

4.11 RECREATION

This section analyzes the potential recreation impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed Belmont Pool Revitalization Project (proposed Project). This section also addresses the proposed impacts to recreation resources with consideration of local, State, and California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission) policies; and provides recommended mitigation measures pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) where applicable. The analysis in this section is based on the Open Space and Recreation Element of the City of Long Beach (City) General Plan and the Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine Departmental Strategic Plan. These documents are available for review at the City of Long Beach Department of Development Services.

Scoping Process

The City of Long Beach distributed the first Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) from April 18 to May 17, 2013. The City received three comment letters in response to the original NOP. No comments related to recreation were received in response to the original NOP circulated for the proposed Project. Due to revisions in the Project Description, the City re-issued the NOP for the EIR between April 9, 2014, and May 8, 2014. The City received five comment letters in response to the re-issued NOP during the public review period, including a written comment from Lucy Johnson, community member and organizer of the Facebook page, “Rebuild Belmont Plaza Pool.” Ms. Johnson’s letter, dated April 15, 2014, recommended that the pool design be consistent with the recreational needs of the Long Beach community and swimming industry at large. In response, the City has engaged the local swimming community stakeholders, including Ms. Johnson, during several meetings to address the desires of the public while balancing the requirements and limitations of the City.

4.11.1 Methodology

The analysis in this section addresses issues relating to recreational facilities and the provision of recreational opportunities and services that may be affected by the proposed Project. Impacts to recreational facilities in and around the Project site were determined by comparing goals and policies as adopted in the California Coastal Act (Coastal Act), the City’s General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element, and the City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine Strategic Plan with the proposed Project’s recreational improvements.

4.11.2 Existing Environmental Setting

The Existing Project Site. The Project site is on a City-owned 5.6-acre beach-front parcel, located in Belmont Shore Beach Park in southeast Long Beach. The Project site was the home of the former Belmont Pool. The Belmont Pool was once a state-of-the-art facility that served as an important recreational and competitive venue for the State, City, and region, but it has severely degraded over time. The former indoor pool was closed to the public on January 13, 2013, as a result of substandard seismic and structural conditions and was demolished because of an imminent threat to public safety. The demolition of the structure was conducted under an emergency permit and this Draft EIR does not include analysis of the demolition of the former Belmont Pool structure.

The former Belmont Pool was comprised of an enclosed swimming pool, two outdoor pools (swimming and wading), restaurant, banquet hall, locker room area, and a passive park on the north side of the Project site. The previous pool building had 45,595 square feet (sf) of space and was approximately 60 feet (ft) in height. The three pools provided a total of 18,410 sf of water surface area and featured glass panel walls and sliding doors that could open the indoor pool area to the open air if desired. The northern portion of the Project site contained open space and green space areas totaling 118,790 sf and 45,160 sf, respectively.

Currently, the Project site includes the passive park and the two outdoor pools, which remain open to the public. In order to provide adequate aquatic services during the planning and construction of the proposed Project, the City approved the installation of a temporary outdoor pool. The temporary outdoor pool is located immediately east of the Project site in the western portion of the Beach Parking Lot. The temporary pool was installed and opened on December 19, 2013, and is expected to remain open until the proposed Project would begin operations. The removal of the former Belmont Pool building occurred in February 2015, and only the foundation of the structure remains. A layer of backfilled sand was placed over the site of the former building at the request of the Coastal Commission. The foundation is inaccessible by the public until the proposed Project construction begins.

The visitors can access the Project site via walking, bicycling, public transportation, or car. Vehicular access to the Project site is via Termino Avenue or Ocean Boulevard. Pedestrian access is via the beach or the passive park on the northern portion of the Project site. Parking is available in either the Pier Parking Lot (to the west side of the pool complex) or the Beach Parking Lot (east side of the complex).

