

5.13 Public Services

This section describes applicable laws and policies related to public services, discusses environmental settings of public services in the Project area, and evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Project. This section specifically evaluates potential Project impacts on public services (fire, police protection, emergency response, and schools) by identifying anticipated demand and evaluating its relationship to existing and planned public services facilities and availability.

5.13.1 Regulatory Framework

Federal

United States Coast Guard

The United States Congress established the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) with roles in maritime homeland security, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, marine environmental protection, the maintenance of river, and intracoastal and offshore aids to navigation. Marine safety is one of its core missions, which includes inspecting commercial vessels, responding to pollution, investigating marine casualties and merchant mariners, managing waterways, and licensing merchant mariners. The USCG implements and enforces the Marine Safety Manual, which includes procedures and performance standards regarding commercial marine vessels, marine pollution prevention, and navigational safety.

State

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

2016 California Fire Code

California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 9 (2016 California Fire Code) contains regulations relating to construction and maintenance of buildings, the use of premises, and the management of wildland-urban interface area, among other issues. The 2016 California Fire Code is updated every three years by the California Building Standards Commission and was last updated in 2016 (adopted January 1, 2017). The Fire Code sets forth regulations regarding building standards, fire protection and notification systems, fire protection devices such as fire extinguishers and smoke alarms, high-rise building standards, and fire suppression training. It contains regulations relating to construction, maintenance, and use of buildings. Topics addressed in the code also 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. Development under the proposed Project would be subject to applicable regulations of the California Fire Code.

Title 8 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Sections 1270 And 6773

In accordance with CCR, Title 8 Sections 1270 “Fire Prevention” and 6773 “Fire Protection and Fire Equipment,” the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-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 hosing sizing requirements, restrictions on the use of compressed air, access roads, and the testing, maintenance, and use of all firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

2016 California Building Standards Code

California building standards are published in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, also known as the California Building Standards Code (CBSC). The CBSC, which applies to all applications for building permits, consists of 11 parts that contain administrative regulations for the California Building Standards Commission and for all state agencies that implement or enforce building standards. Local agencies must ensure the development complies with the guidelines contained in the CBSC. Cities and counties have the ability to adopt additional building standards beyond the CBSC. CBSC Part 2, named the California Building Code is based upon the 2016 International Building Code, and Part 11, named the California Green Building Standards Code, and is also called the CalGreen Code.

California Health and Safety Code

State fire regulations are set forth in California Health and Safety Code Sections 13000 et seq., and include provisions concerning building standards, fire protection and notification systems, fire protection devices, and fire suppression training, as also set forth in the 2016 CBSC and related updated codes.

Regional

County of Los Angeles Fire Department

The City of El Segundo (City) defers to the County of Los Angeles Fire Department (LACFD) design fire flow standards. The Land Development Unit (LDU) sets LACFD conditions specifically concerning water and access on every land development issue within Los Angeles County. The LDU reviews all developments and applies fire flow and hydrant spacing requirements, in accordance with LACFD regulations and the property's zoning. LACFD's fire prevention regulations provide standards for fire flow, hydrant spacing, and specifications (County of Los Angeles 2013).

Local

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

El Segundo General Plan

The *City of El Segundo General Plan* Public Safety Elements addresses public services. It is the El Segundo General Plan Public Safety Element's intent to reduce death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation resulting from natural and man-made hazards such as urban fire, flooding, mudslides, earthquakes, and hazardous incidents. Following are the relevant General Plan goals, objectives, and policies pertaining to fire protection:

Goal PS6: Urban Fire Hazard – A fire safe community.

Objective PS6-1: It is the objective of the City of El Segundo that the city minimize threats to public safety and protect property from wildland and urban fires.

Policy PS6-1.1: Review projects and development proposals, and upgrade fire prevention standards and mitigation measures in areas of high urban fire hazard.

Policy PS6-1.2: Continue efforts to reduce fire hazards associated with older buildings, high-rise buildings, and fire-prone industrial facilities, and maintain adequate fire protection in all areas of the City.

