

## 4.14 RECREATION

This section discusses the existing recreation setting and assesses the Project's potential impacts related to recreation that could result from the construction and operation of the Project.

### 4.14.1 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

#### MND for the Pacific Place Project

The Recreation analysis for the MND for the Prior Project approved by the City in 2021, determined that implementation of the Prior Project would have no impacts related to recreation and no mitigation measures were required.

The MND explained that the Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) operates, maintains, and provides recreation services to 170<sup>1</sup> parks in the City of Long Beach. The MND determined that no existing parks were within one mile by road of the Project Site due to nearby roadway configurations, with the Los Cerritos Park located 1.2 miles by road from the Project Site, and the Baker Street Park located 1.1 miles by road from the Project Site.

The MND explained that demand for parks are generated by the residential populations in the parks' service areas, and the Prior Project did not involve the development of housing and would not add population to the Project Site. Therefore, the MND determined that the implementation of the Prior Project would not generate demand for parks or recreational facilities, thereby neither increasing the use of existing parks or recreational facilities, nor requiring the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The MND found that the Prior Project would have no impacts related to these thresholds and no mitigation measures were required.

#### ***MND Mitigation Measures***

The MND did not require any mitigation measures for impacts related to recreation associated with implementation of the Prior Project because there would be no impact.

### 4.14.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### **A. Existing Conditions**

The following analysis is derived from the following sources:

- City of Long Beach Open Space and Recreation Element. 2002. Long Beach, CA: City of. (City of Long Beach 2002).
- City of Long Beach Urban Design Element. 2019. Long Beach, CA: City of. (City of Long Beach 2019).
- City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM). 2024 (April 16, last accessed). *About the Department*. Long Beach, CA: PRM. (Long Beach PRM 2024).
- City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) Strategic Plan 2022-2032. 2022 (January). Long Beach, CA: PRM. (Long Beach PRM 2022).
- City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) RiverLink Plan. 2007 (February). Long Beach, CA: PRM. (Long Beach PRM 2007).

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<sup>1</sup> The current number of parks maintained and operated by Long Beach PRM has since been updated to 167 as of April 2024 (Long Beach PRM 2024)

The Project Site is located at the north ends of Pacific Place and Ambeco Road immediately north of the Interstate 405 Freeway (I-405); Ambeco Road is a cul-de-sac connecting to Pacific Place near the north end of the latter roadway, in the City of Long Beach, California. The Project Site consists of approximately 14.20 acres and is currently undeveloped. The nearest parks to the Project Site are the Baker Street Park located at 643 Baker Street (1.1 miles by road from the Project Site) and the Los Cerritos Park located at 3750 Del Mar Avenue (1.2 miles by road from the Project Site). The City's recreational facilities below characterize the environmental setting of the Project area based on the conditions at the time the baseline was established for the Project, as detailed in Section 2.0, Introduction.

### **Local Park Facilities**

At the time the baseline was established for the Project, as detailed in Section 2.0, Introduction, the City's PRM maintained a total of 170 parks. However, this figure has since been updated to 167 parks, as detailed below. (Long Beach PRM 2022). The local park types recognized in the General Plan are as follows:

- **Community Park.** Averaging 35 acres in size and serving neighborhoods within one mile, community parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks, focusing on community recreation including sport fields, and preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks permit all of the uses allowed in neighborhood parks plus swimming pools. Building coverage in community parks is limited to ten percent of the total park area (City of Long Beach 2002).
  - **Greenway Park.** A largely undeveloped green space, often a remnant or odd shaped piece of land left over from development, which can be used for casual recreation uses. Greenways can serve to connect or link recreation opportunities throughout a community. Building coverage in greenway parks is limited to one percent of the total park area (City of Long Beach 2002).
  - **Interim Park.** A temporary park subject to conversion to another use. Interim parks must be approved by the City Council (City of Long Beach 2002).
  - **Mini Park.** A small park serving neighbors within 1/8 mile, generally less than two acres in size, it may include: landscaping, irrigation, walking paths, seating areas and picnic tables, sand boxes/tot lots, playground equipment, play court, sculpture/art, drinking fountains and trash receptacles. Building coverage in mini parks is limited to one percent of total park area (City of Long Beach 2002).
  - **Neighborhood Park.** Averaging eight acres in size and serving neighbors within ¼ mile (high density areas) and ½ mile (low density areas), a neighborhood park permits all of the uses allowed in mini parks plus: restroom buildings, recreation fields, courts and rinks, water features, libraries, day care centers, community centers, and parking and drive aisles. Building coverage in neighborhood parks is limited to seven percent of total park area (City of Long Beach 2002).
- Special Use Park.** A special use park provides unique cultural heritage and/or educational features which attract a broad audience from near and far. Examples of special use parks in Long Beach are the Long Beach Museum of Art, the nature centers, aquarium and marine biological reserves. Significant development features of special use parks are to be determined on a case-by-case basis with community input and approved by the City Council (City of Long Beach 2002).

