

3.12 PARKS AND RECREATION

3.12.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Folsom Lake

Folsom Lake is a State Recreation Area, located approximately 8 miles north of the project site, that serves the greater Sacramento area for summer recreation in the form of camping, hiking, biking, boating, and other outdoor recreation activities. The lake also hosts bass fishing tournaments that frequently draw fishermen from all over the state. The California Department of Parks and Recreation manages the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, which includes Folsom Lake and the surrounding facilities. The lake features approximately 75 miles of shoreline and 80 miles of trails that provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature studies, camping, and picnicking. There are seven major recreation areas with facilities located around the lake. The Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, including Folsom Lake, is one of the most heavily used recreational facilities in the State Park system, with 2 to 3 million visitor days per year. Approximately 75% of the annual visitations to the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area occur during the spring and summer. Many (85%) of these activities are water dependent.

Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta

The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta) includes portions of the cities of Sacramento and Stockton as well as several smaller cities and towns. The Delta encompasses 738,000 acres of land in portions of six counties and has nearly 1,000 miles of navigable channels. As such, recreation opportunities are generally water oriented, consisting primarily of boating and fishing. Other common activities include water skiing, wakeboarding, sailing, operating personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis), houseboating, kayaking, swimming, boat camping, and windsurfing. Land-based recreational activities in the Delta include hunting, camping, picnicking, walking, bicycling, viewing and photographing wildlife, sightseeing, and attending festivals and special events (DPC 2002). Access to the Delta is available via several locations along the Sacramento River from downtown Sacramento to Freeport (approximately 15 miles southwest of the project site), as well as numerous locations farther south (DWR 1995).

Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area

The Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA), located on White Rock Road approximately 3 miles east of the project site, offers off-highway vehicle enthusiasts 836 acres of varying terrain and trails for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and four-wheel-drive vehicles. The SVRA includes the Hangtown MX Track, which hosts the annual national outdoor MX (motocross) championship; the Quarter Midget Track, which is used by the American Quarter Midget Association for both practice and competitive events; and a 4x4 vehicle area, motorcycle/all-terrain vehicle (ATV) area, several practice tracks, a go-kart track, and several staging areas that include picnic facilities. The Prairie City SVRA is operated by the Off-Highway Vehicle Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and is open year-round (State Parks 2004).

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

County of Sacramento

Park planning in Sacramento County is an interagency and interjurisdictional process. At the broadest level, the County of Sacramento (County) Department of Regional Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (DPROS) manages the regional-park system. Local parks (neighborhood and community parks) are planned primarily by the 18 parks and recreation districts located throughout the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the county. Parks in Rancho Cordova are planned by the Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD), discussed further below.

Department of Regional Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

The County DPROS was established in 1959 with acquisition of land now known as the American River Parkway. Since that time, the County has expanded its total parklands to more than 11,000 acres, including the American River Parkway, Dry Creek Parkway, Mather Regional Park, Discovery Park, Elk Grove Regional Park, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, and other historic and natural sites. In addition to traditional regional park activities, DPROS also oversees municipal golf activities that include four regional golf facilities.

