

3.14 Public Services

This section of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (referred to throughout as the Final EIS/R) describes the existing public services within the Phase 2 area of the South Bay Salt Pond (SBSP) Restoration Project and analyzes whether implementation of the project would cause a substantial adverse effect on public services. The information presented is based on a review of existing public services within the area and on other pertinent state and local regulations, which are presented in the regulatory setting section. Using this information as context, an analysis of environmental impacts of the project related to public services is presented for each alternative. The program-level mitigation measures described in Chapter 2, Alternatives, would be implemented as part of this project. Therefore, this section only includes additional mitigation measures as needed.

3.14.1 Physical Setting

Methodology

This section presents information on public services and utilities in the Phase 2 area of the SBSP Restoration Project. Public services include police, fire, and emergency services. Schools and solid waste services are also discussed. Background information was drawn from applicable regional and local general plans and policies as well as from public service and utility representatives.

Regional Setting

In the South Bay, public services such as police, fire, and emergency services are primarily provided by each local jurisdiction. These services are described below. Emergency response staffing and ratios are provided but are for informative purposes only and should not be used to determine adequacy of service. In most jurisdictions, adequacy of service is determined by response time, with an ideal response time set at around 4 minutes. Jurisdictions strive to maintain appropriate staff levels to achieve this goal.

Project Setting

The settings of each of the four pond clusters included in Phase 2 are discussed below.

Alviso – Island Ponds

The Island Ponds (Ponds A19, A20, and A21) are located in Alameda County, the southern border of which runs through the center of Coyote Creek, immediately to the south of these ponds. They are west and south of the city of Fremont.

Alameda County

Police Services. The Alameda County Sheriff's Department has a main administration office at 1401 Lakeside Drive in Oakland; the Eden Township substation is located at 15001 Foothill Boulevard in San Leandro. The Sheriff's Department provides police services to the unincorporated areas of Alameda.

There are several specialized units and teams within the Sheriff's Office. These include Animal Control, the Coroner's Bureau, Court Services, Crime Labs, and Homeland and Emergency Services. The Sheriff's Office hosts or participates in several joint-agency task forces (Alameda County 2015).

Fire Protection and Emergency Services. The Alameda County Fire Department does not provide fire protection services to the Phase 2 area of the SBSP Restoration Project. The Phase 2 area would be served by the City of Fremont Fire Department.

Schools. Alameda County does not have its own school district but consists of school districts that are located within incorporated cities (e.g., Oakland, Union City, and Fremont). Please refer to the discussions below for the City of Fremont.

Solid Waste. The Tri-Cities Landfill in Fremont provides garbage collection and disposal.

Fremont

Police Services. The City of Fremont Police Department provides police protection services within the city of Fremont, which includes areas immediately south of the area of the SBSP Restoration Project. The Police Department is headquartered at 2000 Stevenson Boulevard in the city of Fremont. For emergency calls, Fremont police response time is 3 minutes or less. Currently, the police force consists of 191 authorized sworn officers and 72 support personnel; the service ratio is 0.89 officers per 1,000 residents.

Fire Protection and Emergency Services. The Fremont Fire Department provides emergency fire protection, prevention, rescue, and emergency medical services to the city of Fremont, including the areas immediately surrounding the SBSP Restoration Project Phase 2 area. The Fremont Fire Department Administration Offices are located at 3300 Capitol Avenue in Fremont. With a service area of 92 square miles and a service population of approximately 208,000, the Fremont Fire Department currently maintains 12 in-service fire companies and 11 stations located in Fremont. The Fremont Fire Department provides emergency fire protection, prevention, rescue, and emergency medical services to the city of Fremont and to the Alviso–Island pond cluster. Station Number 5, located at 55 Hackamore Lane in Fremont, is the closest to the Alviso–Island pond cluster and would respond if there is an emergency. Station Number 5 includes an engine company, a patrol unit, and a hazardous materials response unit.

Schools. The Fremont Unified School District provides public education in Fremont for kindergarten through grade 12. The school district has 29 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 6 high schools, as well as 1 adult school in the city. No schools are located within the area of the SBSP Restoration Project.

