

SECTION 3.13

Recreation

3.13.1 Introduction

This section evaluates the potential for the proposed program to increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities such that (1) physical deterioration or degradation of the facilities would occur or be accelerated; or (2) the potential for the proposed program to include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The analysis is based on review of available information on the recreational facilities, the relevant regulatory ordinances, and a discussion of the methodology and thresholds used to determine whether the proposed program would result in significant impacts, as well as feasible mitigation measures that could reduce or avoid the identified impacts.

Data used in this section includes information obtained from the *City of Seal Beach General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element* (City of Seal Beach 2003), the *City of Seal Beach Parks and Community Services Master Plan* (City of Seal Beach 2013), the *Southeast Area Specific Plan (SEASP) Draft EIR* (City of Long Beach 2016), and the *City of Long Beach General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element* (City of Long Beach 2002). Published information pertaining to recreation facilities available via various online resources was also used. All information sources used are included as citations within the text; sources are listed in Section 3.13.7, *References*.

3.13.2 Environmental Setting

3.13.2.1 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

Seal Beach

The Seal Beach Community Services/Recreation (SBCSR) Department operates the parks and recreational programs and services in the City of Seal Beach. SBCSR owns and maintains 75.45 acres of parkland divided between 18 individual parks, 4 community centers, 1 tennis center, 1 gymnasium, and 1 aquatics facility (City of Seal Beach 2013). The City of Seal Beach has also created a number of venues that allow for recreational activities including the Edison Park Community Gardens, the Arbor Dog Park, Gum Grove Nature Park Hiking Trails, River's End Kitesurfing Park, the Seal Beach Pier, and the 2 miles of surf and sand.

The SBCSR has adopted Statewide, Park Acreage Standards to guide their long-range planning and acquisition of parklands. The SBCSR operates the following two categories of parks within

the city: community parks and neighborhood parks. These two park categories as defined by the California State Parks Planning Division, are described below (City of Seal Beach 2003):

- **Neighborhood parks** are designed to meet the needs of individual residential developments within the city. While providing for the recreational needs of several age groups, the neighborhood park is primarily designed to meet the needs of the 5- to 14-year-old group. Children's play equipment and tennis and basketball courts are among the facilities often found at neighborhood parks. Other improvements might include senior centers, youth centers, and aquatic facilities. These parks vary in size from a single lot to parcels of approximately 5 acres. There are 13 neighborhood parks in the City of Seal Beach, encompassing a total of 14.05 acres.
- **Community parks** are larger than neighborhood parks and are designed to serve the needs of a broader age group. They serve the entire city and are easily accessible via arterial roads, attracting people from outside the area in which they are located. Typically, these facilities contain tennis, volleyball, handball and basketball courts, picnic areas, and sports fields for seasonal sports such as baseball and football. Community parks generally range in size from approximately 5 to 30 acres. There are five community parks in the City of Seal Beach, encompassing a total of 61.4 acres.

Overall, the SBCSR maintains 75.45 acres of parks and recreation facilities for a population of 24,157 individuals, which equates to approximately 3.12 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. According to the Seal Beach Parks and Community Services Master Plan, the parkland per resident ratio is significantly below the adopted Standards' required ratio of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 people primarily because a high percentage of the City of Seal Beach was developed prior to the adoption of the current acreage goal (City of Seal Beach 2013).

Table 3.13-1, Seal Beach Recreational Facilities within the Vicinity of the Program Area, lists the parks and recreational facilities in the City of Seal Beach within a 0.5-mile radius of the program area.

TABLE 3.13-1
SEAL BEACH RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE PROGRAM AREA

Facility Name	Type of Facility	Description	Distance from Program Area
Electric Avenue Median Park	Community park	8.4-acre community park providing a stretch of greenery as well as picnic tables, through Old Town Seal Beach	0.33 miles southwest
Gum Grove Nature Park	Community park	25-acre open space area that hugs the edge of Los Cerritos Wetlands. There's one trail down the middle of the park and several small single track trails run along the hill that separates neighborhood homes from the park	0.0 miles south
Marina Park and Community Center	Neighborhood park	1.5 acres including a community center, open space, basketball courts, tennis courts, and a swimming pool	0.34 miles southwest
Seal Beach Senior Center	Neighborhood park	0.25-acre senior center facility that provides individuals ages 50 and over opportunities to meet new friends, develop new interests, and socialize	0.35 miles southwest
Zoeter Field	Neighborhood park	1.5 acres including softball fields and restrooms	0.39 miles south

SOURCE: City of Seal Beach, 2019.