American River Parkway

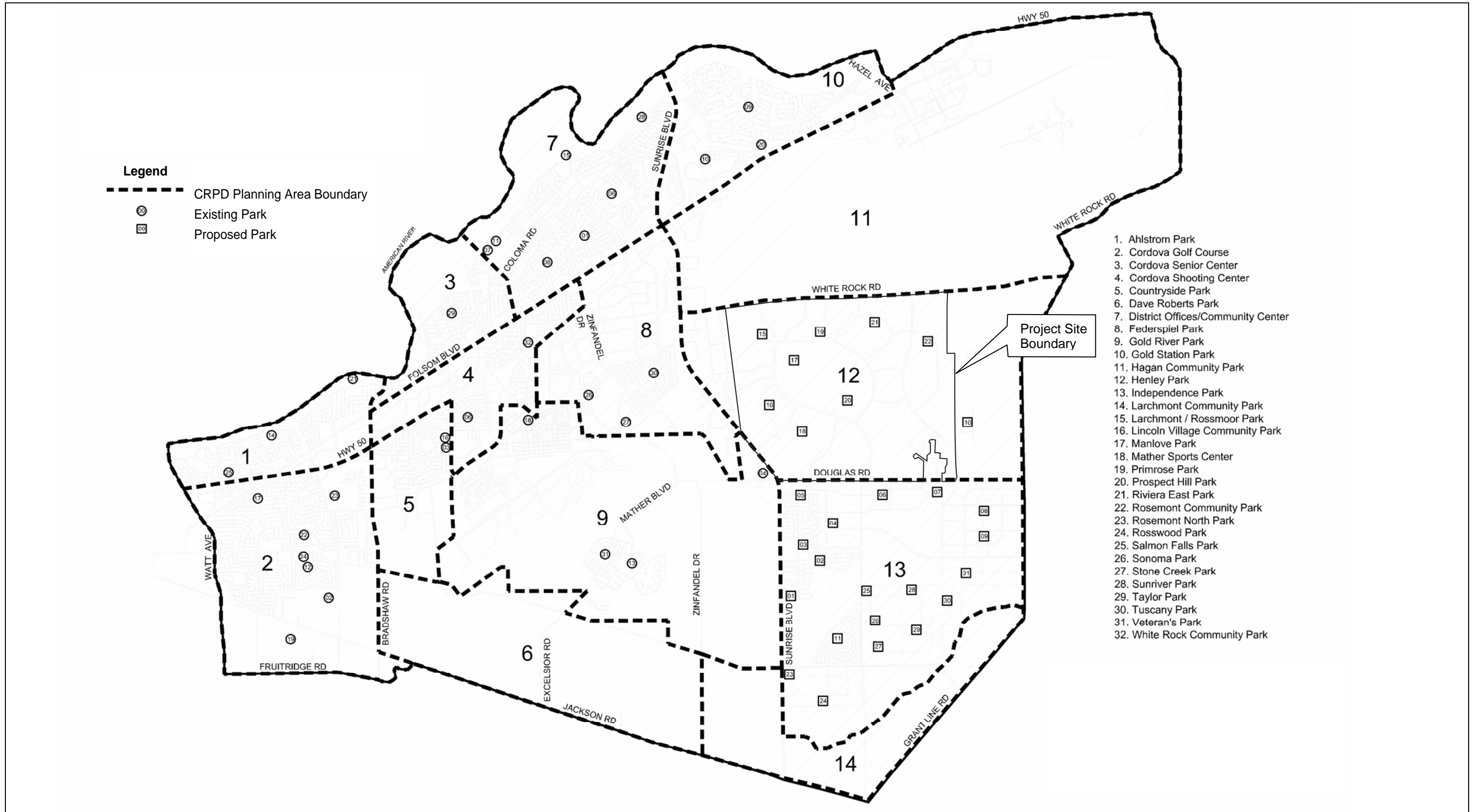
On January 19, 1981, approximately 23 miles of the American River, from the confluence with the Sacramento River to Nimbus Dam, was designated a National Wild and Scenic River by the National Park Service (NPS 2005). This short stretch of river, flowing through the city of Sacramento, is the most heavily used Wild and Scenic River in California. The river is located approximately 3 miles north of the project site. The American River Parkway (Parkway) is a river corridor/open space greenbelt that extends 23 miles from the confluence of the American River and the Sacramento River northeast to Nimbus Dam. The Parkway's trail system, which has been designated a "National Recreation Trail," includes the 32-mile-long multiuse (pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle) Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail, which parallels the American River from Folsom to downtown Sacramento.

The Parkway is one of the most valuable recreation/open space assets in the region. It is a unique natural environment managed by DPROS. There are several points of entry to this recreation area. At the westerly end of the Parkway, La Riviera Drive and Mira del Rio Drive provide access to the SARA Park and Gristmill Dam Recreation Area. Farther east, Rod Beaudry Drive provides access to Goethe Park and Rossmoor Drive. El Manto Drive provides access from Coloma Road to the Rossmoor Bar area. Sunrise Boulevard provides access to the Sunrise (upper and lower) Recreation Area. At the easterly end of the community planning area, Hazel Avenue provides access to the Nimbus Fish Hatchery and Natoma State Recreation Area, which is managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation as a component of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Many neighborhoods also have pedestrian and bicycle access points to the Parkway; Gold River has several of these entryways.

An update of the *American River Parkway Plan* is currently under way, and is expected to be completed in the next 2–3 years. DPROS, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and the County Planning Department are taking the lead on this update.

