

## 3.14 RECREATION

### 3.14.1 SETTING

State parks within the Monterey Bay region include Castle Rock State Park, Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Wilder Ranch State Park, The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, Natural Bridges State Beach, Lighthouse Field State Beach, Twin Lakes State Beach, New Brighton State Beach, Seacliff State Beach, Manresa State Beach, Sunset State Beach, Zmudowski State Beach, Moss Landing State Beach, Salinas River State Beach, Marina State Beach, Monterey State Beach, Asilomar State Beach, Carmel River State Beach, Point Lobos State Reserve, Garrapata State Park, Andrew Molera State Park, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, John Little State Reserve, Limekiln State Park, the Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area, Fremont Peak State Park, the San Juan Bautista State Historical Park and the Monterey State Historical Park. Other large recreational areas include Toro Regional Park, Laguna Seca Recreation Area, the Lake San Antonio Recreation Area, Jack's Peak Regional Park, Royal Oaks Park, Pinto Lake County Park, Bolado Park, De Laveaga Park, Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, Garland Ranch Regional Park and the Loch Lomond Recreation Area. There are additional recreational opportunities at the Elkhorn Slough National Wildlife Refuge, the Pinnacles National Monument and Los Padres National Forest. In addition, there are a wide range of local parks and a number of conference centers/resorts located in the region.

### 3.14.2 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Implementation of the three plans could have a significant environmental impact if it were to result in:

- An increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated; or
- The construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

#### Parks and Recreational Facilities

Implementation of the transportation system improvement projects identified in the financially constrained Action Elements of the three plans would not be expected to result in any significant increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. A

number of projects identified in the financially constrained Action Elements of the three plans, such as the construction of bicycle paths and recreational trail improvements, would provide enhanced recreational opportunities in addition to transportation system improvements. Some of these projects may entail potentially significant environmental impacts, which are addressed within the context of the discussion of environmental impacts throughout this document.

### **Coastal Zone**

Some transportation system improvement projects located in the Coastal Zone could have the potential to disrupt coastal access by foot or bicycle, either temporarily during construction or permanently. Although this is not identified as a significant environmental impact under the criteria above, implementing agencies should ensure that access to coastal areas will be maintained during construction activity through the development and implementation of temporary access plans, and through the incorporation of site-specific design features that will enhance permanent coastal access.