Long Beach

The Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine (LBPRM) Department operates the parks and recreational programs and services in the City of Long Beach. LBPRM owns and maintains 26 community centers, 2 historic sites, 2 major tennis courts, 1 municipal golf system with 5 courses, the Long Beach Animal Services Bureau, and the largest municipally operated marina system in the nation (comprised of Alamitos Bay Marina, Long Beach Shoreline Marina [Downtown Marina], and Rainbow Harbor/Rainbow Marina), with 3,677 boat slips and 6 miles of beaches. In addition, the City of Long Beach's recreational resources include parks, community gardens, bike and equestrian trails, special use recreation resources, and recreational programs such as youth/adult sports leagues, teen centers, sports and aquatic programs, skate parks, a sailing and aquatic center, public swimming pools, senior citizen services, adaptive recreation and cultural centers (City of Long Beach 2016).

The LBPRM also manages over 172 acres of estuaries within the City of Long Beach including three within a 2-mile radius of the program area. Jack Dunster Marine Biological Reserve, which is comprised of 1.5 acres of land and 1.2 acres of shallow waters, is located approximately 0.5 miles west of the Pumpkin Patch site, at the intersection of Boathouse Lane and Los Cerritos Channel in the City of Long Beach. The Colorado Lagoon, which consists of 27.5 acres of land and open saltwater area is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the Synergy Oil Field site, at 5119 East Colorado Street, in the city (City of Long Beach 2016). Sims' Pond Biological Reserve, which contains 6.06 acres of marsh habitat, is located approximately 0.65 miles northwest of the Synergy Oil Field site, at the intersection of Loynes Drive and the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) in the City of Long Beach (City of Long Beach 2016). Unlike the publicly accessible Jack Dunster Marine Biological Reserve and the Colorado Lagoon mentioned above, Sims Pond is not accessible to the public and is surrounded by a chain-link fence (LCWS 2013).

The LBPRM operates the following five categories of parks within the City of Long Beach: mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and greenway parks. These five park categories are defined below:

- **Mini parks** consist of less than 2 acres of land and are designed to serve residents within an eighth-mile radius. These parks include the following amenities: landscape irrigation, walking paths, seating areas, picnic tables, tot lots, and sculpture/art. There are 22 mini parks in the City of Long Beach, encompassing approximately 21 acres.
- **Neighborhood parks** typically consist of an average 8 acres and serve residents within a 0.25- to 0.5-mile radius. Neighborhood parks include all the uses within a mini park, as well as recreation fields, courts and rinks, water features, libraries, day care centers, community centers, and restroom buildings. Building coverage in neighborhood parks is limited to 7 percent of the total park area. There are 19 neighborhood parks in the city, encompassing 147 acres.
- **Community parks** are on average 35 acres in size and serve neighborhoods within a 1-mile radius. These parks focus on community recreation, including sports fields, open space, and swimming pools. Building coverage is limited to 10 percent of the total park area. There are 13 community parks in the city, encompassing a total of 464 acres.

- **Regional parks** are a minimum 175 acres in size and serve communities within a half-hour drive time. Permitted uses at regional parks include all uses allowed within community parks and building coverage is limited to 2 percent of the total park area. There is one regional park in the city, El Dorado Regional Park, which encompasses 401 acres and is located approximately 2.3 miles northeast of the program area.
- **Greenway parks** are undeveloped green space, which connect recreational opportunities throughout a community. Building coverage is limited to 1 percent of the total park area at greenway parks. There are nine greenway parks located in the city, encompassing approximately 71 acres.

