- Utilized recreation use surveys and data from other appropriate sources to characterize the existing recreation opportunities and future summer recreational needs.

### 3.2 OUTSTANDING STUDY ELEMENTS

- Identify and document potential facilities or program improvements that would be needed to meet existing and future recreation use.

## 4.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY

The potential range of recreation opportunities at developed facilities in the study area was determined by reviewing response data from the 2002 summer use recreation survey, which identified the recreation activities in which respondents participated. This data review generated a list of recreation activities that are available to recreationalists staying at developed or undeveloped recreation sites within the study area.

An evaluation of future recreation demands in the Big Creek study area was completed by reviewing and analyzing published literature, population and demographics data, and results from the 2002 summer recreation survey conducted in the Study area. Results of the 2002 summer recreation survey were summarized in the previously prepared report titled, REC 10, Recreation Opportunities and Needs Assessment/REC 17 Dispersed Recreation Opportunities and Needs Assessment, technical study report (SCE 2003).

The literature reviewed for the future demands evaluation includes: Outdoor Recreation in American Life: A National Assessment of Demand and Supply Trends (Cordell et al. 2002), 1993 California State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1994), and Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 1997 – An Element of the California Outdoor Recreation Planning Program (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1998). The Cordell report focuses on national and regional use trends in outdoor recreation. The SCORP survey reports examined outdoor recreation participation trends in California from 1987 to 1997, and examined differences between Hispanic and Anglo respondents.

The literature available regarding future recreation trends is only provided on a regional level and does not provide information specific to the study area. In order to relate the trends described in the literature back to the study area it is important to understand what geographical area the study area visitors are traveling from and what the ethnic distribution is in those areas. County population data including race/ethnic demographic information and projected county population growth rates were obtained from the Interim County Population Projections report, State of California, Department of Finance, June 2001 (www.dof.ca.gov). Summer recreation survey responses collected in 2002 in the study area were reviewed to identify the residence county of recreation visitors and the proportion of survey respondents representing each county.

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The determination of recreation demand/future trend was based on the ethnic distribution and the projected change in the population of the origin counties of visitors to the study area. The residence county information for the recreation user groups in the Big Creek Study area was obtained from the results of the 2002 summer recreation survey conducted for the Big Creek ALP (SCE 2003).

## 5.0 STUDY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

### 5.1 POTENTIAL RANGE OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AT DEVELOPED FACILITIES

Table REC 10-1 summarizes the range of recreation opportunities available to recreationalists in the Big Creek Study area.

### 5.2 POTENTIAL FUTURE RECREATION DEMAND EVALUATION

Of 2,019 summer recreation visitor surveys completed, 1,671 survey respondents identified their county of residence. There were ten counties from which 2.0% or more of the survey respondents lived. These ten counties included Fresno (28.9%), Los Angeles (9.9%), San Luis Obispo (4.0%), Orange (3.9%), Madera (3.4%), Tulare (3.4%), Santa Clara (3.4%), Kern (2.8%). Kings (2.8%), and Santa Cruz (2.1%). Table REC 10-2 summarizes the origin counties of the summer survey respondents.

County population and projected population growth for each county in California was obtained from the Interim County Population Projections (California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, 2001). Since ethnicity information was not requested on the surveys, another Department of Finance study, Race/Ethnic Population Projection by Age and Sex 1970-2040 (Department of Finance, 1998), was used to separate the overall county population projections into projections by ethnic group (Asian, Hispanic, Caucasian, African American, and Native American) and age distribution. Table REC 10-3 summarizes for each California county the population for the year 2000 by ethnicity and age class (0-14 years, 15-69 years, 70+ years). The projected population and ethnic composition for the ten origin counties with the greatest number of survey respondents is summarized by ethnicity in Tables REC 10-4a - d for the years 2010, 2020, 2030 and 2040, respectively. The associated growth rate percentages can be roughly estimated by comparing the changes in the totals for the counties in each of the four future decades represented by the Figures REC 10-1 through 4. The population growth data is further analyzed to estimate the growth rate distribution by age class distribution within each ethnic group for the years 2010 and 2020 and is summarized in Tables REC 10-5a and REC 10-5b, respectively.