Solid Waste. The City of Fremont administers a contract with Allied Waste Services for the collection and disposal of residential and commercial waste and recycling.

Alviso – Mountain View Ponds

The Mountain View Ponds (Ponds A1 and A2W) are located bayward of the city of Mountain View. Charleston Slough, which is included in Alternative Mountain View C, is actually within the city limits. Also, the City of Palo Alto's flood control basin and its associated levees are immediately to the west. Both Mountain View and Palo Alto are in Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara County

Police Services. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department is headquartered at 55 West Younger Avenue in San Jose; a substation is located at 80 West Highland Avenue in San Martin. The Sheriff's Department provides police services to the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County, including the area of the SBSP Restoration Project. The Sheriff's Department has 554 full-time, sworn enforcement staff. In addition to the full-time badge staff, the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department has 65 reserve deputy

sheriffs. To support the entire operation, it employs 426 non-sworn civilian staff. The Sheriff's Department does not maintain a service standard based on officers per residents, but rather one based on the number of calls for service.

There are several specialized units and teams within the Sheriff's Office. These include Community Relations, Canine Unit, Search & Rescue (including Mounted), Dive Team, Traffic/Motorcycles, Off-Road Enforcement Team, Hostage Negotiation Team, Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, Crowd Control Unit, Intelligence/Vice, and Bomb Squad. The Sheriff's Office hosts or participates in several joint-agency task forces (Santa Clara County Sheriff 2015).

Fire Protection and Emergency Services. The Santa Clara County Fire Department does not provide fire protection services to the area of the SBSP Restoration Project. The portion of unincorporated Santa Clara County located in the Phase 2 area would be served by the City of Mountain View Fire Department.

Schools. Santa Clara County does not have its own school district, as school districts are located within incorporated cities (e.g., Sunnyvale, San Jose, and Mountain View). Please refer to the discussions below.

Solid Waste. Recology provides garbage collection and disposal as well as recycling services to residential and commercial users in the unincorporated portion of north Santa Clara County.

Mountain View

Police Services. The City of Mountain View Police Department is headquartered at 1000 Villa Street in Mountain View. The Police Department currently employs 97 sworn police officers (City of Mountain View Police 2013). Based on a population of 75,275, the service ratio of officers to residents is 1.3 officers per 1,000 residents.

Fire Protection and Emergency Services. The City of Mountain View Fire Department serves an evening population of 75,275 with 85 full-time, permanent positions across three divisions (City of Mountain View Police 2013). There are 69 firefighters, including 3 battalion chiefs. The Department has five fire stations located throughout the city. Each has an engine, and Station 1 also has a truck-and-rescue unit. The closest station to the SBSP Restoration Project Phase 2 area is Station 5, located at 2196 North Shoreline Boulevard in Mountain View. Station 5 would be the first to respond in the case of an emergency within the Alviso–Mountain View pond cluster.

Schools. The Mountain View Whisman School District provides public education in Mountain View for kindergarten through grade 8 (K-8) (MVWSD 2015). Mountain View has seven elementary schools and two middle schools within the city. No schools are located within the area of the SBSP Restoration Project. The Mountain View Los Altos High School District provides public education in the cities of Mountain View and Los Altos for grades 9 through 12 (MVLAHSD 2015). The school district has two high schools, one of which is located in Mountain View.

Solid Waste. Recology provides garbage collection, disposal, and recycling services for residential and commercial users within the city of Mountain View.

Alviso – A8 Ponds

The Alviso-A8 pond cluster (also referred to as the A8 Ponds) consists of Ponds A8 and A8S and the levees surrounding each pond. This pond cluster is located in the southern portion of the 25-pond Alviso pond complex. The pond cluster is located between Guadalupe Slough and Alviso Ponds A5 and A7 to

the west; Sunnyvale Baylands County Park, Guadalupe Slough and San Tomas Aquino Creek to the south; and Alviso Slough to the east and north. The ponds are located within the city of San Jose.

Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County public services were previously described in the discussion of the Mountain View Ponds.