In addition to the mini, neighborhood, community, regional and greenway parks, the LBPRM also operates and maintains 28 special use parks (including the riverfront recreation vehicle campground, two special events parks [Queen Mary and Rainbow Lagoon], the calm water swimming park at Colorado Lagoon, and Shoreline/Riverfront, Santa Cruz, and Victory Parks, a nature center park, and a nature trail park), two ranchos, 247 acres of beaches, 568 acres of golf course, and 373 acres of water recreation facilities (including Alamitos Bay and Downtown Marina surface areas) (City of Long Beach 2016).

Table 3.13-2, *Long Beach Recreational Facilities within the Vicinity of the Program Area*, lists the parks and recreational facilities in the City of Long Beach within a 0.5-mile radius of the proposed program area.

**TABLE 3.13-2
LONG BEACH RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE PROGRAM AREA**

Facility Name	Type of Facility	Description	Distance from Program area
Channel View Park	Neighborhood park	5.1 acres including open space and a popular walking path for joggers and strollers	0.1 mile northeast
Jack Nichol Park	Neighborhood park	3.5 acres including a basketball court, baseball field, playground, soccer field, softball field, restrooms, picnic area, and a youth recreation program	0.08 miles northwest
Jack Dunster Marine Reserve	Special use park	2.7-acre special use park that has green space and provides coastal viewing	0.20 miles west
Sims' Pond	Special use park	6-acre open space area	0.33 miles northwest
Bixby Village Golf Course	Special use park	Public, municipal 9-hole golf course	0.26 miles north
Alamitos Bay Marina	Special use park	Boat facilities, coastal viewing, and green space	0.26 miles southwest
Davies Launch Ramp	Special use park	Boat facilities, green space, and horseshoes	0.25 miles west

SOURCE: City of Long Beach, 2016.

In addition to parks, the City of Long Beach also has numerous marine recreation resources. These include beaches, a pier, a harbor, marinas and boat launches. The City of Long Beach has approximately 247 acres of beaches and 11 miles of shoreline with a visitation rate of millions of persons per year. Belmont Pier provides public fishing facilities. Rainbow Harbor includes eight

public piers to accommodate historic ship visitation, sightseeing, and fishing, and includes an aquarium. The City of Long Beach owns and operates two large marinas and one smaller marina with many boat slips: the Alamitos Bay Marina (1,967 boat slips), the Shoreline Marina (1,744 slips), and the Rainbow Marina (86 boat slips). There are five public boat launches within the city: Davies, Claremont, Granada, Marine Stadium, and South Shore. A variety of water equipment including powerboats, jet skis, sailboats, catamarans, and kayaks can be launched from these locations (City of Long Beach 2002). Within the vicinity of the program area, the Los Cerritos Channel is used by recreational kayakers year round.

3.13.2.2 Existing Bicycle Trails

Seal Beach

According to the City of Seal Beach Circulation Element of the General Plan, the City of Seal Beach has developed a local street bicycle circulation system that includes three classifications of bikeways that generally correspond to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) bikeway classifications. Class I bikeways provide for bicycle travel on a right-of-way completely separated from the street. Class II bikeways provide for a striped lane for one-way travel within the street right-of-way. Class III bikeways provide for on-road, signed only bikeways and are not included on the bike trail map due to their unique locations (City of Seal Beach 2003).

The OCTA has also been working to develop the Orange County (OC) Loop, which would connect 66 miles of bicycle lanes seamlessly within Orange County (OCTA 2020). Currently, 80 percent of the OC Loop is in place. Multiple agencies throughout Orange County have tried to secure funding to close gaps along the OC Loop.

Long Beach

According to the City of Long Beach Mobility Element of the General Plan, the City has developed a local street bicycle circulation system that includes signed bike routes (Class III bicycle facilities), striped and signed bikeways (Class II bicycle facilities), and on-street bike paths that are physically separated from automobile traffic (Class I bicycle facilities). This on-street bicycle network system includes 15 miles of bike routes, 19 miles of bikeways, and 29 miles of bike paths. In addition to the on-street bicycle network, the city has over 60 miles of off-street bike and pedestrian paths within its boundaries.

