

identify any areas where landscaping could be provided to lessen the visual intrusion without negatively impacting the farming operation.

5.6 Assessment of Least Harm

Based on the analyses performed above, the following alternative alignments and avoidance shifts were determined feasible and prudent, and were carried forward to assess which alternative alignment appears to result in the least harm, while considering measures to minimize harm (as described in Section 5.5 above):

- Alternative Alignment A5-North;
- Alternative Alignment A5-South;
- Alternative Alignment B4;
- Alternative Alignment C2-Mod;
- Alternative Alignment C5;
- Alternative Alignment C6; and
- Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift.

5.6.1. Section A

Alternative Alignment A5-North and A5-South differ slightly with respect to Section 4(f) resources based on their use of the Oil Extraction Facility #2 and the P&LE Railroad Complex. Alternative Alignment A5-North would acquire 0.3 hectares (0.7 acres) from the Oil Extraction Facility #2, and 0.078 hectares (0.192 acres) from the P&LE Railroad Complex. Alternative Alignment A5-South would acquire 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) from the Oil Extraction Facility #2, and 0.083 hectares (0.205 acres) from the P&LE Railroad Complex. Both alternative alignments would result in the demolition of one oil well and a derrick at the Oil Extraction Facility #2 site. Avoidance shifts to the north and south of these resources were considered; however, none were found feasible and prudent.

The assessment of least harm for Section A is summarized in Table 5.6.1-1.

5.6.2 Section B

Alternative Alignment B4 would result in the use of three Section 4(f) resources: Highland Park, East Railroad Community Park, and Penn Hills Community Park. Both alternatives in Section B (B4-East and B4-West) would have identical impacts to the resources: 1.3 hectares (3.1 acres) to Highland Park; 0.6 hectares (1.5 acres) to East Railroad Community Park; and 1.5 hectares (3.6 acres) to Penn Hills Community Park, including the displacement of one ballfield. Avoidance shifts for these resources were considered, but were found to be imprudent.

The assessment of least harm for Section B is summarized in Table 5.6.2-1.

5.6.3 Section C

Alternative Alignment C2-Mod would result in the use of two Section 4(f) resources: Cottonwood Park and Valley Sports Fields. It would require acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) Cottonwood Park and 1.65 hectares (4.09 acres) of the

Table 5.6.1-1 Assessment of Least Harm: Section A

Section 4(f) Resources	Alternative Alignment A5-North	Alternative Alignment A5-South
Oil Extraction Facility #2	Use: Acquisition of 0.3 hectares (0.7 acres) of land from the 0.8-hectare (2.1-acre) facility; removal of one derrick and one oil well Mitigation: Recordation prior to demolition	Use: Acquisition of 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) of land from the 0.8-hectare (2.1-acre) facility; removal of one derrick and one oil well Mitigation: Recordation prior to demolition
P&LE Railroad Complex	Use: Acquisition of 0.078 hectares (0.192 acres) from the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) site. No impact to buildings; piers placed w/in historic boundary Mitigation: Minimization of use within the NRHP boundary, compensation for land acquisition, explore landscape options	Use: Acquisition of 0.083 hectares (0.205 acres) from the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) site. No impact to buildings; piers placed w/in historic boundary Mitigation: Minimization of use within the NRHP boundary, compensation for land acquisition, explore landscape options

12.5-hectare (31.0-acre) Valley Sports Fields. No facilities would be impacted at either of these parks.

Table 5.6.2-1 Assessment of Least Harm: Section B

Section 4(f) Resources	Alternative Alignment B4
Highland Park	Use: Acquisition of 1.3 hectares (3.1 acres), from the 157.0-hectare (388.0-acre) Highland Park Mitigation: Compensation for land costs
East Railroad Community Park	Use: Acquisition of the entire property of 0.6 hectares (1.5 acres) w/ a gazebo, lawn, and benches Mitigation: Compensation for land costs, assistance in identifying relocation site
Penn Hills Community Park	Use: Acquisition of 1.5 hectares (3.6 acres) of the 49.4-hectare (122.1-acre) park; displacement of one ballfield Mitigation: Relocation assistance and replacement for the ballfield; replacement or fair market value compensation for Project 70 property

Alternative Alignment C5 would result in the use of four Section 4(f) resources: Cottonwood Park, Valley Sports Fields, the Lauffer/Radakovich Farm, and the Lauffer/Blank Farm. The use of Cottonwood Park is the same as that for Alternative Alignment C2-Mod (and C6). This alternative alignment would have a slightly larger impact on Valley Sports Fields, with acquisition of 1.68 hectares (4.16 acres) from the southern end of the park (all three alternative alignments impact the park in this area, avoiding impacts to the park facilities). This alternative alignment would also acquire 2.1 hectares (5.2 acres) from the 46.1-hectare (114.0-acre) Lauffer/Radakovich Farm, and 3.1 hectares (7.6 acres) from the 65.6-hectare (162.0-acre) Lauffer/Blank Farm. Acquisition at the farms would include farmland; no buildings would be demolished.

Alternative Alignment C6 would result in the use of two Section 4(f) resources: Cottonwood Park and Valley Sports Fields. The use of Cottonwood Park is the same as that for Alternative Alignments C2-Mod and C5. This alternative alignment would have the least impact on

Valley Sports Fields, with acquisition of approximately 1.64 hectares (4.05 acres) from the southern end of the park (all three alternative alignments impact the park in this area, avoiding impacts to the park facilities). It should be noted that the amount of property acquisition from Valley Sports Fields for all of the Section C alternative alignments would be very similar, as would be the degree of impact based on the elevations and the areas being used.