Cordova Recreation & Park District

CRPD is located in the east-central portion of Sacramento County, south of the American River, and is bisected by U.S. Highway 50. CRPD is composed of 14 planning areas encompassing 65 square miles (Exhibit 3.12-1). The project site lies in the CRPD planning area. CRPD has the primary responsibility of providing recreation facilities and services within the Cordova Planning Area, which includes Rancho Cordova and the project site. CRPD's jurisdiction extends south beyond the boundaries of Rancho Cordova and project site to Jackson Road and Grant Line Road. CRPD administers a total of 438 acres, which includes 18 neighborhood parks, six community parks, four community swimming pools, the Cordova Community Center at Hagan Community Park on Chase Drive, the Cordova Senior Center on Routier Road, Mather Sports Complex, the Cordova Public Shooting Center on Douglas Road, and the Cordova Golf Course on Jackson Road (CRPD 2005). The Parkway (described above) is located in the CRPD planning area. Table 3.12-1 includes the names and locations and short descriptions of existing CRPD facilities. In fall 2005, CRPD adopted new standards that include a requirement of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, and the addition of performance standards for specific types of open space.



Source: Cordova Recreation & Park District Master Plan, January 2005

Existing and Proposed Park and Recreation Facility Locations

EXHIBIT 3.12-1

**Table 3.12-1
Existing Cordova Recreation & Park District Facilities and Services**

Facility Name	Location	Description of Facilities
Ahlstrom Park	Zinfandel Drive and Cordova Lane, Rancho Cordova	7 acres with a Little League baseball field and picnic tables
Cordova Golf Course	9425 Jackson Road (one-half mile west of Bradshaw Road)	Pro shop, lighted driving range, practice putting green, electric carts, hand carts, golf club rentals, and restaurant
Cordova Senior Activity Center	3480 Routier Road, Sacramento	A full schedule of senior activities (e.g., watercolors, arts and crafts, yoga, and adult exercise)
Cordova Shooting Center	11551 Douglas Road, near Sunrise Boulevard	Outdoor shooting range with covered shooting positions, rental firearms, and classes available including basic handgun class (safety and shooting), state-approved hunter safety class, private shotgun lessons, and training to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon
Countryside Park	Glenmoor Drive, Rancho Cordova	2 acres with picnic tables and tot lot
Dave Roberts Community Park	Benita Drive and Mapola Way, Rancho Cordova	13 acres with a lighted softball field, tennis courts, regulation soccer field, and playground
Federspiel Park	Aramon Drive and Chassella Way, Rancho Cordova	4 acres with swimming pool, bantam soccer field, picnic tables, and playground
Gold River Park	Gold Country Boulevard and Poker Flat Drive, Gold River	6 acres with picnic tables, horseshoe pits, tot lot, playground, and bantam soccer field
Gold Station Park	Gold Station Road, Gold River	2.2 acres with picnic tables, playground, and bantam soccer field
Hagan Community Park	2197 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova	75 acres with the Cordova Community Center, three swimming pools, eight tennis courts, eight group picnic areas, three baseball fields, three soccer fields, basketball court, petting zoo, playgrounds, tot lots, fitness course, and scale model stream railroad. Also provides access to the Jediah Smith Memorial Trail parallel to the American River, and foot access to the American River
Henley Park	Henley Drive, Rosemont	One-half acre with picnic tables and tot lot
Independence Park	Brittan Way and School Street, Mather	11 acres with picnic tables, restrooms, and playground
Larchmont Community Park	Linda Rio Drive, Sacramento	14 acres with two tennis courts, one bantam soccer field, one regulation soccer field, group picnic area, and playground
Larchmont-Rossmoor Park	Ambassador Drive, Sacramento	3 acres with softball field, soccer field, picnic tables, and playground
Manlove Park	Rose Parade Way and Spellbinder Court, Rosemont	3 acres with picnic tables and tot lot
Lincoln Village Community Park	3480 Routier Road, Sacramento	17 acres with a lighted softball field, four tennis courts, swimming pool, basketball court, group picnic area, and the Cordova Senior Center
Mather Sports Center	3755 Schriever Avenue, Mather	Aerobics, open gym, racquetball, weight rooms, and walking and jogging facility
Primrose Park	Off Hedge Road and Jackson Highway, Rosemont	2.4 acres with picnic tables and tot lot with play structure
Prospect Hill Park	Gold Flat Drive and Prospect Hill Drive, Rancho Cordova	7 acres with picnic tables, basketball court, bantam soccer field, and tot lot
Riviera East Park	Mira Del Rio Drive, Sacramento	9 acres with two tennis courts, bantam soccer field, basketball court, group picnic area, and tot lot