The City of Long Beach is served by Class I, II, and III bicycle facilities, bicycle boulevards, and separated bicycle lanes (Cycle Track or Class IV). As determined by Caltrans, the three classes of bikeways are defined as follows: Class I (a completely separated right of way for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians), Class II (a striped lane for one-way bike travel on a street or highway), and Class III (a roadway allowing for shared use between bicycles and motor vehicle traffic) (Caltrans 2017). Based on a review of the City of Long Beach Draft Bicycle Master Plan (December 2016), existing bicycle facilities in the study area include:

- Class III bicycle lanes along 2nd Street west of PCH and 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue east of Studebaker Road and Class II bicycle lanes on 2nd/Westminster Avenue west of Studebaker Road;

- Class II bicycle lanes on PCH both north and south of 2nd Street;
- Class II bicycle lanes on Marina Drive south of 2nd Street; and
- Class II bicycle lanes on Studebaker Road between 2nd Street and Loynes Drive.

Additionally, there is a Class I bikeway (San Gabriel River Trail) that runs along the San Gabriel River. It extends 28 miles from the Pacific Ocean to Whittier Narrows and connects to the Rio Hondo River Trail, Bellflower Bike Trail, and Coyote Creek Bikeway, forming the backbone of a large regional trail system. Bikeways in close proximity to the program area and their associated classes are shown in relation to the program area on **Figure 3.13-1, Existing Bike and Pedestrian Paths**.

3.13.3 Regulatory Framework

3.13.3.1 Federal

There are no generally applicable federal laws, regulations, plans, or standards governing recreational facilities that are relevant to the proposed program.

3.13.3.2 State

There are no generally applicable state laws, regulations, plans, or standards governing recreational facilities that are relevant to the proposed program.