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## **Local Recreation Facilities**

The City's local recreation facilities encompass parks, community centers, golf courses, bike and equestrian trails, numerous special use recreation resources, and coastal amenities. The City's PRM operates and maintains 27 community centers, all of which offer a variety of recreational and educational classes and programs for community members of all ages. Included within the 3,125 acres developed for recreation are 89 playgrounds, 11 dog parks, 9 skateparks, 9 lakes, 180 sports courts, 101 athletic fields, 3 swimming pool facilities, 8 fitness zones, 2 historic ranchos, 2 major tennis centers, 5 golf courses, and 6 miles of beaches (Long Beach PRM 2024).

The City contains a segment of equestrian trail on Los Angeles County Flood Control District property adjacent to the Los Angeles River. According to the Open Space and Recreation Element of the City's General Plan, these trails were being studied for various open space enhancements under the Los Angeles River Master Plan (City of Long Beach 2002). At the time the City's PRM Strategic Plan was adopted, the City had approximately 64 miles of bikeways, half of those being separated from roadway traffic (Long Beach PRM 2022).

## **B. Regulatory Framework**

### **Federal**

No applicable regulatory requirements.

### **State**

#### ***Quimby Act of 1965***

California allows a City or County to pass an ordinance that requires, as a condition of approval of a subdivision, either the dedication of land, the payment of a fee in lieu of dedication, or a combination of both for park and recreational purposes (Section 66477 of the *California Government Code*). This legislation, commonly called the "Quimby Act," establishes a standard of three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for new subdivision development unless the municipality has already established a higher rate, unless the amount of existing neighborhood and community park area exceeds that limit, in which case the city may adopt a higher standard not to exceed 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The Quimby Act also specifies acceptable uses and expenditures of such funds.

#### ***California Public Park Preservation Act of 1971***

The primary instrument for protecting and preserving parkland is California's Public Park Preservation Act of 1971 (Public Resources Code [PRC], §§ 5400–5409). Under this PRC, cities and counties may not acquire any real property that is in use as a public park for any nonpark use unless compensation, land, or both are provided to replace the parkland acquired. This provides no net loss of parkland and facilities.

### **Local**

#### ***City of Long Beach General Plan***

The City of Long Beach General Plan is a policy document that establishes the goals, policies, and directions the City will take to achieve the vision of the community and guide the future development of the City. The City of Long Beach General Plan contains twelve elements including Air Quality, Conservation, Historic Preservation, Housing, Land Use, Local Coastal Program,

Transportation (known as the Mobility Element), Noise, Open Space and Recreation, Public Safety, Seismic Safety, and Urban Design. This section focuses on the Open Space and Recreation and Urban Design Elements; However, Project consistency with all elements of the City's General Plan is further analyzed in Section 4.10, Land Use and Planning.

### Open Space and Recreation Element

The City's Open Space and Recreation Element was adopted by the City Council on October 15, 2002. Pursuant to California Government Code, four topical areas are required to be covered by Open Space Elements: open space for the preservation of natural resources, open space for the managed production of resources, open space for public health and safety, and open space for outdoor recreation (City of Long Beach 2002). Additionally, the Open Space and Recreation Element identifies that the City's Land Use, Conservation, Seismic Safety and Public Safety elements contain additional policies related to open space and recreation issues and plans. Policies of the Open Space and Recreation Element that are relevant to the Project, as well as a Project consistency analysis, are provided in Section 4.10, Land Use and Planning.