**Table 3.12-1
Existing Cordova Recreation & Park District Facilities and Services**

Facility Name	Location	Description of Facilities
Rosemont Community Park	Americana Way, Rosemont	17 acres with four tennis courts, two Little League fields, softball field, playground, tot lot, and group picnic areas
Rosemont North Park	Huntsman Drive and Premier Way, Rosemont	3 acres with picnic tables and playground
Rosswood Park	Roseport Way and Rose Brook Way, Rosemont	1 acre with picnic tables and tot lot
Salmon Falls Park	Salmon Falls Drive, Sacramento	One-quarter acre, no permanent facilities
Sunriver Park	Klamath River Drive, Rancho Cordova	4.5 acres with picnic tables, ball field, basketball court, and tot lot
Taylor Park	West La Loma Drive, Rancho Cordova	3 acres with a tot lot, playground, and picnic tables
Veterans Park	Mather Boulevard, Mather	6.4 acres with a playground, tennis courts, basketball court, and a group picnic area
White Rock Park	10488 White Rock Road, Rancho Cordova	12 acres with a swimming pool, two tennis courts, group picnic areas, playground, and basketball court

Source: CRPD 2005

The existing park facilities nearest the project site are located in Planning Areas 8 (Zinfandel) and 9 (Mather) (Exhibit 3.12-1). The Zinfandel Planning Area contains three park facilities—two 4-acre neighborhood parks and a 21-acre community park. The Mather Planning Area contains four facilities—a shooting center, a sports center, and 6- and 7-acre neighborhood parks.

A total of 438 acres of parkland is located within the 14 CRPD planning areas. Using the new standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents, and the projected 2005 CRPD population (112,765 residents) contained in the CRPD Draft Master Plan (CRPD 2005), CRPD currently has a deficit of 126 acres of parks under the existing CRPD population.

Cordova Recreation & Park District Recreation Use Types

CRPD has developed six park categories—mini parks; neighborhood parks; community parks; regional parks; linear parkways, greenbelts and open space; and bicycle trails—to meet the recreational needs of the community. The classification of each category is based on CRPD’s determination of use, function, acreage, service area, and population served. The proposed Rio del Oro project would include six neighborhood parks, one community park, and greenbelts and open space at various locations throughout the project site, as well as a network of bicycle trails.

Cordova Parks & Recreation District and City of Rancho Cordova Open-Space Requirements

The City of Rancho Cordova (City) was incorporated in July 2003. The City envisions, as identified in its general plan, a world-class system of parks and recreation that serves the needs of all residents. The system will include parks of all sizes (community and neighborhood) and types, with a variety of recreational and cultural programs and services. The park system will promote a citywide identity and make Rancho Cordova a regional destination for recreational uses, in part by increasing access, linkages, and usage of the American River Parkway, one of Rancho Cordova’s most important natural assets. Furthermore, trails and open space will be an integral part of the city’s newly developing areas. Open space promotes a healthy community by providing opportunities for active lifestyles, including multiuse trails, paseos, greenbelts, and parkways. Parks within Rancho Cordova are planned and maintained by CRPD. The Land Use Element of the *Rancho Cordova General Plan* (City General Plan) includes a “parks and open space” designation, which includes “public parks and other public facilities owned by the Cordova Recreation and Park District or other public agencies and lands which have been reserved for open

space uses such as lakes, trails, golf courses, and similar uses. Included in this category are commercial recreation facilities principally oriented to outdoor uses.” (City of Rancho Cordova 2006.)

3.12.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

FEDERAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that communities have a park system that includes 5–10 acres of developed parklands for every 1,000 residents. Although the amount of parkland varies from community to community and is not regulated by law, many communities have used the NRPA recommendation to develop a standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents for traditional service/passive park acreage, with an additional 5 acres allocated for special-use facilities and open space (i.e., nontraditional parklands), for a total standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents.

STATE PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS

Quimby Act

The Quimby Act was established by the California Legislature in 1965 to preserve open space and parkland in rapidly urbanizing areas of the state. The Quimby Act allows cities and counties to establish requirements for new development to dedicate land for parks, pay an in-lieu fee, or perform a combination of the two. The Quimby Act requires a city or county to adopt standards for recreational facilities in its general plan recreation element if it is to adopt a parkland dedication/fee ordinance.