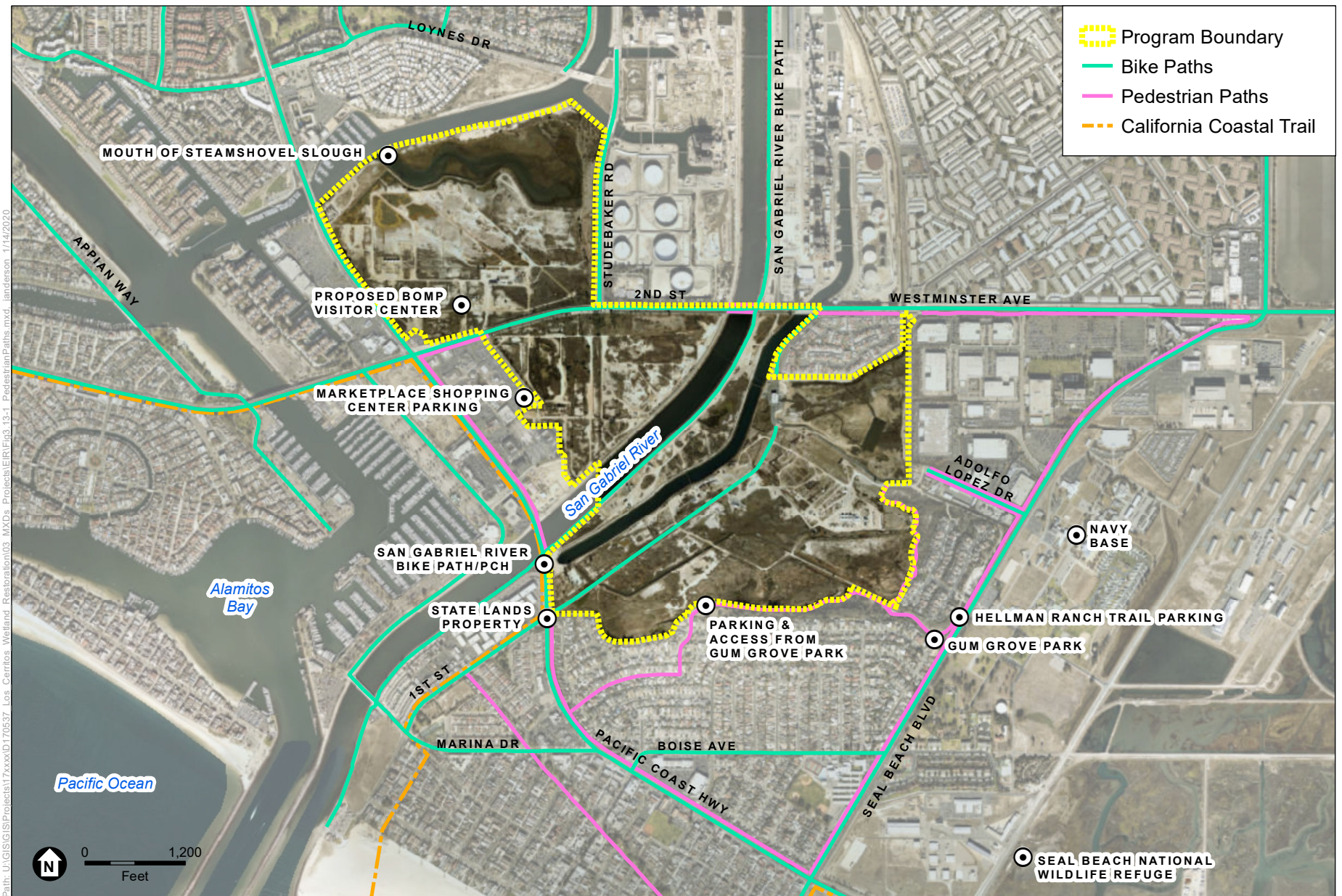
Quimby Act

The Quimby Act is a state legislation (codified at Government Code Section 66477) that requires the dedication of land and/or imposes a requirement for the payment of fees for park and recreational purposes in connection with the approval of new development that requires a tentative tract or parcel map (City of Long Beach 2017; City of Seal Beach 2003). Under the Quimby Act, park land dedication may be based on a ratio of number of residents to acres of land. Generally, under the Quimby Act, 3 acres of park land must be provided per thousand residents, and may be increased under certain criteria to 5 acres of park land dedication per thousand residents.

3.13.3.3 Local

Seal Beach General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element

The Seal Beach Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan contains plans for the preservation of open space and production of natural resources, open space management, open space for public health and safety, and open space for outdoor recreation. Further, it discusses the amount of recreational open space available in the City of Seal Beach and factors in future possible open space acquisition opportunities as the City of Seal Beach's population continues to grow. Additionally, the Seal Beach Open Space and Recreation Element establishes a recreation open space standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents. Park and recreational areas exclude joint-use school facilities and only apply to parkland owned and maintained by the City of Seal Beach. Policies and programs that apply to the proposed program are discussed in Section 3.9, *Land Use and Planning*, of this PEIR.



SOURCE: ESRI

Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Draft Program EIR

Figure 3.13-1
Existing Bike and Pedestrian Paths

City of Seal Beach Local Coastal Program

The City of Seal Beach is subject to a state-mandated Local Coastal Program under the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission, due to its proximity to the Pacific Ocean. The 1976 California Coastal Act, which provides protection for the natural and scenic resources of the coastal area, requires the preparation of a local coastal program for jurisdictions with land within the coastal zone. The policies defined by the Local Coastal Program set the standards that preserve and conserve the community's coastal influenced resources. The City of Seal Beach Local Coastal Program policies are included by reference as part of the City's General Plan. The Local Coastal Program is to be updated every five years (City of Seal Beach 2003).

Long Beach General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element

The Long Beach Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan contains plans for the preservation of open space and production of natural resources, open space management, open space for public health and safety, and open space for outdoor recreation. Further, it discusses the amount of recreational open space available in the City of Long Beach and factors in future possible open space acquisition opportunities as the City of Long Beach's population continues to grow. Additionally, the Long Beach Open Space and Recreation Element establishes a recreation open space standard of 8 acres per 1,000 residents. Park and recreational areas exclude joint-use school facilities and only apply to parkland owned and maintained by the City of Long Beach. Policies and programs that apply to the proposed program are discussed in Section 3.9, *Land Use and Planning*, of this PEIR.

