3.14 Recreation

3.14.1 Introduction

This section evaluates the potential for the proposed project to increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities such that physical deterioration or degradation of the facilities would occur or be accelerated or the potential for the proposed project to include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. This section analyzes the potential for both project-level and cumulative environmental impacts.

Data used in this section includes information obtained from 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 City 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 3.14.5, References.

3.14.2 Environmental Setting

The Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine (LBPRM) Department maintains and operates the parks and recreational programs and services in the City of Long Beach (City). LBPRM owns and maintains 26 community centers, two historic sites, two major tennis courts, one municipal golf system with five 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 Marine [Downtown Marina], and Rainbow Harbor/Rainbow Marina), with 3,677 boat slips and 6 miles of beaches. In addition, the City’s recreational resources include parks, community gardens, community centers, golf courses, 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 2002, 2016).

The LBPRM also manages over 172 acres of estuaries within the City including three within a 2-mile radius of the project site. 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 mile 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 mile 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).
3.14.2.1 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

The LBPRM operates the following five categories of parks within the City: 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 project site.

- **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 Crus 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 3.14-1, Recreational Facilities within the Vicinity of the Project Site**, lists the parks and recreational facilities within a 0.5-mile radius of the proposed project site.

In addition to terrestrial parks, the City also has numerous marine recreation resources. These include beaches, a pier, a harbor, marinas and boat launches. 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 also includes an aquarium. The City owns and operates two large marinas and one smaller marina with several 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 project vicinity, the Los Cerritos Channel and Steamshovel Slough are used by recreational kayakers year round.
Table 3.14-1  Recreational Facilities within the Vicinity of the Project Site

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

SOURCE: City of Long Beach, 2016.

3.14.2.2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails

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 contains three classes of bikeways: 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).

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). 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 project site and their associated classes are shown in relation to the project site on Figure 3.14-1, Existing Bikeways.
Figure 3.14-1
Existing Bikeways

SOURCE: ESRI

Long Beach Cerritos Wetland, 150712
3.14.3 Regulatory Framework

3.14.3.1 Federal

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

3.14.3.2 State

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

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). 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.

3.14.3.3 Local

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 and factors in future possible open space acquisition opportunities as the City’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. Policies and programs that apply to the proposed project are discussed in Section 3.9, Land Use and Planning, of this EIR.

Southeast Area Development and Improvement Plan and Draft Southeast Area Specific Plan

Approved in 1977, the SEADIP was the first Planned Development district (PD-1) in the City. The SEADIP document was intended to guide land use and development in area that was experiencing a period of rapid growth. The 1977 SEADIP included a narrative discussion of the then-proposed dedication of 55 acres of the Bixby Ranch Company lands for open space and park use and envisioned the restoration of wetland habitat.

Subsequent revisions to SEADIP are provided in SEADIP (PD-1), which includes updates, revisions, and additions of the ordinance history through 2006. The SEADIP, as amended through 2006, includes narrative discussion of “The Wetlands” and “The Buffers,” which would include portions of the project site, including the restoration area. Wetland areas were designated in Subareas 11a, 25, 26, and 33. Subarea 11a and Subarea 33 are both located on the Synergy Oil Field site, and the City Property site portion of Subarea 25 also include wetland areas, the restoration of which are addressed in the SEADIP. Relative to recreation, the narrative is largely permit-, process-, phasing-, and financially oriented. The SEADIP also includes various
policies that would encourage new development to construct public open space, trails, pathways and bicycle trails for each development in a manner to be generally accessible to the public (SEADIP, Paragraph 10 at page 2). In July 2016, the City circulated a draft of the SEASP, which is a planning document for the project area, including re-designating land uses for the project site (City of Long Beach 2016). It is anticipated that the SEASP will be completed and issued in its final form within the lifetime of the proposed project and relevant standards are provided here for informational purposes. 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 project 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 3.14.2, Environmental Setting.

City of Long Beach Local Coastal Program

The City’s Local Coastal Program provides policies regarding public access, recreation, marine environment, land resources, development, and industrial development. The Local Coastal Program includes the following policy related to recreational facilities:

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 Loynes 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. And commercial neighborhood retail activities concentrated along PCH and 2nd Street make shopping convenient and contribute to the positive image of this gateway community. A redesign of and new marketing plan for the Marina Pacifica center is needed to make it a viable commercial center.

3.14.4 Analysis of Impacts

This section describes the impact analysis relating to recreation for the proposed project. It describes the methods and applicable thresholds used to determine the impacts of the proposed project.