San Jose

Police Services. The San Jose Police Department is headquartered at 201 West Mission Street in San Jose and employs more than 1,000 sworn officers in 4 bureaus comprised of 11 divisions with more than 50 specialized units and assignments. The A8 Ponds are located within the jurisdiction of the Central Division, which includes four patrol districts totaling approximately 39 square miles. The four patrol districts encompass the businesses and high-density housing of Downtown San Jose and extend north to the Alviso Marina at the southern tip of San Francisco Bay (City of San Jose 2015).

Fire Protection and Emergency Services. The City of San Jose Fire Department (SJFD) serves a population of over 1 million with 679 authorized sworn police officers and 112 civilian personnel (City of San Jose 2013). The SJFD responds to all fires, hazardous materials spills, and medical emergencies (including injury accidents) in San Jose. The SJFD has a total of 33 stations, and the closest to the Phase 2 area is Station 25, located at 5125 Wilson Way.

Schools. The San Jose Unified School District provides public education in the city for kindergarten through grade 12. The school district has 25 elementary schools, 2 K-8 schools, 6 middle schools, and 9 high schools. No schools are located within the area of the SBSP Restoration Project.

Solid Waste. Recology provides garbage collection and disposal as well as recycling services to residential and commercial users in San Jose.

Ravenswood Ponds

The Ravenswood pond cluster is located north of State Route (SR) 84 and is adjacent to the city of Menlo Park; the pond cluster is also bordered to the northwest by Redwood City.

Menlo Park

Police Services. The Menlo Park Police Department (MPPD) provides police protection services within the incorporated city of Menlo Park, including the Ravenswood pond cluster. Outside city boundaries, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department, based in Redwood City, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) have jurisdiction. The CHP patrols highways that pass through Menlo Park, including Interstate-280, U.S. Highway 101, and El Camino Real (SR 82), while the Sheriff's Department patrols county-controlled roads and responds to calls in the unincorporated areas adjacent to Menlo Park.

The MPPD is headquartered at 701 Laurel Street in the Menlo Park Civic Center. The Belle Haven Substation is located at 1197 Willow Road and is the closer of the two stations to the Ravenswood pond cluster. For emergency calls, the MPPD's response time is 3 minutes or less. Non-emergency requests for service are generally answered within 15 minutes. The MPPD includes 47 sworn officers and 22 professional staff, resulting in a total full-time equivalent of 68.75 as of 2012. The sworn officers include 1 chief, 2 commanders, 8 sergeants, and 36 police officers, and the staffing ratio is 1.4 officers per 1,000 residents (City of Menlo Park 2014).

Fire Protection and Emergency Services. The Menlo Park Fire Protection District (MPFPD) provides fire protection services to Menlo Park, portions of Atherton, East Palo Alto, and adjacent unincorporated portions of San Mateo County and includes the Ravenswood pond cluster. With a service area of approximately 30 square miles and a service population of 93,000, the MPFPD currently maintains seven stations located in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City, and employs a staff of 83 trained firefighters (City of Menlo Park 2013).

The MPFPD maintains five stations in Menlo Park, including Fire Department Headquarters. The headquarters is equipped with a command vehicle, one hook-and-ladder truck, and one rescue unit. The remaining stations in Menlo Park each have one engine. Fire Station Number 77, located at 1467 Chilco Avenue in Menlo Park, is the closest station to the Ravenswood pond cluster and would be the first to respond in the case of an emergency call from within the pond cluster.

Schools. The Menlo Park Elementary School District serves parts of Menlo Park, Atherton, and unincorporated San Mateo County. It has one elementary and one middle school in the city of Menlo Park (Menlo Park City School District 2015). The Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) also provides K-8 public education to Menlo Park students, and has three elementary schools (RCSD 2015). The Menlo-Atherton High School of the Sequoia Union High School District provides secondary education to the City of Menlo Park. No schools are located within the area of the SBSP Restoration Project.

Solid Waste. Recology provides garbage collection, disposal, and recycling services for residential and commercial use within the city of Menlo Park.

