facilitate avoidance.
- Consult with CDFW with regards to trail building activities within state-sensitive plant communities.
- Use of on-site monitors for periods when trail construction will be undertaken within 250 feet of oak woodlands, native woodlands, and 100 feet of the dripline of native trees.
- Where temporary impacts may occur to sensitive plant communities, the development and implementation of a habitat enhancement and restoration plan shall be required.
- Where permanent impacts may occur to sensitive plant communities, compensatory mitigation such as purchasing credits at mitigation bank, purchasing off-site lands, or similar shall be required.
- Where impacts are located in areas subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW pursuant to Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code, obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement prior to commencing ground-disturbing activities or any other alternation of a lake or stream.

- Where impacts are located in areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, obtain authorization to complete the required work pursuant to a Nationwide or individual permit.
- Where impacts are subject to the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, obtain a Waiver of Water Quality Certification or Notice of Applicability of Waste Discharge Requirement permit.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: To avoid impacts to nesting birds protected under the MBTA, trail construction should take place outside of the nesting bird season, which generally occurs between February 15 and September 1. If trail construction activities cannot avoid the nesting bird season, pre-construction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist a maximum of 3 days prior to the start of construction. Should nesting birds be discovered within or adjacent to the construction footprint during these surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be placed on the active nest as determined by the biologist to prevent impacts to nesting birds. Construction shall be halted within the non-disturbance buffer of 250 feet of songbirds and 500 feet for raptors until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are flying well enough to avoid the proposed construction activities.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: To mitigate potential impacts on oak and other native woodlands, the County shall require that for every protected tree that must be removed, the same species shall be replaced at a minimum 1:1 ratio. Compensatory mitigation for protected trees in the jurisdiction of the County may include replacement at a 3:1 ratio for trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of eight inches or more at an appropriate mitigation site, and replacement at a 10:1 ratio for heritage oaks. Monitoring for at least one year shall be required to meet success criteria.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1: *Archaeological and Historical Resources – Avoidance and Monitoring.* Completion of a Worker Education and Awareness Program for all personnel who will be engaged in ground-disturbing activities shall be required prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities. This shall include training that provides an overview of cultural resources that might potentially be found and the appropriate procedures to follow if cultural resources are identified. This requirement extends to any new staff prior to engaging in ground disturbing activities.

Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) shall review the construction plans to ensure that any known cultural resources that are required to be avoided have been marked as “off-limits” areas for construction and construction staging. In addition, DPR shall require monitoring of all ground disturbing activities by a qualified archaeologist within 60 feet of a known extant unique archaeological resources, significant historical resources, or tribal cultural resource. In addition, consultation shall be undertaken with the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by the Native American Heritage Commission to determine if a Native American monitor shall also be present during all or a portion of the ground-disturbing activities.

In the event that previously unknown unique archaeological resources, significant historical resources, or Tribal cultural resources are encountered during construction, the resources shall either be left *in situ* and avoided through realignment of the trail, or the resources shall be salvaged, recorded, and repositated at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum or other repository consistent with the provisions of a Phase III data recovery program and the provisions of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. Data recovery is not required by law or regulation. It is, though, the most commonly agreed-upon measure to mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources eligible or listed under Section 106 Criterion D, as it preserves important information that will otherwise be lost.

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-2: *Pre-Construction Surveys.* At the time that any new segment of trail is proposed for development that would require ground-disturbing activities in soils that have been predominantly *in situ* during the past 50 years, records and archival information shall be reviewed to determine if there are any recorded unique archaeological resources and significant historical resources as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, or Tribal cultural resources as defined by AB52 in the project footprint. At a minimum, the records and archival review shall include a search of the South Central Coastal Information Center if more than two years have passed since the previous records search, a request for Sacred Lands File from the Native American Heritage Commission, and a request for information regarding Tribal cultural resources from the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by Native American Heritage Commission. The appropriate course of action shall be undertaken in light of the results of the records search:

- (A) Where the project study area has been subject to a Phase I Walkover Survey within two years of the proposed activity and no unique archaeological resources, significant historical resources, or Tribal cultural resources are known within the project footprint, work shall proceed per the provision of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1.
- (B) Where all or a portion of the project footprint has not been surveyed for cultural resources within two years of a proposed ground-disturbing activity, a qualified archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards for archaeology and shall conduct a Phase I Walkover Survey to ascertain the presence or absence of unique archaeological and/or significant historical resources, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.
 - a. If the survey and record searches determines no unique archaeological resources or significant historical resources, including potential Tribal cultural resources, then the work shall proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1.
 - b. If the survey determines potential unique archaeological resources or significant historical resources, including potential Tribal cultural resources, then one of two courses of action shall be employed:
 - i. Where avoidance is feasible, the trail alignments shall be realigned to avoid the potentially significant cultural resource, and the work shall then proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1. The new alignment shall be surveyed by a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior. An archaeological monitor under direction of a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior shall be present during ground-disturbing activities within 60 feet of previously recorded cultural resources. In addition, consultation shall be undertaken with the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by Native American Heritage Commission to determine if a Native American monitor shall also be present during all or a portion of the ground-disturbing activities.
 - ii. Where avoidance is not feasible, a Phase II evaluation of the cultural resources shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior to determine the significance of the cultural resource. If the Phase II investigation identifies a unique/eligible cultural resource

within the area proposed for ground-disturbing work, the County shall determine whether to avoid the resource through redesign or to proceed with a Phase III data recovery program consistent with the provisions of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. The work shall then proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1.