El Segundo Municipal Code

Pursuant to El Segundo Municipal Code (ESMC) Title 13, *Building Regulations*, the City has adopted the 2016 California Fire Code, the 2016 California Building Code (CBC), and the 2012 International Fire Code (ESMC Title 13 Chapter 10, *Fire Code*). All development within the city of El Segundo must comply with these standards to ensure fire safety precautions during Project demolition and construction, adequate emergency access (during demolition, construction, and operation), and fire hydrant, fire sprinkler, and fire alarm system availability.

5.13.2 Environmental Setting

Fire Protection

El Segundo Fire Department

The El Segundo Fire Department (ESFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the city, which include fire suppression, paramedic/emergency medical, fire prevention, emergency, and hazardous materials management/environmental safety services. The ESFD is composed of approximately 43 sworn employees and 5 civilian employees (City of El Segundo 2015a). The department provides services out of two fire stations with emergency response capabilities that include the following:

- Two fire engines
- Two paramedic rescues
- One 105-foot tiller ladder truck
- One battalion chief command vehicle
- One type-one heavy urban search and rescue unit

The proposed ocean water desalination facility site is currently served by ESFD Station 1, which responds to calls west of Sepulveda Boulevard. Station 1 (headquarters at the El Segundo Civic Center Complex) is located approximately 1 mile northeast of the Project site at 314 Main Street. Depending on the nature or size of the alarm, units will cross over into the other districts to assist. There are 14 firefighters on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at Station 1. Each shift consists of one battalion chief, four captains, four engineers, five paramedics, and five firefighters. Station 1's estimated response time to the proposed desalination facility site is between 3 and 5 minutes (CEC 2015). ESFD Station 2 is located at 2161 El Segundo Boulevard, El Segundo. Station 2's estimated response time to the proposed desalination facility site is between four and five minutes

(CEC 2015). According to the El Segundo General Plan EIR, ESFD stations have an average response time of 2 minutes for the city's residential area, and slightly less than 4 minutes for commercial/industrial areas. The ESFD's response time goal is between 5 and 8 minutes, to minimize structural loss.

El Segundo Generating Station Fire Protection System

According to the Final Staff Assessment (page 3-11), the ESGS operates under a fire protection system, which is intended to limit personnel injury and loss of life/property, among other objectives. The existing firewater system includes an on-site fire/service water storage tank and associated electric-motor-driven firewater pump. The firewater supply and pumping system provide the code-required quantity of firefighting water to the ESGS's yard hydrants, hose stations, and water spray and sprinkler systems.

Police Protection

El Segundo Police Department

The proposed desalination facility site is served by the El Segundo Police Department (ESPD), which is staffed by a total of 108 authorized personnel, including 69 sworn officers (City of El Segundo 2015b). The ESPD Area Command Program divides the city into two geographic areas that are managed by patrol lieutenants who serve as area commanders. The ESPD headquarters is located at approximately 1 mile northeast of the Project site at 348 Main Street at the El Segundo Civic Center Complex. The ESPD's estimated response time to the proposed desalination facility site is under 2 minutes for priority calls and under 5 minutes for non-priority calls (CEC 2015). The proposed desalination facility is under the jurisdiction of the West Command, which generally includes the area west of Sepulveda Boulevard. The ESPD reviews development projects prior to project approval and imposes standard Conditions of Approval. ESPD review ensures adequate design features are included to reduce any potential increase in demand for police protection services for new projects.

El Segundo Generating Station Security

The ESGS currently maintains a physical security perimeter around the ESGS, including perimeter fencing, gates, and a guard-manned entry point. The proposed desalination facility site is within ESGS boundaries.

Schools

El Segundo Unified School District

The desalination facility site is located within the El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) jurisdictional boundaries. The ESUSD provides kindergarten through 12th grade education at two elementary schools (Center Street and Richmond Street), one middle school (El Segundo Middle School), one high school (El Segundo High School), and one online resource (Arena Alternative/Virtual High School). The nearest school to the desalination facility is El Segundo Middle School, which is located at 332 Center Street in El Segundo, approximately 1.3 miles northeast of the proposed ocean desalination facility.