Redwood City

Police Services. Police protection services for all of Redwood City are provided by the Redwood City Police Department (RCPD), which is headquartered at 1301 Maple Street. The RCPD is separated into three divisions: 1) Administrative Division, 2) Investigations Division, and 3) Patrol Division. Each of the three divisions supports its own initiatives and programs. The RCPD sets a standard of responding to emergency calls and arriving on scene within 5 minutes (City of Redwood City 2010). The RCPD has a total of 94 total sworn officers and numerous support staff (City of Redwood City 2015a).

Fire Protection and Emergency Services. The Redwood City Fire Department (RCFD) includes seven fire stations housing seven engines, one truck, and one battalion chief. It currently has over 90 staff members, including firefighters, firefighter/paramedics, captains, battalion chiefs, fire prevention staff, training staff, and administrative staff (City of Redwood City 2015b). The RCFD is responsible for the safety of everyone within the city's borders, an area totaling 34.6 square miles—19.5 square miles on land and 15.1 square miles in the water. Automatic mutual aid is provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the adjacent cities of Menlo Park, Woodside, Belmont, and San Carlos. The RCFD is responsible for fire prevention and suppression, medical response, and property protection, and places a high priority on quick response. Its goal is to respond to emergency calls within 5 to 7 minutes (Redwood City 2010). Local response times to emergency situations are currently exceeding the RCFD's internal standards.

Schools. The Redwood City School District serves Redwood City and portions of San Carlos, Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside, and unincorporated San Mateo County. The school district provides K-8 public education in parts of Menlo Park, Atherton, and unincorporated San Mateo County, and has three elementary schools (RWCSO 2015). The Sequoia Union High School District provides secondary education in Redwood City. No schools are located within the area of the SBSP Restoration Project.

Solid Waste. Recology provides garbage collection, disposal, and recycling services for residential and commercial use within Redwood City.

Regulatory Setting

This section provides the regulatory background necessary to analyze the effects on public services associated with areas in and around the ponds in Phase 2 of the SBSP Restoration Project. Applicable local and regional plans and policies were reviewed for information on existing land uses and policies.

Alviso – Island Ponds

County of Alameda. The County of Alameda Countywide Safety Element (County of Alameda 2013) provides guidance to minimize human injury, loss of life, property damage, and economic and social dislocation due to natural and man-made hazards. Goal #6 of the Safety Element identifies the need to prepare and keep current Alameda County emergency procedures in the event of a potential natural or man-made disaster.

Fremont. The City of Fremont General Plan (City of Fremont 2003) includes the following relevant public services strategies, policies, and implementation measures:

Water, Flood, and Sanitary Sewer Services

Implementation 3: Work with the Alameda County Flood Control District to develop flood control measures that provide protection from flooding while preserving natural plant formations and natural topographic features.

Alviso – Mountain View Ponds

County of Santa Clara. The *Santa Clara County General Plan, 1995-2010* (County of Santa Clara 1994) provides public services-related strategies and policies that are associated primarily with new (urban) development and that as such are not related to the SBSP Restoration Project. Strategy #4 of the *Santa Clara County General Plan, 1995-2010* identifies the need to improve quality of life for all segments of the population. Policy C-EC 8(g) recognizes the need for providing adequate and efficient public services.

Mountain View. The *City of Mountain View 1992 General Plan* (City of Mountain View 1992) identifies the mission of the Mountain View Fire Department, which is “to prevent deaths, injuries, property losses, and environmental damage from fire, natural disasters, and uncontrolled release of toxic substances.”

Relevant fire strategies, policies, and implementation include:

Action 34.e: Adopt and enforce proactive fire and life-safety codes that require property owners to share in the responsibility for fire protection services.

Action 34.f: Review development plans to be sure there is adequate access for emergency vehicles.

Action 34.g: Develop weed abatement programs that reduce the risk of fire while maintaining habitat value for native plants and animals.

Action 35.c: Maintain enough firefighters per shift to meet publicly accepted levels of risk and response expectations.

Action 35.d: Continue to participate in county-wide and state-wide mutual aid and automatic aid programs with neighboring cities.