Results show that Hispanics are the fastest growing group in eight of the ten counties evaluated, including the top two counties, which made up almost 39% of the survey respondents (Figures REC 10-1 through 4). Hispanics represent 83% of the combined projected population increase from 2000 to 2010 in these ten counties (Table REC 10-4a). The Hispanic population will have 73% of its 2000-2010 growth occur in the 15-69 year old age range (Table REC 10-5a). The remainder of the combined projected population increase will be in the Asian (32%) and Native American (<1%) populations

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(Table REC 10-4a). Similarly, the Asian population will have 76% of its 2000-2010 growth occur in the 15-69 year old age range (Table REC 10-5a).

The cumulative Caucasian and African American populations in the top ten counties of origin are expected to decline between the years 2000 and 2010, but not significantly. The over-70 age class is expected to grow in both populations and the 15-69 age class is also expected to grow in the African American population (Table REC 10-5a). This growth is outweighed by the expected decline in the younger age classes in these populations.

The results found in the Interim County Population Projections are consistent with the projections made in the Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 1997 – An Element of the California Outdoor Recreation Planning Program (California Department of Parks and Recreation March 1998). That document stated that "the Hispanic population will be the primary group that increases in size representing 60% of the increase in population." Based on that projection, the study conducted specific research to determine if there were substantial differences in Hispanic and Non-Hispanic populations with respect to recreation activity preferences and needs. It should be noted that the recently released study, 2000 California State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) used the Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 1997 as base information (California State Parks 1998).

The Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 1997 had many significant findings with respect to opinions and attitudes on outdoor recreation as related to Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations. Among findings identified in the report are:

- Minority participants are projected to comprise 75% of the growth in participation in backpacking, birdwatching, hunting, day hiking, tent camping, walking for pleasure, and picnicking (Dwyer 1994).
- Researchers have found that Hispanics differ in recreation preferences, types of areas visited, and types of activities engaged in when compared to predominantly Anglo populations.
- Hispanics are more likely to use and prefer highly developed areas, excluding historic and cultural sites.
- Fewer Hispanics visited natural, undeveloped areas than other ethnic groups.
- Hispanics were less likely to visit historic or cultural sites than other respondents. 24.7% of Hispanics respondents in the survey said they did not visit these types of sites as compared to 10.7% of all other ethnic groups.
- 23.4% of Hispanic respondents said they most enjoyed visiting highly developed sites as compared to 7.7% of all other ethnic groups.
- "Recreation programs" are also a priority with the Hispanic population.

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- A big difference between the Hispanic population and others was their strong support for the provision of large group picnic sites and expanded parking at picnic sites.
- Hispanic and Non Hispanics differ in their support for trail-hiking with Hispanics giving this activity a “low” demand rating and Non-Hispanic rating it “high”.

Major differences between Hispanic and Non-Hispanic populations exist with respect to the following. Hispanics “Strongly Approve” of:

- Providing more educational programs and services in park and outdoor recreation areas - 60% of Hispanics while 29.8% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.
- Construction of more simple campgrounds with picnic tables, cold water, and restrooms – 62.9% of Hispanics while 30.1% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.
- Construction of more campgrounds that are intensively developed and have hot showers, hook-ups, and electricity – 59.4% of Hispanics while 28.0% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.
- Developing more local community parks – 63.6% of Hispanics while 35.8% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.
- Providing more commercial hotels, motel, restaurants, shops, gas stations, within public parks and outdoor recreation areas – 38.9% of Hispanics while 5.8% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.
- Construction of more RV sewage dump stations – 53.4% of Hispanics while 19.0% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.
- Providing more picnic sites for large groups – 46.3% of Hispanics while 15.3% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.
- Providing more parking at picnic sites – 60.7% of Hispanics while 16.0% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.