It should be noted that the Quimby Act applies only to the acquisition of new parkland; it does not apply to the physical development of new park facilities or associated operations and maintenance costs. Therefore, the Quimby Act effectively preserves open space needed to develop park and recreation facilities, but it does not ensure the development of the land or the provision of park and recreation services to county residents. In addition, the Quimby Act applies only to residential subdivisions. Nonresidential projects could contribute to the demand for park and recreation facilities without providing land or funding for such facilities. As described below, CRPD collects Quimby Act fees.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND ORDINANCES

Cordova Recreation & Park District

The City has collected Quimby Act fees since its incorporation in July 2003. Before 2003, the County collected Quimby Act fees in the planning area and distributed these funds to CRPD for use in developing and managing parkland. The County still collects Quimby Act fees for areas under CRPD jurisdiction that are not within Rancho Cordova boundaries and distributes these fees to CRPD (Frechette, pers. comm., 2005). These fees contribute to a fund that is used to acquire properties for future parkland development. CRPD continues to collect fees from the City and County to meet the Draft Master Plan parkland requirement. Fees collected under the Quimby Act are determined by CRPD. Table 3.12-2 lists CRPD standards for the provision of parklands.

Park Classification	Desirable Size (Acreage)	Service Area
Mini	1.5–2 acres	One-eighth to one-quarter mile
Neighborhood	5–15 acres	One-quarter to one-half mile
Community	20–150 acres	1 to 2 miles

Source: CRPD 2005

CRPD calculates its Quimby Act parkland standard based on the most current census information of people per household for Sacramento County. CRPD's Quimby Act standard for dedication of parkland is 5 acres per 1,000 residents.

Rancho Cordova General Plan

Goals and policies of the City General Plan relating to parks and recreation that the City has found to be applicable to the proposed project and alternatives under consideration are provided in Appendix F.

3.12.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a parks and recreation impact is considered significant if implementation of the proposed project or alternatives under consideration would do either of the following:

- ▶ include new recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities, that might have a substantial adverse physical effect on the environment; or
- ▶ increase demand on existing neighborhood and community parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The evaluation of recreational resources is based on a comparison between existing and planned future recreational facilities and the policies of the CRPD Draft Master Plan. In general, demand for recreational resources was estimated based on Draft Master Plan standards for parkland acreage relative to population size. The number of residents on the project site was estimated based on per-dwelling-unit population generation factors (see Section 3.2, "Population, Employment, and Housing"). Parklands (community and neighborhood parks) identified in the CRPD Draft Master Plan and those proposed for the project are the focus of this analysis. Open Space, Open Space Preserve, Private Recreation, and Public/Quasi-Public land uses (including multiuse stormwater detention basins) are not considered part of this analysis because CRPD does not consider these uses as meeting parkland dedication requirements; therefore, these uses were not included in the project's total parkland acreage.

Furthermore, the project would include more than 15 miles of Class I paved off-street bike paths, in addition to Class II and Class III bike paths, throughout the project site. However, because these uses are also not considered by CRPD as meeting parkland dedication requirements, they were not included in the project's total parkland acreage.

This analysis does not address various public and commercial recreational facilities, such as community centers, movie theaters, or gymnasiums, which can be expected to be developed as part of the project but which have not been specifically identified at this time. An analysis of open-space requirements is also not part of this analysis because meeting those requirements is a planning issue and is not considered to be an environmental issue.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

Effects that would occur under each alternative development scenario are identified as follows: PP (Proposed Project), HD (High Density), IM (Impact Minimization), NF (No Federal Action), and NP (No Project). The impacts for each alternative are compared relative to the PP at the end of each impact conclusion (i.e., similar, greater, lesser).

Program Level Impacts and Mitigation Measures

IMPACT 3.12-1

Sufficiency of Project Site Parkland to Meet Increased Demand and Potential Increased Use and Deterioration of Existing Facilities. Residential development proposed for the project site would require 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents to meet the adopted City standards. Project implementation could not increase the demand on existing neighborhood and community parks such that the physical deterioration of the existing facilities would occur or be accelerated.

PP

Community parks created as part of the project would be located near the village core and would be easily accessible via numerous greenways linking the entire project site. Facilities in the community parks would include ball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and picnic and playground areas, as well as community gathering facilities such as an amphitheater and plaza. The neighborhood parks at the project site would serve as a focal point for each neighborhood, providing a gathering place with smaller scale recreational facilities, such as tot lots, playgrounds, multiuse turf fields, and picnic and barbeque areas. The project may also include an outdoor sports facility/adult sports park. Uses at this facility could include a water slide park, softball complex, soccer fields, and/or a stadium/amphitheatre with capacity to accommodate approximately 3,000 people.