Action 35.f: Maintain a water supply and water pressure that can meet potential firefighting demands.

Action 37.d: Strengthen construction requirements where hazardous materials are stored or used.

Action 38.a: Require an assessment of the past use of hazardous materials on proposed development sites.

The *City of Mountain View 1992 General Plan* (City of Mountain View 1992) states that the Mountain View Police Department is responsible for maintaining quality of life by protecting people and property, promoting community order through crime prevention and educational programs, apprehending and prosecuting criminals, and regulating non-criminal activities.

Relevant police strategies, policies, and implementation include:

Action 40.a: Maintain a force sufficiently staffed and deployed to sustain a 4-minute maximum emergency response 70 percent of the time.

Alviso – A8 Ponds

County of Santa Clara. The *Santa Clara County General Plan, 1995-2010* (County of Santa Clara 1994) provides relevant strategies and policies for public services associated primarily with new (urban) development and as such are not related to the SBSP Restoration Project. Strategy #4 of the *Santa Clara County General Plan, 1995-2010* identifies the need to improve quality of life for all segments of the population. Policy C-EC 8(g) recognizes the need for providing adequate and efficient public services.

San Jose. The *City of San Jose 2040 General Plan* (City of San Jose 2011) identifies the following relevant public services policy:

ES-4.2: Provide for continued essential emergency public services during and following natural or human-made disasters to mitigate their impacts and to help prevent major problems during post-disaster response, such as evacuations, rescues, large numbers of injuries, and major cleanup operations.

Ravenswood

Menlo Park. The *City of Menlo Park General Plan: Policy Document* (City of Menlo Park 1994) does not provide relevant goals or policies associated with public services, and neither does the 2004 Menlo Park Municipal Code.

Redwood City. The *Redwood City General Plan* (City of Redwood City 2010) includes the following relevant public services strategies, policies, and programs:

Policy PS-7.3: Strive to maintain the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding. Locate, when feasible, new, essential public facilities outside of flood hazard zones; identify construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in flood hazard zones. Essential public facilities include city government operations facilities, police and fire facilities, and hospitals.

Policy PS-11.1: Work with the Police Department to determine and meet community needs for law enforcement services.

Policy PS-11.2: Work with the Fire Department to determine and meet community needs for fire protection and related emergency services.

Program PS-32: **Emergency Operations Plan**. Review and update, as needed, the City’s emergency operations plan in coordination with the County’s natural disaster-preparedness plan to address disasters such as earthquakes, flooding, dam or levee failure, hazardous materials spills, epidemics, fires, extreme weather, major transportation accidents, and terrorism.

Program PS-34: **Emergency Aid Standing Agreements**. Maintain standing agreements with other public and private agencies to furnish specified aid upon demand in the event of a major emergency, as appropriate.

Program PS-39: **Adequate Police and Fire Departments Service Requirements**. Provide funding for the Police Department and Fire Department to maintain sufficient personnel and the highest level of technology and equipment to meet the service requirements of new growth and other specific needs, as appropriate.

Program PS-42: **Emergency Evacuation Routes and Plans**. Prepare and regularly update emergency evacuation routes and plans.

3.14.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Significance Criteria

For the purposes of this Final EIS/R, a significant impact on public services would occur if the project would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need for provision of new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause a reduction in acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for the following: parks, fire and police protection, public facilities, and schools;
- Generate a large volume of waste materials that could exceed the capacity of the local landfill(s);
- Breach federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

As explained in Section 3.1.2, while both Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for implementing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines were considered during the impact analysis, impacts identified in this Final EIS/R are characterized using CEQA terminology. Please refer to Section 3.1.2 for a description of the terminology used to explain the severity of the impacts. Impact evaluations for the Action Alternatives are assessed based on the existing conditions described in Section 3.14.2 above, and not on the proposed conditions that would occur under the No Action Alternative.¹ This approach mimics what was done for the 2007 South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Programmatic EIS/R (2007 EIS/R). In this case, the No Action

¹ No Action Alternative” is the NEPA term. It corresponds to the CEQA term “No Project Alternative.” This Final EIS/R uses No Action throughout.