Southeast Area Development and Improvement Plan

Approved in 1977, the Southeast Area Development and Improvement Plan (SEADIP) was the first Planned Development district (PD-1) in the City of Long Beach. The SEADIP document was intended to guide land use and development in the 1,500-acre area in southeast Long Beach during a period of rapid growth. The provisions provided in the SEADIP relevant to recreation are listed below.

Provision 18. Developers shall improve and dedicate the City certain streets, recreation areas and other public facilities necessary to support the proposed private development, as specific by area in subsequent paragraphs. If any such required improvements are found by the Commission to be infeasible or undesirable for engineering, legal or other reasons, the Commission may accept alternative improvements proposed by the developer so long as they meet the intent of the original requirements and are consistent with the overall goals and objectives of the adopted Specific Plan. Developers shall make such improvements or furnish security in connection with such improvements prior to commencement of construction of adjacent areas, which the improvements are designed to support; improvements may be phased with the phased construction of such adjacent areas. In those cases where the developer is to dedicate land area for subsequent improvement by the City, the developer shall not be required to convey such area until the City has budgeted funds for the improvements.

Southeast Area Specific Plan 2060

In July 2016, the City of Long Beach circulated a draft of the Southeast Area Specific Plan (SEASP) 2060, which is a contemporary planning document for the program area, including re-

designating land uses for the program area for the next 50 years (City of Long Beach 2016). The SEASP 2060 was adopted by the City Council on September 19, 2017. Note that at the time of writing this PEIR, the CCC has yet to certify the proposed SEASP 2060; however, it is anticipated that the SEASP 2060 will be completed and issued in its final form within the lifetime of the proposed program. The development standards relevant to recreation are listed below.

Chapter 5.7, General Development Standards, Item c, Open Space and Amenities in Mixed-Use Designations

Developers shall construct public open space, trails, pathways and bicycle trails for each development in a manner that will be generally accessible to the public and that will interconnect with similar facilities in adjacent developments so as to form an integrated system of open space and trails connecting activity centers, important views and destinations in the SEASP program area.

Section 6.2.1, Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation and Access

This section provides the requirements for Class I, II, and III bikeways, described in Section 3.13.2, *Environmental Setting*.

City of Long Beach Local Coastal Program

The City of Long Beach's Local Coastal Program provides policies regarding public access, recreation, marine environment, land resources, development, and industrial development. The Local Coastal Program identifies the following recreational facilities in the program area:

Neighborhood Services, Facilities and Amenities. Amenities are high in the SEADIP neighborhood. Multiple recreational uses are located here. Marine Stadium and Recreation Park offer active and passive recreation opportunities. The Marina off the Los Cerritos Flood Control Channel provides recreational opportunities and is a visual amenity to the residents of Costa del Sol, Spinnaker Coves and Marina Pacifica. Bixby Golf Course located along Loyne Drive is another recreational node. Los Cerritos Lagoon is a unique natural resource in SEADIP. It is a breeding ground for marine life and a habitat for shorebirds. Schools are abundant as well; Kettering Elementary, Hill Junior High, and the California State University at Long Beach are all close by.

3.13.4 Significance Thresholds and Methodology

3.13.4.1 Significance Thresholds

For the purposes of this Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and consistency with Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*, the proposed program would have a significant impact on recreation if it would:

- a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

As detailed in the NOP/IS (refer to Appendix A of this PEIR), the proposed program would result in less than significant impacts to threshold “a.” Although not required, evaluation of the proposed program’s impact to thresholds “a” was conducted in this section.

3.13.4.2 Methodology

The evaluation of public services impacts is based on the development assumptions for the proposed program, as described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, of this PEIR. The proposed program would restore the wetlands and implement public access improvements, including new pedestrian trails, elevated perimeter pedestrian walkways, educational or interpretive features, viewing areas with overlooks, new and improved parking facilities, and a visitor center. As described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, the environmental effects associated with the Long Beach Visitor Center, construction of a parking lot, trails, overlook terrace, sidewalk enhancements, and bikeway improvements previously evaluated in the Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project EIR (State Clearinghouse Number 2016041083) will not be further evaluated in this PEIR.