Table 5.13-1 shows the ESUSD facilities capacities and student enrollment for the 2016–2017 school year. As indicated in Table 5.13-1, collectively, the ESUSD’s school facilities have a capacity of 3,623 students. The ESUSD’s enrollment totaled 3,475 students, resulting in an excess capacity 148 students, including 34-, 32-, and 82-student capacity in the elementary, middle, and high school levels, respectively.

**TABLE 5.13-1
EXISTING SCHOOL FACILITIES’ CAPACITY AND STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

Level	2016/2017 Facilities Capacity	2016/2017 Student Enrollment	Excess Capacity
Elementary School (Grades K-5)	1,451	1,417	34
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	852	820	32
High School (Grades 9-12)	1,320	1,238	82
Total	3,623	3,475	148

SOURCE: Cooperative Strategies 2017.

5.13.3 Significance Thresholds and Criteria

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form, includes questions pertaining to public services. The issues presented in the Environmental Checklist have been used as thresholds of significance in this section. Accordingly, the Project would have a significant adverse environmental impact to public services if it would:

Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision or 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 such as:

- Fire protection (refer to Impact PS 5.13-1)
- Police protection (refer to Impact PS 5.13-1)
- Schools (refer to Impact PS 5.13-2)
- Parks (refer to Section 5.14, Recreation)

There are no other types of facilities (such as libraries) that would be required to expand, or whose service ratios would need to be modified, to accommodate the Project.

Potentially Significant Impacts

The environmental factors determined to be potentially affected by the Project, identified in the Notice of Preparation (see Appendix 1A), are analyzed below. Feasible mitigation measures are recommended, where warranted, to avoid or minimize the Project’s significant adverse impacts.

5.13.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Police, Fire Protection, and Emergency Response

Impact PS 5.13-1: Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police, fire protection, or emergency response facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives?

The following analysis evaluates potential impacts associated with constructing and operating each of the three primary elements of the Project, including offshore, coastal, and inland Project components for both the Local and Regional Projects. **Table 5.13-2** summarizes the impact significance conclusions.

**TABLE 5.13-2
SUMMARY OF IMPACT PS 5.13-1 POLICE, FIRE PROTECTION, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

	Ocean Water Desalination Facility	Offshore Intake and Discharge Facilities	Inland Conveyance Facilities
Impact PS 5.13-1: Impacts on police, fire protection, and emergency response.			
Local Project			
Construction	LTS	LTS	LTS
Operation	LTS	NI	NI
Regional Project			
Construction	LTS	LTS	LTS
Operation	LTS	NI	NI
NOTES: NI = No Impact, no mitigation proposed LTS = Less than Significant, no mitigation proposed			

Local Project

Construction-Related Impacts

All Project Components

The Local Project does not propose construction of any new or physically altered public services facilities. Police, fire protection services, and emergency response services (including ambulance services) would be met with existing facilities and staff levels. All construction activities would comply with standard fire safety precautions and adequate emergency access during Project demolition and construction. The ESGS site is equipped with a fire protection system that includes a water storage tank and associated electric motor-driven firewater pump. The firewater supply and pumping system provides the code-required quantity of firefighting water to yard hydrants, hose stations, and water spray and sprinkler systems. Additionally, preparation of a Traffic Control Plan would be required to ensure that adequate circulation, including for emergency vehicles, is maintained during Local Project construction. Local Project construction

would not adversely affect service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

The ocean water desalination facility would be located within the jurisdictions of the ESPD and ESFD, which provide police, fire protection, and emergency response services to the existing power plant and Chevron Facility. The facility would be designed to comply with ESMC Title 13, *Building Regulations* to ensure adequate emergency access during operations and fire hydrant, fire sprinkler, and fire alarm system availability. The ESGS site is equipped with a fire protection system that includes a water storage tank and associated electric motor-driven firewater pump. The firewater supply and pumping system provides the code-required quantity of firefighting water to yard hydrants, hose stations, and water spray and sprinkler systems. Additionally, the Project would require preparation of a Traffic Control Plan to maintain emergency service access. Since the proposed Project would develop the new facility within an existing jurisdiction, consistent with the local zoning requirements, it would not result in significant new public services demand that would require constructing new facilities that could pose environmental impacts.