Land Uses in the Project Vicinity. The land uses surrounding the site include the following:

- Belmont Shore neighborhood to the northeast; this neighborhood includes predominantly single-family and multifamily residential uses with some retail/restaurant uses.
- Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier, Belmont Beach, Surf Terrace Apartments, Belmont Shores Condominiums, and the Pier Parking Lot to the northwest.
- City of Long Beach maintenance yard, the temporary outdoor pool, and the Beach Parking Lot are located to the east and southeast. The maintenance yard is used for storage of City maintenance vehicles and equipment.
- Pacific Ocean and beaches are to the south.
- Several businesses are located along the northern side of East Olympic Plaza, including Belmont Shores Children's Center, a vacant commercial building, the former Yankee Doodles restaurant, a dog wash, and Chuck's Coffee Shop. The businesses front onto Ocean Boulevard, but some rear entrances open to East Olympic Plaza.

Overview of Existing Recreational Environment. In addition to the aquatic operations at the Project, the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine own and operate three additional Public Pool facilities:

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Pool** located at 1910 Lemon Avenue. This pool is an indoor year-round facility providing youth and adult recreational open swim, swim lessons, lap swimming, aquatic exercise programs and junior lifeguard training programs.
- **Silverado Park Pool** located at 1540 West 32nd Street. This pool is a year round, indoor 25 - meter pool. This facility provides youth and adult recreational open swim, swim lessons, lap swim, and water exercise classes.
- **Will J. Reid Scout Pool** located at 4747 Daisy Avenue. This pool is a free recreational swimming pool open year-round.

During the summer months, Millikan High School Pool and Jordan High School Pool are utilized to meet public demand for aquatic recreational resources through City/Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) joint use agreements. None of these other pools offer Olympic-sized standard competitive swim/dive/water polo facilities. Also, Long Beach City College contains one pool, and California State University at Long Beach has two pools, adding three additional pools that are available for use by the public.¹

4.11.3 Regulatory Setting

State Regulations and Policies.

California Coastal Act. The Recreation Policies contained in Article 3 of the Coastal Act are intended to provide protection for suitable ocean front land to be used for recreational purposes as well as maintaining upland areas to support coastal recreation uses, where feasible. The policies prioritize water-oriented recreational activities and encourage increased recreational boating use of coastal waters by developing support facilities. The policies also place priority on the use of private lands suitable for visitor-serving commercial recreational facilities designed to enhance public opportunities for coastal recreation over private residential, general industrial, or general commercial development, but not over agriculture or coastal-dependent industries.

Local Regulations and Policies.

City of Long Beach Open Space and Recreation Element. The Long Beach City Council adopted the most recent Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan on October 15, 2002. The Project site is designated Open Space and Parks/Mixed Use in the City's General Plan, and is zoned P-Park and PD-2 (Subarea 1). There are several Goals/Objectives, Policies, and Programs in the Open Space and Recreation Element that are applicable to the proposed Project, as listed below:

- Provide the recreational resources the public wants. (Goals/Objectives 4.4)
- Make all recreation resources environmentally friendly and socially and economically sustainable. (Goals/Objectives 4.5)

¹ City of Long Beach. Pools. Website: <http://www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation/aquatics/pools/default.asp> (accessed January 23, 2015).

- Create additional recreation open space and pursue all appropriate available funding to enhance recreation opportunities. (Open Space and Recreation Element, Policy 4.1)
- Fully maintain public recreation resources. (Goals/Objectives 4.7)
- Provide access to recreation resources for all individuals in the community. (Goals/Objectives 4.11)
- With the help of the community, plan and maintain park facilities at a level acceptable to the constituencies they serve. (Open Space and Recreation Element, Policy 4.6)
- Give special consideration to handicapped and disadvantaged residents in accessing public recreation resources. (Open Space and Recreation Element, Policy 4.13)

City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine Strategic Plan. The City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine developed a Departmental Strategic Plan in February 2003. The Departmental Strategic Plan assessed recreation needs and objectives citywide. There are several strategies in the Plan that apply to the proposed Project, as listed below:

- Improve access to city parks in Long Beach. (Strategy 1.2)
- Focus on improving the level of safety within City Parks and Recreational Facilities. (Strategy 2.1)
- Focus on improving the condition of Department Parks and Recreational Facilities. (Strategy 2.2)
- Establish lifetime use opportunities. Recreation programs and facilities will be designed to develop and serve a lifetime user through active, passive, and educational experiences. (Strategy 3.1)