CRPD requires 5 acres of parks for every 1,000 residents. Residential development under the Proposed Project Alternative would generate a population of 31,672 persons at buildout, which would require 158 acres of parks to meet the standard. The Proposed Project Alternative would include development of 63 acres of neighborhood parks and 107 acres of community parks for a total of 170 acres of parks (Table 3.12-3). Because 170 acres of neighborhood and community parks would be provided, implementation of this alternative would result in a 12-acre surplus. Additionally, if the sports park is constructed, a 52-acre surplus would result. Thus, the Proposed Project Alternative would provide sufficient park facilities to meet the demand generated by the project population at buildout, and there would be a **direct, beneficial** impact related to parkland acreage.

Table 3.12-3 Project Parkland Acreage Calculations					
Alternative	Proposed community park (acres)	Proposed neighborhood park (acres)	Total of proposed parkland (acres) ^a	Parkland requirement per CRPD of 5 acres per 1,000 residents (acres)	Total surplus or deficit of parkland acreage compared with requirements ^b
Proposed Project	107	63	170 <i>210</i>	158	+12 <i>+52</i>
High Density	107	63	170 <i>210</i>	211	-41 <i>-1</i>
Impact Minimization	108	61	169 <i>209</i>	144	+25 <i>+65</i>
No Federal Action	107	75	182 <i>222</i>	145	+37 <i>+77</i>
No Project	0	0	0	0	0
Note: CRPD = Cordova Recreation & Park District ^a Total parkland including the sports park is shown in <i>italics</i> . ^b Total surplus/deficit with implementation of the sportspark is shown in <i>italics</i> . Source: Data compiled by EDAW in 2006					

Because implementation of the Proposed Project Alternative would result in a surplus of available parkland acreage, deterioration of existing neighborhood and community parks would not occur or be accelerated from increased demand, and there would be **no indirect** impacts.

HD Residential development under the High Density Alternative would generate a population of 42,282 persons at buildout, which would require 211 acres of parks to meet CRPD standards. Because only 170 acres of neighborhood and community parks would be provided, implementation of this alternative would result in a 41-acre shortfall (Table 3.12-3). Additionally, if the sports park is constructed, a 1-acre shortfall would result. Thus, the High Density Alternative would not provide sufficient park facilities to meet the demand generated by the project population at buildout. This demand for parks would result in a **direct, significant** impact.

Because implementation of the High Density Alternative would result in a deficit of available parkland acreage, deterioration of existing neighborhood and community parks could occur or be accelerated from increased demand. This impact is considered **indirect** and **potentially significant**. [*Greater*]

IM Residential development under the Impact Minimization Alternative would generate a population of 28,828 persons at buildout, which would require 144 acres of parks to meet CRPD standards. Because 167 areas of neighborhood and community parks would be provided, implementation of this alternative would result in a 25-acre surplus (Table 3.12-3). Additionally, if the sports park is constructed, a 65-acre surplus would result. Thus, the Impact Minimization Alternative would provide sufficient park facilities to meet the demand generated by the project population at buildout, and there would be a **direct, beneficial** impact related to demand for increased park acreage.

Because implementation of the Impact Minimization Alternative would result in a surplus of available parkland acreage, deterioration of existing neighborhood and community parks would not occur or be accelerated from increased demand. Thus, there would be **no indirect** impacts. [*Lesser*]

NF Residential development under the No Federal Action Alternative would generate a population of 29,388 persons at buildout, which would require 145 acres of parks to meet CRPD standards. Because 182 areas of neighborhood and community parks would be provided, implementation of this alternative would result in a 37-acre surplus (Table 3.12-3). Additionally, if the sports park is constructed, a 77-acre surplus would result. Thus, the No Federal Action Alternative would provide sufficient park facilities to meet the demand generated by the project population at buildout, and there would be a **direct, beneficial** impact related to demand for increased park acreage.

Because implementation of the No Federal Action Alternative would result in a surplus of available parkland acreage, deterioration of existing neighborhood and community parks would not occur or be accelerated from increased demand. Thus, there would be **no indirect** impacts. [*Lesser*]

NP Under the No Project Alternative, mining activities at the project site, which are not part of the Rio del Oro project, would continue under existing Conditional Use Permits—one originally issued by the County, and the other issued by the City—and possibly under one or more future individual Implementation Permits expected to be issued by the City. Continued mining activities would have no effect on parkland.

No residential development would occur under this alternative and no population would be generated, thereby resulting in no demand for parks. As stated above, CRPD has an existing parkland acreage deficit. With no development occurring as a result of the No Project Alternative, no direct increase in population would occur for Planning Area 12, which includes the project site. CRPD would continue to have a deficit of 112 acres under existing population conditions. If development of all the planning areas occurs as planned using CRPD standards, even without the project, CRPD would have a net gain of 358 acres of park facilities. **No direct** impacts would occur. An **indirect, beneficial** impact would result. *[Lesser]*

Mitigation Measure 3.12-1: Develop a Parkland Plan and Comply with Parkland Requirements.