One of the largest differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics with respect to factors influencing enjoyment was Hispanics consider meeting new people to be a “Very Important” factor – 45.7% of Hispanics while 15.8% of Non-Hispanics strongly approve.

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## 6.0 LITERATURE CITED

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# TABLES

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# FIGURES

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**Placeholder for Figures** REC **10-1a through 1**e

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## Table REC 10-2. Summary of Origin Counties of Summer Recreation Survey Respondents.

| Origin County | No. of Survey Respondents | % of Total Survey Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Nevada | 3 | 0.1% |
| Stanislaus | 3 | 0.1% |
| Sutter | 3 | 0.1% |
| Humboldt | 2 | 0.1% |
| Inyo | 2 | 0.1% |
| Napa | 2 | 0.1% |
| Shasta | 2 | 0.1% |
| Calaveras | 1 | 0.0% |
| Imperial | 1 | 0.0% |
| Siskiyou | 1 | 0.0% |
| Trinity | 1 | 0.0% |
| **Total** | **1,671** | |

[1]Source of population and growth rates: Interim County Population Projections Report, Dept. of Finance, June 2001 (www.dof.ca.gov).

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## Table REC 10-2. Summary of Origin Counties of Summer Recreation Survey Respondents.

| Origin County | No. of Survey Respondents | % of Total Survey Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Fresno | 584 | 28.9% |
| Los Angeles | 199 | 9.9% |
| San Luis Obispo | 81 | 4.0% |
| Orange | 78 | 3.9% |
| Santa Clara | 69 | 3.4% |
| Tulare | 69 | 3.4% |
| Madera | 68 | 3.4% |
| Kern | 57 | 2.8% |
| Kings | 56 | 2.8% |
| Santa Cruz | 42 | 2.1% |
| San Diego | 36 | 1.8% |
| Alameda | 32 | 1.6% |
| Santa Barbara | 31 | 1.5% |
| Ventura | 31 | 1.5% |
| San Mateo | 21 | 1.0% |
| Contra Costa | 21 | 1.0% |
| Riverside | 21 | 1.0% |
| San Bernardino | 20 | 1.0% |
| Monterey | 18 | 0.9% |
| Merced | 17 | 0.8% |
| Sacramento | 16 | 0.8% |
| San Francisco | 11 | 0.5% |
| Sonoma | 10 | 0.5% |
| Marin | 10 | 0.5% |
| Solano | 7 | 0.3% |
| Placer | 7 | 0.3% |
| San Joaquin | 7 | 0.3% |
| Butte | 6 | 0.3% |
| Mariposa | 5 | 0.2% |
| San Benito | 5 | 0.2% |
| El Dorado | 4 | 0.2% |
| Tuolumne | 4 | 0.2% |
| Yolo | 4 | 0.2% |
| Lake | 3 | 0.1% |

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## Table REC 10-1. List of Recreation Activities/Opportunities Available to Recreationalists in the Big Creek Study Area[1]

### Recreational Activities/Opportunities

- Camping in Developed Sites
- Undeveloped Camping
- Wilderness Day Use
- Wilderness Overnight Use
- Resorts, Cabins, Rental Accommodations
- Picnicking
- Viewing Wildlife, Scenery
- Visiting interpretive /educational center
- Visiting historical / cultural sites
- Stream Fishing
- Lake Fishing
- Hunting
- Plant Gathering
- Wood Cutting
- Off-Highway Vehicle Travel
- Driving for pleasure on roads
- Motorized water activity
- Non-motorized flat-water boating
- Sailing
- Whitewater boating
- Hiking / walking
- Horseback riding
- Bicycling / Mountain Biking
- Swimming / wading / water play
- Sports / games / field activities
- General relaxing
- Backpacking[2]
- Hot Springs[2]
- Trail Running[2]
- SCUBA Diving[2]

[1]These activities represent the range of recreation opportunities that recreationalists participated in during their stay within the Big Creek Study area, as indicated in survey responses provided during the 2002 summer use recreation surveys.
[2]These activities represent the write-in activities as provided by survey respondents on the 2002 summer use recreation surveys.

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