4.11.4 Impact Significance Criteria

The thresholds for recreation impacts used in this analysis are consistent with Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines*. The proposed Project may be deemed to have a significant impact with respect to recreation if it would:

Threshold 4.11.1: Increase demand on the City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine’s services and facilities beyond its capacity, thereby accelerating or leading to substantial physical deterioration of existing recreation facilities; or

Threshold 4.11.2: Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

The Initial Study (IS)/NOP (Appendix A) prepared for the proposed Project identified no impacts related to how the Project may 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 4.11.1). The IS/NOP stated that the increased capacity of the Belmont Pool

complex as a result of the proposed Project would not result in increased demand at other parks and recreational resources in the City. The Project would not provide any new housing and would not increase the population in the City. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in substantial deterioration of other parks or recreation resources, and this topic will not be further analyzed in the Draft EIR

CEQA Baseline. At the time the NOP was issued, the Project site contained both the Belmont Pool facilities and the outdoor temporary pool (opened in December 2013 to provide swimming facilities while the permanent facility was under construction). Although the site contained the former Belmont Pool building at the time of the NOP, the facility was subsequently demolished in February 2015 to alleviate an imminent public safety threat due to the seismically unsafe condition of the building.

The inclusion of the former building in the assessment of recreation impacts is appropriate because the site has been dedicated as the Belmont Pool Plaza since 1962 when the use of Tidelands funds for the construction of the “Belmont Plaza Beach Center” (now Belmont Plaza) project was approved by the voters after the Long Beach City Council placed the item in the municipal election. Specifically, the former pool was in use for recreational and aquatic purposes for approximately 45 years and the temporary pool allows the site to continue its purpose as a local and regional aquatic facility until the permanent replacement facility is constructed. Substantial evidence supports the determination that inclusion of the former pool facility and its operations as the baseline for recreational impacts is appropriate because it is based on recent historical use and is consistent with City’s land use designations for the Project site.

4.11.5 Project Impacts

Threshold 4.11.2: Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.

The proposed Project includes the construction and operation of an aquatics facility that would replace the former Belmont Pool facility with a new, modern pool complex. The proposed Project includes indoor and outdoor pool components. Permanent indoor spectator seating would be provided for approximately 1,250 people to view competitive events at the 50-Meter Competition Pool and the Dive Pool. Temporary outdoor seating would be provided for larger events at the Outdoor 50-Meter Competition Pool with a maximum seating capacity of up to 3,000 spectators. The proposed Belmont Pool building would also be designed as a landmark structure blending unique components with a goal to showcase the structure as a state-of-the-art facility for competitive swimming. Conceptual Elevations for the proposed structure are presented in Figures 3.7a and 3.7b. Interior cross-sections of the proposed structure are illustrated in Figures 3.7c and 3.7d.

Project components make up the entire structure and include the following:

- **The Plinth:** This element would be the foundation of the entire structure and would include a raised concrete platform at the pool deck and first floor level that is raised 7 ft above the

surrounding beach and existing site. Below the pool deck level, utility spaces would house the pool equipment, water chambers, chemical storage, and other utilities required to operate the aquatic components.

- **The Bubble:** The Bubble would be a translucent cover to serve as the main arena and would house the indoor pools and permanent indoor bleachers. The structure would be an elliptical shaped dome, comprised of a web of structural steel, infilled with ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE) plastic, creating a continuous shell over the competition pool. The proposed Bubble structure would have a maximum height of 71 ft above the adjacent grade.
- **Level 1: The Plinth:** The Plinth would be the foundation of the entire structure, consisting of a concrete platform at the pool decks and support functions for the indoor and outdoor pools, including lockers, offices, supply rooms, storage, stairs, and elevators. This level is raised approximately 7 ft above the surrounding beach and existing site based on the anticipated maximum ocean high-water mark to protect the pools, buildings, and structures from a high-water event. Below the pool deck level, utility spaces would house the pool equipment, water chambers, chemical storage, and other utilities required to operate the aquatic components.
- **Level 1 Mezzanine:** The Level 1 Mezzanine would be located adjacent to the outdoor pool deck and would allow for additional outdoor patio space separate from the Plinth level. The Level 1 Mezzanine can be used by visitors and summer swim programs and includes public toilet facilities and mechanical rooms. The exterior patio space would be 6,000 sf.
- **Level 2:** This level is primarily for visitor spectating and includes access to the indoor bleacher seating, concession area, and toilet facilities. This level would be 14,300 sf, which would include the bleacher seating.
- **Level 2 Mezzanine:** Located at the highest publicly accessible level of the facility, the Level 2 Mezzanine includes indoor and outdoor spaces for flexible programming. This level would be 4,850 sf.
- **Café:** This element would consist of a 1,500 sf building, located at the southwest corner of the Project site and is separate from the Plinth component. The Café would be occupied by an independent tenant and would serve Café food and beverages to the visitors of the pool facility, bicyclists, walkers, and beach-goers. A visitor drop-off location in this area would provide a safe and unobtrusive way for both passenger cars and buses to drop off visitors to the pool complex.