Alternative Alignments C2-Mod, C5, and C6 were also evaluated using the Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift. The incorporation of this shift with either Alternative Alignment C2-Mod or C6 would result in the use of three Section 4(f) resources: Cottonwood Park, Heritage Park, and Bel Aire Municipal Pool. Impacts to Cottonwood Park would be identical to those for all of the other alternative alignments, including those that incorporate the Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift. Additional impacts would include 16.8 hectares (41.5 acres) of the 49.0-hectare (121.0-acre) Heritage Park and 6.1 hectares (15.0 acres) of the 8.9-hectare (22.0-acre) Bel Aire Municipal Pool. The park facilities at the Bel Aire Municipal Pool would be displaced. None of the existing facilities in Heritage Park would be impacted.

The incorporation of the Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift with Alternative Alignment C5 would result in the use of five Section 4(f) resources, including Cottonwood Park, Heritage Park, Bel Aire Municipal Pool, the Lauffer/Radakovich Farm, and the Lauffer/Blank Farm. Impacts to Cottonwood Park would be identical to those for all other alternative alignments, including those that incorporate the Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift. In addition, 16.3 hectares (41.5 acres) of the 49.0-hectare (121.0-acre) Heritage Park would be acquired and 6.1 hectares (15.0 acres) of the 8.9-hectare (22.0-acre) Bel Aire Municipal Pool would be acquired, displacing the park facilities at the Bel Aire Municipal Pool (this impact is the same for all alternative alignments using the Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift). Finally, this alternative alignment would acquire 2.1 hectares (5.2 acres) from the 46.1-hectare (114.0-acre) Lauffer/Radakovich Farm, and 3.1 hectares (7.6 acres) from the 65.6-hectare (162.0-acre) Lauffer/Blank Farm, as did the original Alternative Alignment C5.

The assessment of least harm for Section C is summarized in Table 5.6.3-1.

5.6.4 Least Harm Alternative

The least harm alternative appears to consist of the following combination of alternative alignments:

- Section A: Alternative Alignment A5-South
- Section B: Alternative Alignment B4 (East or West)
- Section C: Alternative Alignment C6

This combination of alternative alignments in Sections A, B, and C appears to use the least amount of, and have the least harm to, resources protected by Section 4(f).

The use of the Oil Extraction Facility #2 and the P&LE Railroad Complex in Section A is essentially the same for either Alternative Alignment A5-North or Alternative Alignment A5-South. In Section B, no feasible and prudent alternative was found which would have less harm to Section 4(f) resources than Alternative Alignment B4. In Section C, Alternative Alignment C6 would have the least harm to Section 4(f) resources of all of the feasible and prudent alternatives investigated.

Table 5.6.3-1 Assessment of Least Harm: Section C

Section 4(f) Resources	Alternative Alignment C2-Mod	Alternative Alignment C5	Alternative Alignment C6	Alternative Alignments C2-Mod and C6 w/ Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift	Alternative Alignment C5 w/ Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift
Cottonwood Park	<p>Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive</p> <p>Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options</p>	<p>Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive</p> <p>Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options</p>	<p>Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive</p> <p>Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options</p>	<p>Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive</p> <p>Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options</p>	<p>Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive</p> <p>Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options</p>
Valley Sports Fields	<p>Use: Acquisition of 1.65 hectares (4.09 acres) of the 12.5-hectare (31.0-acre) park; no impact to facilities</p> <p>Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement or fair market compensation for Project 70 land, explore landscape options</p>	<p>Use: Acquisition of 1.68 hectares (4.16 acres) of the 12.5-hectare (31.0-acre) park; no impact to facilities</p> <p>Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement or fair market compensation for Project 70 land, explore landscape options</p>	<p>Use: Acquisition of 1.64 hectares (4.05 acres) of the 12.5-hectare (31.0-acre) park; no impact to facilities</p> <p>Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement or fair market compensation for Project 70 land, explore landscape options</p>	None	None

Table 5.6.3-I Assessment of Least Harm: Section C (Continued....)

Section 4(f) Resources	Alternative Alignment C2-Mod	Alternative Alignment C5	Alternative Alignment C6	Alternative Alignments C2-Mod and C6 w/ Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift	Alternative Alignment C5 w/ Valley Sports Fields Southern Avoidance Shift
Cottonwood Park	Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options	Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options	Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options	Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options	Use: Acquisition of 4.8 hectares (11.8 acres) of the 10.9-hectare (27.0-acre) park; eliminate one walk-in entrance along Cottonwood Drive Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement of LAWCON-funded areas with land of equal value and function, compensation for land costs, explore landscape options
Valley Sports Fields	Use: Acquisition of 1.65 hectares (4.09 acres) of the 12.5-hectare (31.0-acre) park; no impact to facilities Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement or fair market compensation for Project 70 land, explore landscape options	Use: Acquisition of 1.68 hectares (4.16 acres) of the 12.5-hectare (31.0-acre) park; no impact to facilities Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement or fair market compensation for Project 70 land, explore landscape options	Use: Acquisition of 1.64 hectares (4.05 acres) of the 12.5-hectare (31.0-acre) park; no impact to facilities Mitigation: Relocation assistance, replacement or fair market compensation for Project 70 land, explore landscape options	None	None

5.7 Coordination

Extensive coordination has taken place with the general public, municipal officials, and the officials having jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) resources in the Pennsylvania High-speed Maglev project area.

Public scoping meetings for the project were held on October 23, 24, and 30 and November 1, 2001 in four locations throughout the proposed transportation corridor. These meetings were held to