Furthermore, operations of the ocean desalination facility would not directly induce substantial population growth that would require expanded police, fire protection, and emergency response services facilities (see Section 6.2, *Growth-Inducing Impacts*). Operation of the ocean desalination facility would require 20 new employees that would come from the local workforce and would not result in increased housing demand. Therefore, Local Project ocean water desalination facility operations are not anticipated to require the construction of new or physically altered public service facilities to maintain response ratios, service ratios, or other measures of performance. As a result, impacts would be less than significant.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

The Local Project intake and discharge facilities would occur entirely below the water surface and would not require police or fire protection services. Emergency response during construction and routine maintenance would be provided by the USCG. The need for offshore emergency response would be minimal and would not require construction of new facilities that could impact the environment. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

Local Project desalinated water conveyance pipeline operations would occur within roadway rights-of-way and underground, and within fully urbanized areas already receiving police, fire protection, and emergency response services. Due to the nature of the facilities, Local Project

desalinated water conveyance components operations would not create a new demand for public services. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Regional Project

Construction-Related Impacts

All Project Components

Similar to the Local Project, construction of the Regional Project would not increase the need for police, fire protection, or emergency response services that could result in construction of any new or physically altered fire protection facilities. All construction activities would comply with ESMC Title 13, *Building Regulations*, Chapter 10 (Fire Code), which would ensure fire safety precautions and adequate emergency access are implemented during construction. The ESGS site is equipped with a fire protection system that includes a water storage tank and associated electric motor-driven firewater pump. The firewater supply and pumping system provides the code-required quantity of firefighting water to yard hydrants, hose stations, and water spray and sprinkler systems. Additionally, preparation of a Traffic Control Plan would be required to ensure that adequate circulation, including for emergency vehicles, is maintained during Regional Project construction. Regional Project construction would be temporary and would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered public service facilities or need for new or physically altered public facilities, and would not adversely affect service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Operational Impacts

Ocean Water Desalination Facility – ESGS North and South Sites

Similar to the Local Project, the Regional Project would not increase the demands for police, fire protection, and emergency response services that would require construction of new facilities. Staffing levels for the Regional Project would be similar to the Local Project, with only an additional 4 employees required, which would come from the local workforce and would not result in increased housing demand. The Regional Project ocean water desalination facility would be designed to comply with ESMC Title 13 and would require preparation of a Traffic Control Plan to maintain emergency service access. The ESGS site is equipped with a fire protection system that includes a water storage tank and associated electric motor-driven firewater pump. The firewater supply and pumping system provides the code-required quantity of firefighting

water to yard hydrants, hose stations, and water spray and sprinkler systems. The Regional Project would not require the construction of new or physically altered fire protection facilities to maintain response ratios, service ratios, or other measures of performance. Compliance with ESMC Title 13 would ensure that Regional Project ocean water desalination facility operations would result in a less than significant impact to public services.

Screened Ocean Intake and Concentrate Discharge

As with the Local Project, the Regional Project intake and discharge facilities would occur underwater and would not result in the need for additional new or altered police, fire, or emergency response facilities. Emergency response during construction and routine maintenance would be provided by the USCG. No impact would occur.

Desalinated Water Conveyance Components

As with the Local Project, the Regional Project water conveyance pipelines would be located below ground thus would not create a demand for additional public services. Regional Project pump station operations would occur within fully urbanized areas already receiving police, fire protection, and emergency response services and would not increase the demand for these public services. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Schools

Impact PS 5.13-2: Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, or need for new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives?

The following analysis evaluates potential impacts associated with constructing and operating each of the three primary elements of the Project, including offshore, coastal, and inland Project components for both the Local and Regional Projects. **Table 5.13-3** summarizes the impact significance conclusions.