A gathering area adjacent to the Café would include bicycle parking and interactive pedestrian features such as sandboxes, outdoor seating, landscaping, and public art opportunities.
- **Public Restrooms:** A public restroom facility would be provided just east of the Café building and would be approximately 600 sf.

The proposed Bubble structure would include an indoor pool configuration that would provide approximately 18,610 sf of water surface area for recreational, instructional, and competitive uses and would comply with the preferred rules standards for all aquatic sports except Olympic long-course swimming. The pool features within the structure would include the following:

- **Indoor 50-Meter Competition Pool.** A competition-sized pool (25 meters wide and 50 meters in length) with a surface area of approximately 13,220 sf would be usable year-round. This pool would feature a moveable floor to allow for floor depth adjustments ranging from 0 ft, 0 inches, to 8 ft, 0 inches deep. Eight 9 ft, 0-inch-wide lanes would be identified with solid black floor

markers for 50-meter swimming. Twenty-one 7 ft, 6-inch-wide lanes would be provided across the pool. Wall targets and floor markers would be provided per the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) regulations. Race courses would contain buffer lanes at the outside of the racing lanes measuring at least 1 ft, 0 inches. Rope anchors would be provided in the pool for floating lane lines. Two 6 ft wide movable bulkheads would also be provided to divide the pool.

- **Indoor Teaching Pool.** The indoor teaching pool would consist of approximately 820 sf and would vary from a minimum depth of 3–6 ft to a maximum depth of 5 ft and include a large staircase into the pool.
- **Indoor Spa Pool.** The indoor spa pool would be approximately 250 sf and 3 ft deep. The spa would be made of concrete and feature a ceramic tile interior with hydrotherapy jets.
- **Dive Pool.** The indoor dive pool would be approximately 4,205 sf and would range from 16 to 17 ft deep. This pool would feature a dive tower with platforms at 1, 3, 5, 7.5, and 10 meters. Two 3-meter springboards and two 1-meter springboards would be provided on the platform side of the pool. The 10 meter platform is 10 ft wide which supports synchronized diving.
- **Dive Spa Pool.** The indoor dive spa pool would be located adjacent to the Dive Pool and would be approximately 115 sf and 3 ft deep.

The indoor component would also include the following support facilities: men's and women's locker rooms and restroom facilities, storage for equipment and furnishings, spaces for mechanical systems, a lobby/reception area, and staff administrative areas for full-time and temporary staff.

The proposed outdoor pool component would include two separate pools with an approximate total of 17,840 sf of water surface. The outdoor pools are proposed to be located directly adjacent to the indoor pools for utilization of common support facilities in the pool building. The pool features in this component would include the following:

- **Outdoor 50-Meter Competition Pool.** The outdoor competition pool would have a surface area of approximately 14,120 sf, with a minimum depth of 8 ft, 6 inches, and a maximum depth of 10 ft. The Outdoor Competition Pool would have ten 8 ft, 0-inch-wide lanes marked with solid black floor markers for 50-meter swimming, meeting all preferred rules standards for swimming, water polo, and synchronized swimming. Twenty-one 7 ft, 6-inch-wide lanes would be provided across the pool. Wall targets and floor markers would be provided per FINA regulations. Race courses would contain buffer lanes at the outside of the racing lane measuring at least 1 ft, 0 inches. The outdoor competition pool would comply with the preferred rules standards for swimming, water polo, and synchronized swimming. One 6 ft wide movable bulkhead would be provided to divide the pool.
- **Outdoor Recreation Pool.** The outdoor recreation pool would be approximately 3,720 sf with a maximum depth of 4 ft.