HD The project applicant(s) for all project phases except Phase 1 shall comply with CRPD’s parkland requirements of 5 acres per 1,000 residents. To satisfy the parkland shortfall that would be created with project implementation, the project applicant(s) shall develop a parkland plan for review and approval by CRPD and the City. The parkland plan shall identify options to meet the standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents, which may include dedication of additional parkland acreage either on- or off-site, payment of in-lieu fees, or expansion/improvement of existing park facilities.

Timing: Before approvals of tentative maps for all project phases except Phase 1.

Enforcement: Cordova Recreation & Park District and City of Rancho Cordova Planning Department.

PP, IM, NF, NP No mitigation measures are required.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.12-1, additional parkland acreage would be dedicated or existing parks would be improved. Therefore, implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce significant impacts under the High Density Alternative associated with the insufficient parkland acreage that would be created with project implementation to a **less-than-significant** level. This mitigation measure would also reduce the indirect effect of potential deterioration of existing facilities that could result from increased demand to a **less-than-significant** level.

Project Level (Phase 1) Impacts and Mitigation Measures

**IMPACT
3.12-2**

Sufficiency of Project Site Parkland to Meet Increased Demand and Potential Increased Use and Deterioration of Existing Facilities. Residential development proposed for the project site would require 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents to meet adopted CRPD standards. Implementation of development Phase 1 would result in a surplus of parkland. This surplus would provide much-needed parkland and would reduce or eliminate additional demand on existing neighborhood and community parks such that the physical deterioration of the existing facilities would not occur or be accelerated.

PP CRPD requires 5 acres of parks for every 1,000 persons. Residential development proposed under development Phase 1 of the Proposed Project Alternative would generate a population of 8,174 persons at buildout. Implementation of development Phase 1 would provide 12 acres of neighborhood parks and 71 acres of community parks, for a total of 83 acres of parkland. Based on CRPD standards, the project would need to provide 41 acres of parks during development Phase 1. Phase 1 would therefore result in a 42-acre surplus (Table 3.12-4). Additionally, if the sports park is constructed, an 82-acre surplus would result. Sufficient park facilities would be provided to meet the population associated with development Phase 1; therefore, this **direct** impact is considered **beneficial**.

Table 3.12-4 Development Phase 1 Parkland Acreage Calculations					
Alternative	Proposed community park (acres)	Proposed neighborhood park (acres)	Total of proposed parkland (acres) ^a	Parkland requirement per CRPD of 5 acres per 1,000 residents (acres)	Total surplus or deficit of parkland acreage compared with requirements ^b
Phase 1—Proposed Project	71	12	83 <i>123</i>	41	+42 +82
Phase 1—High Density	71	12	83 <i>123</i>	53	+30 +70
Phase 1—Impact Minimization	71	12	83 <i>123</i>	52	+31 +71
Phase 1—No Federal Action	71	15	86 <i>126</i>	38	+48 +88
No Project	0	0	0	0	0

Note: CRPD = Cordova Recreation & Park District
^aTotal parkland including the sports park is shown in *italics*.
^bTotal surplus/deficit with implementation of the sports park is shown in *italics*.
Source: Data compiled by EDAW in 2006

Because implementation of development Phase 1 under the Proposed Project Alternative would result in a surplus of available parkland acreage, deterioration of existing neighborhood and community parks would not occur or be accelerated from increased demand. Thus, there would be **no indirect** impacts.

HD

Residential development proposed under development Phase 1 of the High Density Alternative would generate a population of 10,686 persons at buildout. Implementation of development Phase 1 would provide 12 acres of neighborhood parks and 71 acres of community parks, for a total of 83 acres of parkland. Based on CRPD standards, the project would need to provide 53 acres of parks during development Phase 1. Development Phase 1 would therefore result in a 30-acre surplus (Table 3.12-4). Additionally, if the sports park is constructed, a 70-acre surplus would result. Sufficient park facilities would be provided to meet the population associated with development Phase 1; therefore, this **direct** impact is considered **beneficial**.