3.14.4.1 Significance Criteria

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G provides that a project would have a significant recreation impact if it would:

- Increase 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
3.14.4.2 **Methodology**

One of the proposed project components would result in the creation of a new recreational resource in the City, as it would include restored wetlands, a public access trail, and a visitors center on the Synergy Oil Field site. The proposed project would also include improvements along the frontages of all four of the individual sites that comprise the project site to provide for a continuous Class II bikeway and sidewalk along these frontages. The analysis below considers the increase in use that would be generated by the proposed project 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 to the Synergy Oil Field site. 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 mitigation bank and proposed public accessibility improvements. Currently, the project site is closed to the public; however, the Los Cerritos Channel that is adjacent to the site and the Steamshovel Slough that bisects the northern portion of the site both provide recreational activities for boaters and kayakers. The analysis includes an evaluation of the physical impacts and beneficial effects that would occur as a result of the project.

As stated in Chapter 1, *Introduction*, on April 28, 2016, the City sent a NOP to responsible, trustee, and federal agencies, as well as to organizations, and individuals potentially interested in the project to identify the relevant environmental issues that should be addressed in the EIR. The California Coastal Commission (CCC) requested that the EIR analyze extent of noise, vibration, traffic and other impacts, if any, on coastal recreation, including use and enjoyment of the proposed visitors center and trail. In addition, the CCC requested analysis of the impact of the proposed trail on the surrounding wetland areas and requested that the EIR include all relevant California Coastal Act and local coastal program policies relevant to recreation and public access, and that the proposed project be consistent with SEADIP. No other issues related to recreation were identified in the comments received on the NOP.

3.14.4.3 **Impact Evaluation**

**Impact RE-1: The project would not increase 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. (Less than Significant)**

**Construction**

During construction of the proposed project, there would be a temporary increase in construction workers on the project site. 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 project. Therefore, the short-term increased employment of construction workers on the project site would not result in a notable increase in the residential population of the area surrounding the project site. 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, project 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.

Construction of the Class II bikeway improvements and new sidewalks are proposed by the project and would result in temporarily inaccessibility to portions of the bikeway; however, bikeway detour signs would be posted to redirect bike users to utilize other bikeways in the area during this temporary construction period. The streets that would be impacted would be as follows: the segment of Studebaker Road from the Los Cerritos Channel (north property line of the Synergy Oil Field site) to 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue along the Synergy Oil Field site; the 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue frontage between PCH and Studebaker Road along the Synergy Oil Field site; the 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue frontage between Shopkeeper Road and Studebaker Road along the City Property site; the Westminster Avenue frontage of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) site; the Studebaker Road frontage of the LCWA site; the Studebaker Road frontage of the Pumpkin Patch site; and the PCH frontage of the Pumpkin Patch site. As discussed previously, both Class II bikeway and sidewalk improvements would be constructed as a part of the proposed project. Therefore, impacts during construction would be less than significant.

Operation

The proposed project would not include the construction of dwelling units as a part of the proposed project and, therefore, would not introduce any permanent residents to the project area. Currently, there are 15 full-time employees associated with the existing oil production facilities at the Synergy Oil Field and City Property sites, with operations occurring 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. The proposed project would create up to 30 new permanent employment positions for the oil operations, in addition to the 15 existing employees, for an approximately 40-year time period while the wells are phased out. With respect to the new proposed oil production facilities at the Pumpkin Patch and LCWA sites, during the drilling process, there would be approximately 40 to 60 total personnel per day, and once all drilling has been completed, the actual number of on-site employees would be reduced to approximately 4 to 8 full-time employees on each site. As these employees would most likely come from the workforce in the project area, this would not introduce an increased use on the existing parks and recreational facilities in the project area.

However, the proposed project would introduce approximately 5 new employees, including 3 full-time employees and 2 volunteers, to the Synergy Oil Field site, as a result of the development of the visitors center, associated parking lot, and public access trail. The proposed project 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 project. 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. Similar to the construction workers, as discussed above, it is anticipated that the employees would not use nearby parks during their lunchbreak, as lunch breaks are not typically long enough for workers to take advantage of such facilities within the typical 30- to 60-minute lunch break; however, if employees 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 not increase use of park and recreational facilities such that physical deterioration would occur.