The proposed pool facility would provide opportunities for public swimming, as well as training venues for swimming, diving and aquatic sports training, and competitive meets. These activities are very similar to the activities that have occurred over the past 45 years in the former pool complex.

The Proposed project includes approximately 36,450 sf of pool surface area, thereby increasing the surface water area of the 18,410 sf former Belmont Pool by 18,040 sf, which would allow for recreational and competitive activities to occur simultaneously, if necessary. The availability for

simultaneous operations is proposed in an attempt to resolve scheduling conflicts that occurred at the former Belmont Pool facility. The intensity of each individual event would not change, but a larger number of teams would be able to compete more often. The new facility is designed to enable public use during competition to allow for simultaneous pool usage at previously conflicted times of day.

The proposed Project would not alter or impede access to the beaches, and would not increase the population or use of off-site recreational facilities. Because the proposed Project is a recreational facility intended to provide a public recreation benefit, it would not substantially affect any of the existing off-site, adjacent recreational uses or activities such as the surrounding beach area, dog park, and associated pedestrian and bicycle paths surrounding the Project site. These Project components would improve the physical condition of the existing recreational facility. In addition, the proposed Project would increase the value of this recreational resource by making the facility better suited to meet existing aquatic needs and future trends.

Construction (Short-Term) Impacts on Recreational Facilities. The former pool facilities were closed, and were demolished due to seismic safety concerns. Construction activities, including clearing and grading of the remainder of the Project site, construction staging in the adjacent Beach Parking Lot, and construction of the proposed Project facilities would occur in close proximity to the temporary pool. However, it is anticipated that the temporary pool would remain open until completion of the new indoor pool complex in order to accommodate the ongoing pool activities.

The entire Project site would be screened with construction fencing and would be off-limits for the duration of construction. Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to commence in 2017 and be completed within approximately 18 months, subject to available funding. The primary staging area for construction would be in the eastern portion of the Beach Parking Lot (see Figure 3.5, Section 3.0, Project Description). However, a majority of the public parking would remain available during construction. Also, transit service would remain operational during the construction phase.

Beach and Pier access is available to pedestrian/bicycle traffic via Shoreline Beach Bike Path from the west, at 39th Place and East Midway Street. Pedestrian/bicycle and vehicle access is available east of the Project site from Granada Avenue where the east end of the Beach Lot would remain available for public access.

Although access to the Belmont Veteran's Memorial Pier, parking lots, beach areas, and the pedestrian/bicycle path may be subject to disruption during the construction of the proposed Project, Mitigation Measure 4.12.2 (see Section 4.12, Traffic and Circulation) requires that a Construction Traffic Management Plan be implemented to ensure that construction activities do not prevent access to the Belmont Veteran's Memorial Pier, beach access, and nearby pedestrian/bicycle path facilities in the Project vicinity. With implementation of the Construction Traffic Management Plan, construction activities are expected to have less than significant impacts on access to the surrounding off-site recreational facilities.

Therefore, even though construction staging would occur in the Beach Parking Lot, access to recreational activities would not be significantly adversely impacted during the construction phases of the Project because access to recreational uses in the surrounding areas would remain available. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.12.2, short-term construction-related impacts on recreational resources would be less than significant.

Operational (Long-Term) Impacts on Recreational Facilities. The proposed Project would result in construction of new recreation facilities on the site to replace the previous pool facilities. The primary goal of the proposed Project is to develop a state-of-the-art aquatic facility to serve as an important recreational and competitive venue for the City, region, and State. The proposed Project would replace the previous facility with a more modern pool complex that better meets the needs of recreational and competitive swimmers, divers, and recreational pool users.