The methodology for this analysis is based on a review of planning documents obtained from the City of Seal Beach and the City of Long Beach, as well as other published information pertaining to recreation facilities available via various online resources. The analysis below considers the increase in use that would be generated by the proposed program and the ability of existing recreational facilities in the surrounding area to meet the potential demand from temporary construction workers, permanent employees on site, and new visitors. The analysis considers whether an increase in use would result in the substantial deterioration of existing neighboring recreational facilities, such as accelerated wear on sports facilities and fields, erosion along trails, or disturbance of vegetation, during and after the restoration of the wetlands and proposed public accessibility improvements.

As stated in Chapter 1, *Introduction*, on March 8, 2019, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority sent an NOP to responsible, trustee, and federal agencies, as well as to organizations and individuals potentially interested in the proposed program to identify the relevant environmental issues that should be addressed in the PEIR. No issues related to recreation were identified.

3.13.5 Program Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact REC-1: The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

Construction

During construction of the proposed program, there would be a temporary increase in construction workers on the program area. These construction workers would likely come from an existing local and/or regional (County) construction labor force and would not likely relocate their households as a consequence of working on the proposed program. Therefore, the short-term increased employment of construction workers on the program area would not result in a notable

increase in the residential population of the area surrounding the program area. Accordingly, there would not be a corresponding demand or use of the existing parks and recreation facilities during this time as construction workers are more likely to use parks and recreation facilities near their places of residence. It is anticipated that construction workers would not use nearby parks during their lunch break, as lunch breaks are not typically long enough for workers to take advantage of such facilities and return to work within the typical 30- to 60-minute lunch break; however, if construction workers were to use the existing recreational facilities during their lunch break, it would only increase use at those facilities for 30 to 60 minutes a day, which would be considered a less than substantial impact. Thus, program construction workers would not generate an increase in demand for park and recreation facilities such that it would result in the accelerated physical deterioration of a park or recreation facilities.

Potential construction of new sidewalks is proposed by the proposed program and would result in temporary inaccessibility to portions of the bikeway. The streets that would be impacted would be as follows: the south side of 2nd Street for potential sidewalk improvements; the intersection of Shopkeeper Road and 2nd Street for a new crosswalk to improve public access between the North Area, Long Beach Visitor Center, and Central Area. All construction for this bikeway would occur within the existing right-of-way and would be implemented in accordance with the City of Long Beach standards. Additionally, bikeway detour signs would be posted to redirect bike users to utilize other bikeways in the area during this temporary construction period. Therefore, impacts during construction would be less than significant.

Operation

The proposed program would include the operation of the Seal Beach Visitor Center and a public access trail system, which would increase the number of employees, volunteers, and daytime visitors within the program area. The proposed program would provide employment opportunities for the local economy and it is anticipated that the majority of jobs would be filled by the local labor force. Thus, these employees would not likely relocate their households as a consequence of working on the proposed program. Accordingly, there would not be a corresponding demand or increased use of the existing parks and recreation facilities as most employees would be more likely to use parks and recreation facilities near their places of residences. Moreover, as they would be located next to the restored wetlands and trail, recreational opportunities would be provided on site for new employees and it is anticipated that the employees would not use nearby parks during their lunchbreak. However, if employees were to use the existing recreational facilities during their lunch break, it would only increase potential use at those facilities for 30 to 60 minutes a day per employee, which would not increase use of park and recreational facilities such that physical deterioration would occur.