Alternative represents no change from current management direction or level of management intensity provided in the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) and other Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) management documents and practices.

The SBSP Restoration Project does not propose and would not require the construction of new or altered schools or public facilities; therefore, no impacts to these facilities or reduction in performance objectives would occur. Increased demand for fire and police protection services is discussed below in Phase 2 Impact 3.14-1. In addition, the project would not require substantial disposal of spoils that would exceed the capacity of local landfills. As described in Chapter 2, Alternatives, no construction would occur and only limited operations and maintenance activities would be required for the No Action Alternative at each pond cluster (Alternative Island A, Alternative Mountain View A, Alternative A8 A, and Alternative Ravenswood A).

Under the various Action Alternatives, a combined total of up to a few million cubic yards of dirt and soil could be imported on-site to improve or raise the proposed levees that provide flood protection or to construct habitat transition zones, habitat islands, or other features. Under the Phase 2 actions, all soils would be reused on-site. Under all Phase 2 alternatives, no off-site disposal of soils is expected. On the contrary, the project intends to be a recipient of clean dirt and other upland fill material from off-site construction projects. As such, the project is not expected to reduce local landfill capacity, and it may even slow the rate of background capacity loss. Further, the Phase 2 project would not break federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste under any of the alternatives.

Program-Level Evaluation

The 2007 EIS/R evaluated the potential impact to public services of three long-term alternatives, which were each determined to have less-than-significant impacts to public services, including a potential increase in the demand for fire and police protection services. Three programmatic-level alternatives were considered and evaluated in the 2007 EIS/R: (A) the No Action Alternative, (B) the Managed Pond Emphasis, and (C) the Tidal Habitat Emphasis. At the program level, the decision was made to select Alternative C and implement Phase 1 actions. Programmatic Alternative C has been carried forward as Alternative A (No Action) in this Final EIS/R, as it represents the continuation of existing conditions that would occur absent the implementation of one of the Action Alternatives for Phase 2.

Project-Level Evaluation

Phase 2 Impact 3.14-1: Increased demand for fire and police protection services.

Alviso-Island Ponds

Alternative Island A (No Action). Under Alternative Island A, the Alviso-Island pond cluster would continue to be monitored and managed through the activities described in the AMP and in accordance with current United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) practices. No recreation facilities exist within the pond cluster, and no new recreation facilities would be provided. No substantial increase in visitor use resulting from the implementation of this alternative is expected that would in turn increase demand for fire and police protection services. Similarly, the habitat restoration actions and the various flood protection actions would not change the demand for public services or the ability of agencies to provide them. Consequently, there would be no impact.

Alternative Island A Level of Significance: No Impact

Alternative Island B. Alternative Island B would breach the northern levee of Pond A19 and also remove or lower portions of the levees around Ponds A19 and A20 to support hydrological connectivity and potentially improve the ecological function of both ponds. No recreation facilities exist within the pond cluster, and no new recreation facilities would be provided. No substantial increase in visitor use resulting from the implementation of this alternative is expected that would in turn increase demand for fire and police protection services. Similarly, the habitat restoration actions and the various flood protection actions would not change the demand for public services or the ability of agencies to provide them. Consequently, there would be no impact.

Alternative Island B Level of Significance: No Impact

Alternative Island C. Alternative Island C would include all of the components of Alternative Island B with the addition of three components: levee breaches on the north sides of Ponds A20 and A21, pilot channels in Pond A19, and widening of the existing breaches on the southern levee of Pond A19. No recreation facilities exist within the pond cluster, and no new recreation facilities would be provided. No substantial increase in visitor use resulting from the implementation of this alternative is expected that would in turn increase demand for fire and police protection services. Similarly, the habitat restoration actions and the various flood protection actions would not change the demand for public services or the ability of agencies to provide them. Consequently, there would be no impact.