The proposed Project would redesign the existing passive park and open space areas to be situated along the western and northern portions of the Project site (refer to Figure 3.9). The current passive park and open space areas occupy approximately 118,790 sf and 45,160 sf of the site but would increase to approximately 127,085 sf and 55,745 sf, respectively, as a result of the proposed Project. The passive park and open space areas would be intended for general park uses, similar to the uses at the existing passive park. The passive park and open space areas would also provide for linkages from the beach to East Olympic Plaza area and other surrounding pathways, including the rerouted bicycle and pedestrian path. The modifications to the passive park and open space areas would adapt to the proposed Belmont Pool facilities while maintaining the site's open space and recreational benefits. Therefore, no long-term significant recreational impacts related to the operation of the proposed Project are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.

California Coastal Act Policies. Several provisions of the Coastal Act pertain to recreational facilities in the Coastal Zone. As discussed in Section 4.9, Land Use, the proposed Project must be approved as part of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) issued by the Coastal Commission prior to Project construction. An application for a CDP will be submitted following certification of the EIR and approval of the proposed Project by the City. Each applicable Coastal Act policy, and its consistency with the proposed Project, is outlined in Table 4.9.A in Section 4.9, Land Use. As stated in the analysis for the Project's consistency with Coastal Act recreational policies in Section 4.9 of this Draft EIR, renovation of the pool complex shows a commitment by the City to the long-term use of this area as an aquatics recreational facility. A brief discussion is included here as it relates specifically to recreational policies.

Coastal Act Article 1 contains general policies and is not applicable to a recreation discussion. Similarly, Article 4 (Marine Resources), Article 5 (Land Resources), Article 6 (Development), and Article 7 (Industrial Development) are not applicable to the recreational component of the proposed Project.

The following sections of the Coastal Act pertain to recreational facilities and are applicable to the proposed Project:

Coastal Act Article 2, Public Access

- In carrying out the requirement of Section 4 of Article 2 of the California Constitution, maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people consistent with public safety needs, and the need to protect public rights, rights of private property owners, and natural resource areas from overuse. (Coastal Act Section 30210)
- Wherever appropriate and feasible, public facilities, including parking areas or facilities, shall be distributed throughout an area so as to mitigate against the impacts, social and otherwise, of overcrowding or overuse by the public of any single area. (Coastal Act Section 30212.5)

- Lower cost visitor and recreational facilities shall be protected, encouraged, and, where feasible, provided. Developments providing public recreational opportunities are preferred. (Coastal Act Section 30213)

The remaining policies contained in Article 2 address new development, distribution of development, and implementation of public access policies, and are not applicable to the discussion of the proposed Project's potential recreational impacts.

Coastal Act Article 3, Recreation

- Oceanfront land suitable for recreational use shall be protected for recreational use and development unless present and foreseeable future demand for public or commercial recreational activities that could be accommodated on the property is already adequately provided for in the area. (Coastal Act Section 30221)

The remaining policies contained in Article 3 address new development, coastal aquaculture, and upland areas, and are not applicable to the discussion of the proposed Project's potential recreational impacts.

As discussed in detail in Section 4.9, Land Use, the proposed Project is consistent with the above Coastal Act sections regarding recreation resources. The proposed Project elements that further ensure compatibility with Coastal Act policies include the following:

- The proposed Project provides for enhanced public access through replacement of the previous facilities including compliance with current California Building Code (CBC). The proposed Project includes new facilities with up-to-date seismic and structural components improving public safety. (Coastal Act Section 30224)
- The proposed Project would enhance the existing water-oriented recreational activities of the Belmont Olympic Plaza. The proposed Project, which is adjacent to the ocean and ocean-front land, would enhance the existing recreational uses of the beach and pool facilities located there. (Coastal Act Section 30224)
- The proposed Project would accommodate changes in the needs of swimmers, divers, and other pool users while maintaining the recreational benefits of the existing bicycle and pedestrian path by rerouting it to a redesigned East Olympic Plaza, which would include bicycle and pedestrian enhancements. The proposed Project facilities would provide increased recreational opportunities because the renovated facilities would facilitate continued public use within the Coastal Zone. (Coastal Act Sections 30221 and 30224)