Additionally, the proposed project would introduce approximately 4 acres of publically accessible parkland on site, with the development of a 2,084-linear-foot public access trail, overlook terrace with picnic facilities, visitors center, and associated parking on the Synergy Oil Field site. The Synergy Oil Field site would be open to public access from dusk until dawn, 7 days a week. This would introduce an anticipated 15,000 to 20,000 visitors to the project site each year. The proposed project would introduce new open space areas to the project area, as a result of the public access improvements and construction of the visitors center on the Synergy Oil Field site. It is important to note that if recommended by the resource agencies, the project applicant may 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 on the public access trail. Visitors would be required to remain on the designated access trail or be accompanied by a docent at all times. Due to the increased availability of recreational amenities at the Synergy Oil Field site, the proposed project could also increase the use of existing recreational facilities in the surrounding area. In addition, restoration of the wetland habitat in Steamshovel Slough could attract more kayakers to the area. Furthermore, opening a visitors center and public access trail to the public, the project would allow for wider enjoyment of its recreational and open space amenities and, thereby, expand and enhance recreational opportunities available within the project vicinity. Proposed improvements to the 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue bikeway to provide a continuous Class II bikeway would also increase recreational use in the project area. In addition to the Class II bikeway, the project would also construct a Class II bikeway improvements along the frontages of the four individual sites that comprise the project site along Studebaker, 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue, and PCH, as well as constructing new sidewalk improvements along the street frontages of the four individual sites that comprise the project site. The visitors center, public access trail, and bikeway improvements would be direct beneficial effects. Therefore, the proposed project 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. Additionally, by implementing improvements to the bikeway on 2nd Street and opening a visitors center and public access trail to the public, the project would allow for wider enjoyment of its recreational and open space amenities and, thereby, expand and enhance recreational opportunities available within the project vicinity. This would be a direct beneficial effect.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

Significance Determination: Less than Significant.

Impact RE-2: The project would include recreational facilities but would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. (Less than Significant)

Currently, there are no existing recreational facilities located on the project site. The proposed project would both construct and enhance recreational facilities on site; the project would convert the existing Bixby Ranch Field Office building to a visitors center. The proposed project would also create the Studebaker Trail—a publicly accessible trail beginning at the visitors site that includes an overlook terrace with picnic facilities that would enable visitors able to walk through what are now inaccessible areas on site and gain better views of the on-site wetland habitat. The project is also proposing Class II bikeway improvements along the frontages of the four individual sites that comprise the project site along Studebaker, 2nd Street/Westminster, and PCH, as well as constructing new sidewalk improvements along the street frontages of the four individual sites. The
construction and enhancement of recreational facilities are considered part of the proposed project; therefore, construction and enhancement of these facilities are described and analyzed with the rest of the proposed project components throughout Chapter 3, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures, in Sections 3.1 through 3.16 of this EIR. As described throughout this EIR, the visitors center, public access trail, and associated parking lot would be constructed in areas with the least potential to disturb native habitat and any potentially significant impacts associated with the visitors center, public access trail, and upgraded bikeway would be mitigated to the maximum extent possible. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

The project includes the construction of a new pedestrian perimeter trail along the Studebaker edge of the Synergy Oil Field site, the relocation of the Bixby Office building and renovation of the building for use as a visitors center and wetlands restoration on the northern portion of the Synergy Oil Field site. The impacts of wetlands restoration and trail construction have been analyzed in other sections of the EIR, including air quality, traffic, and noise. The impacts of renovating the existing Bixby Ranch Field Office building has been analyzed in Section 3.4, Cultural Resources, due to its potential historical significance. None of the impacts of the construction work associated with the open space and habitat restoration and construction of these recreational/public access amenities was considered a significant, unavoidable impact, and would, once constructed and operational, provide a beneficial impact with respect to increased recreational opportunities in the City.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

Significance Determination: Less than Significant.

### 3.14.4.4 Cumulative Impacts

The geographic context for the analysis of recreation impacts is the SEADIP area, as this represents the largest areas within which the proposed project’s direct and indirect impacts could manifest. The LBPRM Department maintains and operates the parks and recreational programs and services within the SEADIP area, as well as throughout the City. The analysis considers the ongoing impacts of past projects and impacts that would result from the existing and reasonably foreseeable future projects identified in Chapter 2, Project Description, Table 3-1, List of Cumulative Projects. Given the 17 projects located within a 3-mile radius of the proposed project, those within the SEADIP area are considered in this cumulative analysis. These related projects include, but are not limited to, industrial, infrastructure, residential, and commercial projects.

While the oil consolidation and restoration activities that would occur at the project site would not result in permanent residential and employment growth that could increase the amount of recreational users at the project site, it would provide a visitors center and public access to the southern portion of the Synergy Oil Field site, which is inaccessible under existing conditions. The proposed project would also construct improvements along the street frontages of the four individual sites (Studebaker, PCH, 2nd Street/Westminster) to provide a continuous Class II bikeway and 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 project area would likely increase. Restoration of the wetland habitat proposed as part of the project could also attract more marine recreation users, including kayakers in Steamshovel Slough; 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 project’s long-term recreational benefits, there would be no significant adverse impact to recreation.
There are a number of present and foreseeable future projects 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 project vicinity. There are 16 related projects within the geographic scope of this cumulative impacts assessment that could contribute to a cumulative impact to recreation. The development of these projects could result in an increase in recreational opportunities in the area. These new and improved facilities, in combination with the less-than-significant impacts of the proposed project would have a less-than-significant cumulative impact.

3.14.5 References