### Urban Design Element

The Urban Design Element was adopted in December 2019. This Urban Design Element seeks to aid and shape the continued evolution of the urban environment within Long Beach, while at the same time leveraging the unique relationship of the City to its natural environment. It is concerned with both the preservation of existing neighborhoods that define its unique character and building upon them to allow for continued adaptation and improvement of the built environment (City of Long Beach 2019). The four main goals of the Element include Creating Great Places; Urban Fabric; Public Spaces; and Edges, Thoroughfares, and Corridors. The goals and policies of the Urban Design Element that are relevant to the Project, as well as a project consistency analysis, are discussed in Section 4.10, Land Use and Planning.

### ***The City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) Strategic Plan for 2022-2032***

The City's PRM Strategic Plan for 2022-2032 was adopted in January 2022 after the Project's baseline was established, as detailed in Section 2.0, Introduction, as an updated guide for the City's PRM to appropriately prioritize work, organize staff, and manage budgets<sup>2</sup>. This document includes community-driven goals, outcomes, and action items that address the wants and needs of the community, as well as challenges related to community recreation. According to the PRM Strategic Plan, the City of Long Beach maintains 167 total parks, including 22 neighborhood parks, 20 greenway parks, 62 mini parks, 15 community parks, two rancho historic sites, 54 special use parks, and El Dorado Regional Park. The following goals governing recreation are relevant to the Project in the context of the public access easement proposed as part of the Project and the employment opportunities created by the Project:

- Goal 1: Provide Safe, Accessible Public Spaces
- Goal 6: Establish an Environmentally Sustainable Park Ecosystem
- Goal 7: Ensure a Diverse and Dynamic Workforce (Long Beach PRM 2022)

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<sup>2</sup> While the baseline for the Project is as described in section 2.0, the 2022-2032 PRM Strategy is included within this analysis and discussion to give context of the City's most recent information regarding recreation.

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## **RiverLink**

The RiverLink Plan (Long Beach PRM 2007) was developed over the course of four years, between 2003 and 2007. On February 15, 2007, the City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission approved the RiverLink Plan. The RiverLink Plan was initiated by the PRM Department in collaboration with the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project and a team of graduate students from Cal Poly Pomona. The RiverLink Plan, which seeks to manage a study of the opportunities to create a continuous greenway along the east bank of the LA River, assesses open space needs of the City and envisions possibilities for connecting west side neighborhoods and greater Long Beach with the LA River greenway. The RiverLink Plan identifies four components of RiverLink: destinations, gateways, pathways, and connections. Destinations are places where accessible open space or habitat restorations are located; Gateways are markers that indicate the entry into the native LA River habitat zone; Pathways are bicycle and pedestrian trails that facilitate movement in and around the neighborhoods to the river; Connections are links that provide access to the pathways or the destinations. The RiverLink Plan states that, "It is important to note that RiverLink is a conceptual plan. The large majority of the Destinations, Gateways, Pathways, and Connections presented are simply ideas to be discussed and pursued." (Long Beach PRM 2007)

Destination Six within the RiverLink Plan, Wrigley Heights – North, includes a small portion of the northwest corner of the Project Site. The RiverLink Plan describes Destination Six as containing two main parcels that are part of the Los Angeles River flood control right-of-way and a privately owned site used as a driving range. The RiverLink Plan contemplates retaining the private driving range (which is how the Project Site was developed and used at the time) and improving the LA River LACFCD property and northwest corner of the Project Site as a riparian woodland (Long Beach PRM 2007). The Project proposes a new public access easement along the southern boundary of the Project Site to the LA River if and when the neighboring LACFCD property is developed in the future as open space and/or recreation areas. The Project does not propose any improvements within this easement area, and any future improvements would be subject to separate evaluation pursuant to CEQA.

### **4.14.3 PROJECT IMPACTS**

#### **A. Thresholds of Significance**

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project would result in a significant recreation impact if it would:

**Threshold 4.14a** *Would the project 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?*

**Threshold 4.14b** *Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

#### **B. Methodology**

Recreation impacts were assessed using available plans and data for parks and recreation in the City of Long Beach. The anticipated change in demand for existing parks and recreational facilities was compared to the availability of existing recreational resources to determine if additional resources would be required to serve the Project. The analysis focuses on the potential need for new or physically altered facilities that could create a significant environmental impact.