As indicated above, the policies within Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act are intended to provide protection for suitable ocean-front lands to be used for water-oriented and recreational purposes. As described above, the proposed Project is consistent with the intent of these policies. The proposed Project consists of the improvement of beachfront recreational and visitor-serving facilities. Therefore, based on the above discussion, the proposed Project would be consistent with Coastal Act policies, and impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

City of Long Beach General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element. As listed previously in Section 4.9.3, there are several Goals/Objectives, Policies, and Programs in the Open Space and Recreation Element that are applicable to the proposed Project. The proposed Project is consistent with the Element's objectives and policies because the Project would enhance the existing recreation and open space uses within the Project site. Specifically, the proposed Project would replace the previous pool/recreational facilities in order to continue meeting the recreational needs of existing and future residents. The proposed Project is consistent with making recreational resources "environmentally friendly" and sustainable because the proposed Project would meet Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards. Furthermore, the proposed Project would not substantially change visual access to the coast because it includes replacement of a former facility in the approximate same location. The proposed Project is consistent with the Open Space and Recreation Element goal to maintain public resources because it involves the replacement and revitalization of a key City recreational resource. The proposed pool complex would be built to current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and would continue to be available to the public at a nominal cost and, therefore, would be accessible and available to all members of the public.

As detailed above, the proposed Project does not conflict with the City's Open Space and Recreation Element. Therefore, no adverse impacts would result, and no mitigation measures are required.

The City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine Strategic Plan. As listed previously in Section 4.9.3, there are several strategies in the Plan that are applicable to the proposed Project. The proposed Project is consistent with the Plan's strategies because the proposed Project would ensure continuance of the previous recreation uses within the Project site. The proposed Project includes replacement of the former Belmont Pool with a new state-of-the-art aquatics facility and would not disrupt any existing recreational facility or recreational activities currently available in the vicinity of the Project site. The proposed Project would redesign the existing passive park to maintain the same park uses, and it would reroute the bicycle and pedestrian path to East Olympic Plaza that would include bicycle and pedestrian enhancements. The proposed Project would construct a modern pool complex and supporting infrastructure to improve the level of safety and access at the facility, and would ensure the continued operation of a pool facility on the site, pursuant to the needs of the aquatics community. Therefore, the proposed Project is consistent with the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine Strategic Plan Strategies listed above, and impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

4.11.6 Cumulative Impacts

As defined in the *State CEQA Guidelines*, cumulative impacts are the incremental effects of an individual project when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects within the cumulative impact area for recreational facilities. The Project site was previously developed as a community pool and would be replaced with similar recreational uses. The proposed Project would be consistent with the City's General Plan policies and with Coastal Commission policies. In addition, the proposed Project would expand the former pool amenities and integrate the existing public open space areas into the site design. As the replacement of a recreational facility, the proposed Project, in conjunction with the cumulative projects in the City, would contribute to the recreational opportunities in the City. The proposed Project is not anticipated to significantly increase

the use or need for additional City park facilities. Compliance with City and Coastal Commission policies and an increase in public amenities demonstrates the proposed Project would have no potential cumulatively considerable impacts on such resources.

In addition, the proposed Project does not include any residential housing or a substantial increase in long-term employment opportunities that would increase the population in the City. Therefore, the proposed Project would not, with any other planned or proposed projects, cumulatively contribute to the increased use of or need for additional or expanded recreational facilities in the City. Based on these factors, the proposed Project would not contribute to adverse cumulative impacts related to recreation when combined with other foreseeable projects that are planned or expected to occur in Long Beach or the region. Implementation of the proposed Project is, therefore, considered to have less than cumulatively significant impacts related to recreational resources.

4.11.7 Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation

The proposed Project would not result in any significant impacts related to the increased use of existing recreational facilities that would either result in substantial physical deterioration of the facility or have a significant adverse physical effect on the environment.

4.11.8 Mitigation Measures

With implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.12.2, in Section 4.12, Transportation and Traffic, as identified in the Transportation and Traffic section, short-term construction-related impacts on recreational resources would be less than significant.

4.11.9 Level of Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.12.2, as identified in Section 4.12, Transportation and Traffic, would ensure that short-term construction-related impacts on recreational resources would be less than significant. There are no significant unavoidable adverse impacts of the proposed Project related to recreational resources.