Because implementation of development Phase 1 under the High Density Alternative would result in a surplus of available parkland acreage, deterioration of existing neighborhood and community parks would not occur or be accelerated from increased demand. **No indirect** impacts would result. *[Similar]*

IM

Residential development proposed under development Phase 1 of the Impact Minimization Alternative would generate a population of 10,386 persons at buildout. Implementation of development Phase 1 would provide 12 acres of neighborhood parks and 71 acres of community parks, for a total of 83 acres of parkland. Based on CRPD standards, the project would need to provide 52 acres of parks during development Phase 1. Development Phase 1 would therefore result in a 31-acre surplus (Table 3.12-4). Additionally, if the sports park is constructed, a 71-acre surplus would result. Sufficient park facilities would be provided to meet the population associated with development Phase 1; therefore, this **direct** impact is considered **beneficial**.

Because implementation of development Phase 1 under the Impact Minimization Alternative would result in a surplus of available parkland acreage, deterioration of existing neighborhood and community parks would not occur or be accelerated from increased demand. **No indirect** impacts would result. *[Similar]*

NF Residential development proposed under development Phase 1 of the No Federal Action Alternative would generate a population of 7,414 persons at buildout. Implementation of development Phase 1 would provide 15 acres of neighborhood parks and 71 acres of community parks, for a total of 86 acres of parkland. Based on CRPD standards, the project would need to provide 38 acres of parks during development Phase 1. Development Phase 1 would therefore result in a 48-acre surplus (Table 3.12-4). Additionally, if the sports park is constructed, an 88-acre surplus would result. Sufficient park facilities would be provided to meet the population associated with development Phase 1; therefore, this **direct** impact is considered **beneficial**.

Because implementation of development Phase 1 under the No Federal Action Alternative would result in a surplus of available parkland acreage, deterioration of existing neighborhood and community parks would not occur or be accelerated from increased demand. **No indirect** impacts would result. *[Similar]*

NP Under the No Project Alternative, mining activities at the project site, which are not part of the Rio del Oro project, would continue under existing Conditional Use Permits—one originally issued by the County, and the other issued by the City—and possibly under one or more future individual Implementation Permits expected to be issued by the City. Continued mining activities would have no effect on parkland.

No residential development would occur under this alternative and no population would be generated, thereby resulting in no demand for parks. As stated above, CRPD has an existing parkland acreage deficit. With no development occurring as a result of the No Project Alternative, no direct increase in population would occur for Planning Area 12, which includes the project site. CRPD would continue to have a deficit of 112 acres under existing population conditions. If development of all the planning areas occurs as planned using CRPD standards, even without the project, CRPD would have a net gain of 358 acres of park facilities. **No direct** impacts would occur. An **indirect, beneficial** impact would result. *[Lesser]*

Mitigation Measure: No mitigation measures are required.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Planned residential development in Rancho Cordova and associated increases in population will result in a cumulative increase in the demand for parkland. There is a current deficit of 112 acres of available parkland. However, the Proposed Project Alternative would not contribute to the current parkland deficit because it would meet CRPD parkland acreage requirements. Thus, because there would be a surplus of park acreage, implementation of the Proposed Project Alternative would not result in the acceleration of or deterioration of existing facilities from increased population. Because the Rio del Oro project would satisfy applicable standards, it would not exacerbate the existing CRPD parkland shortfall or make matters worse. For this reason, the project would not cause a cumulatively considerable (i.e., significant) incremental contribution to the significant cumulative effect caused by other projects.

The cumulative impacts discussion in Section 3.5, “Utilities and Service Systems,” provides a summary of impacts and mitigation measures related to water supply from the Water Forum Agreement (WFA). Sacramento County Water Agency is a signatory to the WFA; thus, its cumulative water supplies are subject to the provisions of that agreement. In January 1999, the joint Sacramento City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning published the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the WFA. The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the WFA was certified on November 23, 1999, and has not been challenged. The certified FEIR constitutes a legally satisfactory analysis of all the issues addressed therein, including cumulative water supply impacts (see California Public Resources Code Section 21167.2). The WFA EIR determined that even after

mitigation is applied, the level of significance after mitigation would remain significant and unavoidable for the following issues related to recreational opportunities:

- ▶ reduced rafting and boating opportunities on the lower American River,
- ▶ reduced boating opportunities on Folsom Reservoir, and
- ▶ reduced availability of swimming beaches at Folsom Reservoir.

Therefore, the project and related projects would contribute to the indirect and direct significant impacts associated with recreational opportunities (resulting from water supply issues). Therefore, cumulative impacts associated with recreational opportunities along the lower American River and Folsom Reservoir would result in a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to this cumulatively significant impact from the Rio del Oro project and related projects.

3.12.4 RESIDUAL SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

With implementation of the mitigation measures described above, project implementation would not result in any residual significant impacts related to parks and recreation.