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-3: *Paleontological Resources – Paleontological Monitoring.* Impacts to cultural resources related directly or indirectly to the destruction of a unique paleontological resource from the proposed project shall be reduced to below the level of significance by monitoring, salvage, and curation at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum of unanticipated paleontological resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities in previously undisturbed native soils located five or more feet below the ground surface that would have the potential to contact geologic units with a high to moderate potential to yield unique paleontological resources. Ground-disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, drilling, excavation, trenching, and grading. If paleontological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) shall require and be responsible for salvage and recovery of those resources by a qualified paleontologist consistent with standards for such recovery established by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Paleontological Resources Sensitivity Training given by a qualified paleontologist or archaeologist cross-trained in paleontology shall be required for all project personnel involved in ground disturbing activities prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities in geologic units with a moderate to high potential to yield unique paleontological resources. This shall include a brief field training that provides an overview of fossils that might potentially be found, and the appropriate procedures to follow if fossils are identified. This requirement extends to any new staff involved in earth disturbing that joins the project.

Construction monitoring by a qualified monitor (archaeologist cross-trained in paleontology or paleontologist) shall be implemented during all ground-disturbing activities that affect previously undisturbed geologic units 12 or more inches below the ground surface and have the potential to encounter geologic units with a moderate to high potential to yield unique paleontological resources. In the event that a paleontological resource is encountered during construction, all ground-disturbing activity within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until a qualified paleontologist can evaluate the significance of the discovery. Additional monitoring recommendations may be required. If the resource is found to be significant, the paleontologist shall determine the most appropriate treatment and method for stabilizing and collecting the specimen. Curation of the any significant paleontological finds shall be housed at a qualified repository, such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM).

Within 90 days of the completion of any salvage operation or monitoring activities, a mitigation report shall be submitted to DPR with an appended, itemized inventory with representative snapshots of specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to DPR, shall signify the completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources. A copy of the report/inventory shall be filed with the County of Los Angeles Planning and Development Agency and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-4: *Regulatory Requirements – Human Remains.* In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are encountered during excavation activities, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby areas reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains within 100 feet shall occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains.

If the County Coroner determines that the remains are or are believed to be Native American, s/he shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, the NAHC shall immediately notify the person(s) it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD) of the deceased Native American. The descendants shall complete their inspection and make a recommendation within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the disposition of the human remains. The MLD's recommendation shall be followed if feasible, and may include scientific removal and non-destructive analysis of the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials. If DPR rejects the MLD's recommendations, the agency shall rebury the remains with appropriate dignity on the property within a time frame agreed upon between the County and the MLD's in a location that will not be subject to further subsurface disturbance (14 California Code of Regulations §15064.5(e)).

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mitigation Measures CULTURAL-1, CULTURAL-2, and CULTURAL-4 would be required.

Section 4

Report Preparation

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Section 5

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Figure 1.4-1. Regional Vicinity Map

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Figure 1.4-2. Local Vicinity Map

Basemap:

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Study Area:

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Figure 1.4-3. Topographic Map with USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Index

Basemap:

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Counties:

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Study Area:

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Figure 1.6-1. Los Angeles County Rural Outdoor Lighting District and Community Standards District Boundaries

Basemap:

ESRI World Street Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps/>

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Figure 1.6-2. Los Angeles County Land Use Designations

Basemap:

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Study Area:

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Figure 1.7-1. Los Angeles County Zoning Designations

Angeles National Forest:

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Basemap:

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Cities:

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Basemap:

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Figure 1.8-2. Establishment of Project Boundary

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps/>

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Study Area:

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Figure 1.8-3. Existing Trails

Basemap:

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Figure 1.8-4. Adopted Proposed Trails

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Figure 1.9-1. Proposed Trails Plan/ Related Facility Locations

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Figure 1.11-1. Slope

Basemap:

ESRI Imagery Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Slope/DEM:

Provided by John Diaz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Parks and Recreation. DEM data created by Infotech Enterprises, LLP - QC by Dewberry, project managed Los Angeles Regional Imagery Consortium (LAR-IAC).

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR). 2017

Figure 1.13-1. Related Projects

Area Plans:

LA County Enterprise GIS 2015. Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal.

City of Los Angeles, City of Santa Clarita

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at:

https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Newhall Ranch SP: LA County Enterprise GIS 2015.

Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal. December 2003. Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. Available at:

<http://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2015/08/31/specific-plans/>

Trails:

LA County Enterprise GIS 2015, LA County DPR 2015, City of Santa Clarita 2016, Ventura County 2016.

Rim of the Valley Corridor:

National Park Service (NPS) 2016.

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR). 2017

Figure 2.2-1. Important Farmland Map

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps/>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at:

https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Important Farmland:

California Department of Conservation. 2014. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/LosAngeles.aspx>

Study Area:

Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR). 2017. Trail Planning Study Area.

Figure 2.9-1. Hazardous Sites within One-Eighth Mile of Project Study Area

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Hazardous Sites:

SWRCB Geotracker data 2016, CADTSC EnviroStor Data.

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR). 2017.

Figure 2.9-2. Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Fire Hazard Severity Zones:

LA County Enterprise GIS 2014, CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) 2016.

http://frap.fire.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata-sw-counties_download

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR). 2017.

Figure 2.10-1. Blue Line Drainages and Proposed Trails

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Storm Drain: LA County Enterprise GIS. 2013, LA County Department of Public Works.

Los Angeles County Data Portal. 2013. Accessed 14 September 2017 at:

<https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2013/08/08/los-angeles-county-storm-drain-system/>

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR). 2017.

Trails:

LA County Enterprise GIS. 2015, LA County DPR. 2015, United States Forest Service. 2011, City of Santa Clarita. 2016.

Figure 2.12-1. Known Mineral Resources

Basemap:

ESRI Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Minerals:

Mineral Resources Data System (MRDS). <https://mrdata.usgs.gov/mrds/>

Oil Wells:

Department of Conservation, Division of OIL, GAS, and Geothermal Resources Data and Maps (DOGGR)

Figure 2.15-1. Federal, State, and Local Fire Responsivity Area

Basemap:

ESRI USA Topo Maps. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Fire Hazard Zones:

CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) 2016. http://frap.fire.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata-sw-counties_download

Figure 2.15-2. Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Station Service Areas

Basemap:

ESRI USA Topo Maps. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Fire Department Data:

LA County GIS Data Portal (2016), LA City Data Portal (2016). <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/tag/fire-department/>

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Figure 2.15-3. Los Angeles County Sheriff Stations

Basemap:

ESRI USA Topo Maps. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Sheriff Station Data:

LA County GIS Data Portal (2013, 2016), LA Times (2011). <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/tag/fire-department/>

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

2.15-4. Public Schools

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

School Data: LA County Enterprise GIS 2016.

Los Angeles County Data Portal. 2016. <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/tag/schools/>

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

2.15-5. Public Libraries

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Library Data:

LA County Enterprise GIS 2016. Los Angeles County Data Portal. 2016.

<https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/tag/library/>

County of Los Angeles Public Library. Accessed 19 September 2017 at: <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/>

City of Santa Clarita Public Library. Accessed 19 September 2017 at:

<http://www.santaclaritalibrary.com/contact-us/hours-locations/>

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Figure 2.15-6. Hospitals

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Hospital Data:

LA County GIS Portal (2011) <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2013/04/12/los-angeles-county-hospitals-2011/>

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Figure 2.16-1. Regional Recreational Resources

Basemap:

ESRI Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Parks:
LA County DPR 2017., CPAD 2017.

Figure 2.16-2. Local Recreational Resources

Basemap:

ESRI Topographic Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Parks:
LA County DPR 2017., CPAD 2017.

Figure 2.16-3. Regional Open Space

Basemap:

ESRI Topographic Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Parks:
LA County DPR 2017., CPAD 2017.

Figure 2.19-1. Sanitation Districts

Basemap:

ESRI USA Topo Maps. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Sanitation Districts:

ArcGIS LACSD Sewer System for Open Data: <http://data-lacsdgis.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Sanitation districts of LA County.2015. <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2015/07/16/la-county-sanitation-districts-gis-page/>

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Trails:

LA County Enterprise GIS 2015, LA County DPR 2015, United States Forest Service 2011.

Figure 2.19-2. Storm Drain Network

Basemap:

ESRI World Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Storm Drain: LA County Enterprise GIS. 2013, LA County Department of Public Works.

Los Angeles County Data Portal. 2013. Accessed 14 September 2017 at: <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2013/08/08/los-angeles-county-storm-drain-system/>

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR). 2017.

2.19-3. Water Districts

Basemap:

ESRI USA Topo Maps. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.

Water Districts:

LA County GIS Data Portal, 2016. <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/?s=water+>

Figure 2.19-4. Landfills

Basemap:

ESRI Topo Map. ESRI ArcGIS Online and data partners, including imagery from agencies supplied via the Content Sharing Program. Accessed 2017 at: <http://goto.arcgisonline.com/maps>

Counties:

United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Counties. Accessed 3 March 2016 at: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/cbf/cbf_counties.html

Landfills:

Los Angeles County GIS Portal, LA County Public Works 2012.

Study Area:

LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation (LACO-DPR) 2017.