The proposed program would also introduce publically accessible recreational areas to the program area with the development of new pedestrian trails, elevated perimeter pedestrian walkways, educational or interpretive features, viewing areas with overlooks, new and improved parking facilities, and Seal Beach Visitor Center. Due to the increased availability of recreational amenities, the proposed improvements would bring an unknown number of daytime visitors to the program area could also increase the use of existing recreational facilities in the surrounding area. It is important to note that portions of the trails would be restricted to scheduled docent-led tours,

which would limit the number of visitors that would be allowed on the perimeter trail at the same time in order to ensure there would be no degradation to the wetlands as a result of human activity. Visitors would be accompanied by a docent at all times. Overall, opening the Seal Beach Visitor Center and public access trail to the public would allow for wider enjoyment of its recreational and open space amenities and, thereby, expand and enhance recreational opportunities available within the program vicinity. The public enhancements would enable able-bodied visitors to walk through what are now inaccessible areas on site and gain better views of the on-site wetland habitat. As such, the proposed program would result in direct beneficial effects to recreation and the proposed program would not result in the increased use of existing parks or recreational facilities such that substantial deterioration of these resources would occur or be accelerated.

Mitigation Measure

No mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation

Less than Significant

Impact REC-2: The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Currently, there are no existing recreational facilities located on the program area. The proposed program would construct recreational facilities on site through the development of new pedestrian trails, elevated perimeter pedestrian walkways, educational and interpretive features, viewing areas with overlooks, new and improved parking facilities, and Seal Beach Visitor Center. The public enhancements would enable able-bodied visitors to walk through what are now inaccessible areas on site and gain better views of the on-site wetland habitat. The proposed program could also include new sidewalk improvements. The construction and enhancement of recreational facilities are considered part of the proposed program; therefore, construction and enhancement of these facilities are described and analyzed with the rest of the proposed program components throughout Chapter 3, *Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures*, in Sections 3.1 through 3.16 of this PEIR, including air quality, traffic, and noise. Additionally, once constructed and operational, the proposed program would provide a beneficial impact with respect to increased recreational opportunities for the cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach. As described throughout this PEIR, the new pedestrian trails, elevated perimeter pedestrian walkways, educational or interpretive features, viewing areas with overlooks, new and improved parking facilities, and Seal Beach Visitor Center would be constructed in areas with the least potential to disturb native habitat and any potentially significant impacts would be mitigated to the maximum extent possible. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Mitigation Measure

No mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation

Less than Significant

3.13.6 Cumulative Impacts

The geographic context for the analysis of recreation impacts is the Hellman Specific Plan area in City of Seal Beach and the PD-1 (SEADIP) area in the City of Long Beach, as this represents the largest areas within which the proposed program's direct and indirect impacts could manifest. The LBPRM Department maintains and operates the parks and recreational programs and services within the PD-1 (SEADIP) area, as well as throughout the City of Long Beach. The analysis considers the ongoing impacts of past programs and impacts that would result from the existing and reasonably foreseeable future programs identified in Chapter 2, *Program Description*, Table 3-1, List of Cumulative Projects. Given the 23 projects located within a 3-mile radius of the proposed program, those within the PD-1 (SEADIP) area are considered in this cumulative analysis. These cumulative projects include, but are not limited to, industrial, infrastructure, residential, and commercial programs.

While the restoration activities that would occur at the program area would not result in permanent residential and employment growth that could increase the amount of recreational users at the program area, it would provide a visitor center and public access to the program area, which is inaccessible under existing conditions. The proposed program would also construct improvements along the street frontages and could provide sidewalks. By providing these new and enhanced recreational facilities to the public, the use of the existing 2nd Street bike path and surrounding bike paths in the program area would likely increase. However, it is unlikely that creation would be increased to the extent that substantial physical deterioration of existing recreation facilities would occur. In light of the proposed program's long-term recreational benefits, there would be no significant adverse impact to recreation.

There are a number of present and foreseeable future programs in the study area that could result in the intensification of residential uses and, thus, could increase the population and, thereby, increase the demand for recreational opportunities and facilities in the program vicinity. There are 23 cumulative projects within the geographic scope of this cumulative impacts assessment that could contribute to a cumulative impact to recreation. These new and improved facilities, in combination with the less-than-significant impacts of the proposed program would have a less-than-significant cumulative impact.

Mitigation Measure

No mitigation is required.

Significance after Mitigation

Less than Significant

3.13.7 References

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