



18.0 PUBLIC SERVICES

18.1 Regulatory Setting

PWP Volume 1 Chapter 4, “Consistency with Local Coastal Plans and the Coastal Act” includes a discussion of federal, state, and regional and local plans, policies, regulations, and laws, along with PWP consistency, related to coastal plans and the Coastal Act that are applicable to public services.

Additional regulations related to fire suppression and safety are provided below and in Chapter 23, “Wildfire.”

18.1.1 California Occupational Safety and Health Administration

In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 8 Sections 1270 “Fire Prevention” and 6773 “Fire Protection and Fire Equipment,” the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has established minimum standards for fire suppression and emergency medical services. The standards include, but are not limited to, guidelines on the handling of highly combustible materials; fire hose sizing requirements; restrictions on the use of compressed air; access roads; and the testing, maintenance, and use of all firefighting equipment.

18.1.2 California Fire Code

The California Fire Code contains regulations relating to construction, maintenance, and use of buildings. Topics addressed in the code include fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and use, provisions intended to protect and assist fire responders, industrial processes, and many other general and specialized fire safety requirements for new and existing buildings and the surrounding premises. The California Fire Code contains specialized technical regulations related to fire and life safety.

18.2 Environmental Setting

San Luis Obispo County Fire Department Mesa Station 22, located at 2391 Willow Road in Arroyo Grande, provides first response for emergencies at the Oceano Dunes SVRA.¹ Staffing at Mesa Station 22 includes one fire captain and one fire apparatus engineer. One, or both firefighters assigned to Medic Engine 22 is a licensed paramedic. Medic Engine 22 is supplemented by a 25-member paid call firefighter company (San Luis Obispo County Fire Department 2020a). Station 22 has a four-wheel-drive vehicle that can handle the sand and hills of the dunes (San Luis Obispo County 2020). Station 22 responded to 1,216 calls for service in 2019, of which 260 calls were to the Oceano Dunes SVRA (San Luis Obispo County Fire Department 2020b). The average response time for all calls in 2019 was 13.2 minutes (San Luis Obispo County 2020).

San Luis Ambulance provides contracted ambulance service for San Luis Obispo County. San Luis Ambulance maintains two four-wheel-drive ambulances capable of handling the sandy terrain common to the dunes (San Luis Obispo County 2020). Response times for ambulance service in

¹ The San Luis Obispo County Fire Department is staffed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through a contract with San Luis Obispo County.



2019 to the SVRA were 22.5 minutes on average (San Luis Obispo County 2020). In 2019, San Luis Ambulance responded to 26,164 calls, with 17,529 calls resulting in patient transport to local hospitals (San Luis Obispo County 2020). Of those calls, 265 were to the Park and 147 of those calls required patient transport (San Luis Obispo County 2020).

Public safety in the PWP planning area is provided by State Park rangers. Rangers patrol the PWP planning area, issuing citations, writing reports, making physical arrests, conducting investigations, taking command in emergencies, performing search and rescue activities, and providing emergency medical aid. Patrols are conducted mainly via vehicles, such as pick-up trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and recreational off-road vehicles. Past emergencies have included water rescues, boat stranding, and public safety issues such as OHV accidents, trespassing in sensitive areas, and requests for assistance from adjacent property owners or managers.

The San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office assist Park rangers with felony investigations or emergencies that require outside attention. The South County Patrol Division covers an area of approximately 850 square miles that stretches from Pismo Beach to the Santa Barbara County line (San Luis Obispo Sheriff 2020). The South County Patrol Division responded to more than 23,000 calls for service in 2019. The majority of these calls were for non-violent crimes, such as property theft (San Luis Obispo Sheriff 2020). In 2019, there were 14 calls requiring San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office assistance at the Park (San Luis Obispo County 2020).

18.3 Project Impacts

Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, implementation of the PWP would result in a potentially significant impact related to public services if it would:

- a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

Police protection?

Schools?

Parks?

Other public facilities?

18.3.1 Issues Not Discussed Further in This EIR

Increased Demand for Schools, Parks, or Other Public Facilities —New residential units proposed as part of the Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project would be occupied by existing State Parks staff. Therefore, PWP implementation would not result in new housing that generates an increase in population or increases the demand for school services, parks, and other public facilities. No impact related to schools, parks, or



other public facilities would occur, and this issue is not discussed further in this draft environmental impact report.

18.3.2 Impacts and Mitigation

18.3.2.1 Impacts from PWP Implementation

There are no new operations or maintenance activities associated with PWP implementation that could result in new housing that would increase the local population, necessitating the construction or expansion of existing public service facilities, including fire and police protection facilities, schools, or parks. Therefore, PWP implementation would have **no impact** on public services. Impacts from PWP Proposed Development Projects and Small Development Projects

Impact 18-1 Increased Demand for Fire Protection Services

The following site-specific improvement projects would not include any new structures that increase the demand for fire protection services, and **no impact** would occur:

- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project

New structures constructed as part of the following site-specific improvement projects would be required to incorporate California Fire Code requirements and OSHA fire suppression standards to reduce the risk of fires. Therefore, implementation of the following site-specific improvement projects would not substantially increase the demand for fire protection services, and **no impact** would occur:

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project (new visitor services center, storage sheds, and one-story resource office)
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Pier Avenue Lifeguard Tower Project (new entrance stations)
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvement Project (new kiosk)
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project (new restroom and kiosk)

Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project

The Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Improvement Project provide new recreational opportunities in currently inaccessible areas of the Oceano Dunes SVRA. With construction of the Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project, a larger area would be available in which visitors could recreate, thereby increasing the potential for accidental fires and the need for fire suppression. Both projects propose RV, tent, and cabin camping and the Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project proposes a multi-use event space and multiple OHV trails. State Parks would design the Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project interior circulation networks according to local and State standards to provide for emergency access and all new facilities would be accessible using standard fire equipment. Any new structures constructed as part of these site-specific improvement projects (e.g., residences, office space, kiosks, ranger stations, and concession buildings) would be required to incorporate California Fire Code requirements, as summarized in Section 18.1, “Regulatory Setting.” As discussed



in Chapter 23, “Wildfire,” State Parks would comply with California Public Resources Code fire safety regulations and park visitors would be subject to regulations for lighting, building, and use of campfires. Incorporation of California Fire Code requirements, OSHA fire suppression and emergency medical services standards, and compliance with California Public Resources Code fire safety regulations would reduce the dependence on San Luis Obispo County Fire Department equipment and personnel by reducing fire hazards. Therefore, the demand for fire protection would not substantially increase and implementation of the Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project would not require the construction of new or expansion of existing fire service facilities. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

Small Development Projects

The following small development projects do not include development of new facilities that could increase the demand for fire protection services, and **no impact** would occur:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation
- 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation
- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement
- Safety and Education Center Replacement

Impact 18-2 Increased Demand for Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

The following site-specific improvement projects would not increase visitation or include development of new facilities that could increase the demand for law enforcement and emergency medical services, and **no impact** would occur:

- Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project
- Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project
- Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Pier Avenue Lifeguard Tower Project
- North Beach Campground Facility Improvement Project
- Butterfly Grove Public Access Project
- Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project

Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project

The Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Improvement Project provides new recreational opportunities in currently inaccessible areas of the Oceano Dunes SVRA. With construction of the Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project, a larger area would be available in which visitors could recreate. Both projects propose RV, tent, and cabin camping and the Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project proposes a multi-use event space and multiple OHV trails. With increased use of previously inaccessible areas of the Oceano Dunes SRVA, there could be an increased need for ranger and park aide patrols and emergency services.



Proposed PWP programs include enhancing enforcement, enhancing staff and volunteer patrol programs, and installing additional signage to assist with management of vehicular use and restrictions. Rangers and park aide patrols would continue to patrol the Oceano Dunes SVRA and would continue to be supported by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department South County Patrol Division and San Luis Ambulance should an emergency require outside attention. As stated above, the South County Patrol Division responded to more than 23,000 calls for service in 2019 with 14 of those calls for services requiring response at the Park. San Luis Ambulance maintains two four-wheel-drive ambulances capable of handling the sandy terrain common to the dunes, and in 2019, San Luis Ambulance responded to 265 calls to the Park and 147 of those calls required patient transport to local hospitals. Therefore, implementation of the Oso Flaco Improvement Project and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project would not result in the construction of new or expansion of existing law enforcement facilities. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

Small Development Projects

The following small development projects do not include development of new facilities that could increase the demand for law enforcement and emergency medical services, and **no impact** would occur:

- Pismo Creek Estuary Seasonal (Floating) Bridge Installation
- Replace of the Safety and Education Center
- Oso Flaco Boardwalk Replacement

The 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation would provide more recreational opportunities for beginner to intermediate OHV riders. The 40 Acres site is currently closed to motorized recreation. These new trails would increase the area where visitors could recreate in Oceano Dunes SVRA, potentially resulting in an increased demand for security and emergency response. However, future development of riding trails is anticipated to be focused on community- and family-oriented OHV uses. The family-focused atmosphere and focus on novice and intermediate riding conditions at the SVRA would help to minimize the risk of potential emergency and security situations (e.g., high-risk challenges or high-speed collisions). Therefore, implementation of the 40 Acre Riding Trail Installation would not result in the construction of new or expansion of existing law enforcement facilities. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

18.4 Cumulative Effects

Public service providers are responsible for ensuring adequate provision of public services within their service boundaries. Future development within each service providers boundaries would be required to assess impacts related to public services during the environmental review process to ensure that there are sufficient facilities and equipment to meet demand.

San Luis Obispo County Fire Department Mesa Station 22, located at 2391 Willow Road in Arroyo Grande, provides first response for emergencies for the communities of Arroyo Grande and the southern area of the Five Cities as well as the Oceano



Dunes SVRA (San Luis Obispo County Fire Department 2020a). Station 22 has seen an increase in calls for service, particularly since development of the Nipomo Mesa Woodlands Development (San Luis Obispo County Fire Department 2020a). Currently, the San Luis Obispo County Fire Department has sufficient facilities and equipment to meet demand for existing and future development. Station 22 responded to 1,216 calls for service in 2019, of which 260 calls were to the Oceano Dunes SVRA.

As discussed in Impact 18-1, incorporation of California Fire Code requirements, OSHA fire suppression and emergency medical services standards, and compliance with California Public Resources Code fire safety regulations would reduce the dependence on San Luis Obispo County Fire Department equipment and personnel by reducing fire hazards. The demand for fire protection would not substantially increase and the PWP would not require the construction of new or expansion of existing fire service facilities. Therefore, impacts related to increased demand for fire protection services from implementation of the PWP and the other projects considered in this cumulative analysis would be cumulatively **less than significant**.

As discussed in Impact 18-2, law enforcement and emergency services are provided by State Parks Rangers with occasional support from San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office. State Parks Rangers would continue to provide law enforcement and emergency services to meet any additional demands from the PWP. Proposed PWP programs include enhancing enforcement, enhancing staff and volunteer patrol programs, and installing additional signage to assist with management of vehicular use and restrictions. Therefore, impacts related to increased demand for law enforcement and emergency services from implementation of the PWP and the other projects considered in this cumulative analysis would be cumulatively **less than significant**.