**TABLE 5.13-3
SUMMARY OF IMPACT PS 5.13-2 SCHOOLS**

	Ocean Water Desalination Facility	Offshore Intake and Discharge Facilities	In-land Conveyance Facilities
Impact PS 5.13-2: Impacts on schools.			
Local Project			
Construction	LTS	LTS	LTS
Operation	LTS	LTS	LTS
Regional Project			
Construction	LTS	LTS	LTS
Operation	LTS	LTS	LTS
NOTES:			
LTS = Less than Significant, no mitigation proposed			

Local Project

Construction-Related and Operational Impacts

All Project Components

The Local Project does not propose construction of any new or physically altered school facilities. The Local Project facilities are sited such that they would not disrupt school services, during construction or operations. Further, Local Project construction would be temporary. The Local Project does not involve a land use that would directly impact ESUSD enrollment (i.e., residential uses). As indicated in **Table 5.13-4**, Local Project implementation would have the potential to generate a student population increase of approximately three students, one in each grade level. As indicated in Table 5.13-1, the ESUSD has an available capacity for 148 students (2016–2017 school year). Therefore, sufficient capacity exists in the ESUSD to accommodate the Project-generated student population increase and a less than significant impact would occur.

**TABLE 5.13-4
ESTIMATED STUDENT GENERATION – LOCAL PROJECT**

School	Office Use (SF) ¹	Student Generation Rate (Student per TSF) ^{1, 2}	Students Generated
Elementary		0.0048	1
Middle		0.0025	1
High School		0.0036	1
Total	60,000		3

NOTES:

¹ SF = Square Feet; TSF = Thousand Square Feet.

² Cooperative Strategies 2017.

Furthermore, the construction and operation of the Local Project would not result in population growth and no new schools would need to be built to accommodate students generated by the

Project. Therefore, Local Project implementation would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, or need for new or physically altered school facilities. As a result, construction of new or expanded school facilities would not occur and would therefore not cause significant environmental impacts. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Local Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

Regional Project

Construction-Related and Operational Impacts

All Project Components

As with the Local Project, the Regional Project does not include construction of any new or physically altered school facilities. The Regional Project does not involve a land use that would directly impact ESUSD enrollment (i.e., residential uses). The Regional Project would not result in any additional administrative space beyond the 60,000-square-foot office floor space constructed as part of the Local Project but could add another four employees. Implementation of the Regional Project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, or need for new or physically altered school facilities. As a result, construction of new or expanded school facilities would not occur and would therefore not cause significant environmental impacts. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Regional Project Significance Determination:

Less than Significant Impact.

5.13.5 Cumulative Impacts

For purposes of fire and police protection, cumulative impacts are considered for cumulative projects located within El Segundo. For purposes of school facilities, cumulative impacts are considered for projects located in the ESUSD. Refer also to Section 4, *Cumulative Impacts*, for discussion concerning the basis for the cumulative impact analysis and a list of related cumulative projects located in the Project vicinity.

As discussed above, all Project impacts would be less than significant without the need for mitigation, and the Project's contribution toward cumulative impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

As concluded above, the Project would result in a less than significant increase in demands on the City's fire and police protection services. Given the existing ESGS and proposed Project security

measures, the nature and scope of the Local Project and Regional Project, and compliance with ESMC Title 13 requirements, the Project would result in a less than significant impact to fire and police protection services.

As concluded above, the Project would generate a nominal amount of student population growth (approximately three students, one in each grade level) in the ESUSD. The Project's incremental effects to school facilities are not cumulatively considerable. The ESUD has sufficient capacity to accommodate the minor increase in school attendance that may result due to the proposed Project. The Project's contribution to a cumulative impact to school facilities would not be considerable.

5.13.6 Significant Unavoidable Impacts

No significant and unavoidable impacts related to public services have been identified following compliance with the specified regulations.

5.13.7 Sources Cited

California Energy Commission (CEC), 2015. *Final Staff Assessment Combined Parts A&B- El Segundo Power Facility Modification Amendment to the El Segundo Energy Center*, August 27, 2015.

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County of Los Angeles Fire Department, 2013. Website, Fire Prevention Regulations, <https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/document/details/toc/1042>, Accessed April 26, 2013.