The information related to parks and recreation is derived from the City of Long Beach General Plan Open Space and Recreation and Urban Design Elements (City of Long Beach 2002 and 2019); the Long Beach PRM Strategic Plan (Long Beach PRM 2022); the City's PRM department website (Long Beach PRM 2024); and the Long Beach PRM RiverLink Plan (Long Beach PRM 2007).

### **C. Standard Requirements**

No standard requirements for this resource topic apply to the Project.

### **D. Impact Analysis**

#### **Threshold 4.14a      *Would the project 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?***

Increases in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities typically occur due to an increase in residential population. The proposed Project would not involve any residential components that would cause population growth within the City. The Project would construct a self-storage and RV facility generating approximately 10 jobs related to the operation of the Project. It is expected that future employment positions at the Project Site would be filled by the local population and would not induce population growth or the need for additional housing; therefore, because the Project would not result in increased population in the City, the Project would not create a new demand for neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Even if the approximately 10 jobs created by the Project would be filled by the non-local population, that minor increase in employees and associated potential minor increase in future residents would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. Therefore, the Project would not result in impacts related to increased use of existing parks or recreational facilities.

#### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures are required.

#### **Level of Significance After Mitigation**

Use of Existing Parks or Recreational Facilities: No impact would occur and therefore no mitigation is required.

***Impact Comparison Summary:*** The Project would result in no impacts pursuant to this threshold. This conclusion is consistent with the impact conclusion in the MND, which identified no impact pursuant to this threshold.

#### **Threshold 4.14b      *Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?***

Increases in the use of existing recreational facilities typically occur due to an increase in residential population. As discussed previously, the proposed Project involves the construction and operation of a self-storage and RV facility and, for the reasons set forth above, would not result in the need for new or expanded recreational facilities. As an element of the Project, an easement would be set aside to provide public access along the southern boundary of the Project Site to the LA River if and when the neighboring LACFCD property is developed in the future as

open space and/or recreation areas. The Project does not propose any improvements within this easement area, and any future improvements would be subject to separate evaluation pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, no impacts related to this threshold would occur.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures are required.

### **Level of Significance After Mitigation**

Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities: No impact would occur and therefore no mitigation is required.

***Impact Comparison Summary:*** The Project would result in no impacts pursuant to this threshold. This conclusion is consistent with the impact conclusion in the MND, which identified no impact pursuant to this threshold.

#### **4.14.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

As explained above, construction and operation of the Project would not result in any impacts to the City's parks or recreational facilities. Projects considered in the cumulative impact analysis consist of six projects within the City of Long Beach. These projects are described in more detail in Table 4-1, Cumulative Projects List, which is provided in Section 4.0, Impact Analysis. Future residential development in the City is expected to increase demand for parks and recreational facilities and would contribute to the potential need for additional or expanded parks and/or recreational facilities to meet the increased demand. However, each future project requiring a discretionary action within the City would be evaluated individually, and project-specific mitigation measures would be proposed as needed. Therefore, the proposed Project's contribution to recreation impacts (no impact) would not be cumulatively considerable.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures are required.

### **Level of Significance After Mitigation**

Cumulative Impacts: The Project's contribution of cumulative impacts related to recreation would not be cumulatively considerable and therefore would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact; therefore, no mitigation is required.

#### 4.14.5 REFERENCES

California's Public Park Preservation Act. California PRC §§ 5400-5409. Accessed 2024. <https://law.justia.com/codes/california/2021/code-prc/division-5/chapter-2-5/section-5400>.

Long Beach, City of. 2019 (adopted December 3). *City of Long Beach General Plan – Urban Design Element*. Long Beach, CA: City of. <https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbcd/media-library/documents/planning/advance/lueude/urban-design-element-final-adopted-december-2019>.

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———. 2022 (January). *Strategic Plan for 2022-2032*. City of Long Beach, CA: PRM. <https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/park/media-library/documents/business-operations/about/strategic-business-plan/final-prm-strategic-plan-01>.

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Quimby Act of 1965. California GOV § 66477. Accessed 2024. <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/government-code/gov-sect-66477/>.