

## Section 2.5 – Recreation



### I. Background

Historically, in Calaveras County, there was mining, timber, and a cement plant which were the equivalent of our “factory”; our economic engine. Today our “factory” is recreation-related tourism. Tourists come to the county to recreate all through the year. The future success of the recreation economy in Calaveras County could be insured with thoughtful land use decisions and planning.

Recreation is also a health and quality of life issue for Calaveras County residents.

People move here and also retire here because of the beauty of the area and the high level of outdoor recreation options that are available. With the increase in population and the increase in families with children, who are choosing to relocate to Calaveras County, different and expanded recreation facilities need to be planned for. Right now the softball leagues and soccer leagues facilities, for youth and adults, are maxed out and teams regularly have to travel great distances due to that lack of facilities. Skate park facilities have been high on the wish list for a lot of kids, for years, in the Valley Springs community. The recent addition of Disc Golf at some sites throughout the county has been very well received.

Cycling enthusiasts have exhibited a growing interest in enjoying their sport in our county. They should be accommodated and welcomed as an economic asset for the county.

One resident has mapped most of the existing trails contained in Calaveras County, and there are many. (See attached.) The Coast to Crest Trail has a section traversing Calaveras County. This segment is still under construction. The Coast to Crest also accommodates equestrian activity.

There are several large reservoirs where families can fish and enjoy boating, sailing and other water sports in addition to camping.

The recreation setting discussion EIR should include an inventory of existing recreational spaces and facilities, and an analysis of the current recreational demands of residents and tourists.

## **II. Impact Analysis**

In addition to the growing recreation demands of the tourism sector of the economy, the EIR should assess future recreation demand based on population, demographic, and development trends.

## **III. Impact Mitigation**

- 1) Including existing and planned open space for recreation on the land use map can help coordinate future development with anticipated recreational needs.
- 2) Plan recreational facilities equitably and with accessibility considerations, to ensure underserved communities are included.
- 3) The mitigation should include a diverse list of possible funding sources (federal, state, regional, local, private foundations, etc.). (CEQA Guidelines, sec. 15131, subd. (c).)