Alternative Island C Level of Significance: No Impact

Alviso-Mountain View Ponds

Alternative Mountain View A (No Action). Under Alternative Mountain View A, the Alviso-Mountain View pond cluster would continue to be monitored and managed through the activities described in the AMP and in accordance with current USFWS practices. Existing trails on many of the levees along the boundary of the pond cluster would continue to be maintained, and no new recreation facilities would be provided. No substantial increase in visitor use resulting from the implementation of this alternative is expected that would in turn increase demand for fire and police protection services. Similarly, the habitat restoration actions and the various flood protection actions would not change the demand for public services or the ability of agencies to provide them. Consequently, there would be no impact.

Alternative Mountain View A Level of Significance: No Impact

Alternative Mountain View B. Under Alternative Mountain View B, Ponds A1 and A2W would be breached at several points to introduce tidal flow in the ponds, and recreational opportunities would be increased through the construction of a new trail, a viewing platform, and a viewing platform. Existing trails on many of the levees along the boundary of the pond cluster would continue to be maintained. An increase in the use of additional recreation and public access facilities as well as the currently existing ones may incrementally increase demand for fire and police protection services, including USFWS law enforcement. The construction of Phase 2 actions would result in limited new recreation facilities. These facilities are primarily extensions of existing services (e.g., viewing platforms, trails) and are not expected to substantially increase the need for fire and police protection services such that new facilities or additional staff would be required. The proposed recreation facilities would be designed in a manner that would facilitate the movement of emergency service providers in the event of an emergency (e.g., trails would be wide enough to accommodate vehicles and the provision of entrances). These actions would not be expected to increase the need for fire and police protection services to such an extent as to cause a reduction in acceptable response time or to outpace natural growth in the region and require construction of new fire and

police stations as part of the SBSP Restoration Project. Therefore, the potential impacts would be less than significant.

Alternative Mountain View B Level of Significance: Less than Significant

Alternative Mountain View C. Under Alternative Mountain View C, Pond A1, Pond A2W, and Charleston Slough would be converted to tidal marsh, and recreational opportunities would be increased through construction of new trails and viewing platforms. Existing trails on many of the levees along the boundary of the pond cluster would continue to be maintained. Impacts would be the same as for Alternative Mountain View B.

Alternative Mountain View C Level of Significance: Less than Significant

Alviso-A8 Ponds

Alternative A8 A (No Action). Under Alternative A8 A, the pond cluster would continue to be monitored and managed through the activities described in the AMP and in accordance with current USFWS practices. No recreation facilities exist within the pond cluster, and no new recreation facilities would be provided. No substantial increase in visitor use resulting from the implementation of this alternative is expected that would in turn increase the demand for fire and police protection services. Similarly, the habitat restoration actions and the various flood protection actions would not change the demand for public services or the ability of agencies to provide them. Consequently, there would be no impact.

Alternative A8 A Level of Significance: No Impact

Alternative A8 B. Under this alternative, habitat transition zones may be constructed in Pond A8S's southwest corner, southeast corner, or both. As in the Mountain View Ponds, the habitat transition zones would perform several functions: adding some flood protection, buffering against sea-level rise, adding habitat transition zones for the salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgway's rail, and protecting the adjacent landfill. No recreation facilities exist within the pond cluster, and no new recreation facilities would be provided. No substantial increase in visitor use resulting from the implementation of this alternative is expected that would in turn increase demand for fire and police protection services. Similarly, the habitat restoration actions and the various flood protection actions would not change the demand for public services or the ability of agencies to provide them. Consequently, there would be no impact.

Alternative A8 B Level of Significance: No Impact

Ravenswood Ponds

Alternative Ravenswood A (No Action). Under Alternative Ravenswood A, the Ravenswood pond cluster would continue to be monitored and managed through the activities described in the AMP and in accordance with current USFWS practices. Ponds R3, R4, and R5/S5 would function as seasonal ponds. The outboard levees along Ponds R4 and R3 provide inland flood protection and would continue to be maintained or repaired as a component of the United States Army Corps of Engineers 1995 operations and maintenance permit. Existing trails on the levees along the southerly boundary of the pond cluster and along the boundary with Bedwell Bayfront Park would continue to be maintained, and no new recreation facilities would be provided. No substantial increase in visitor use resulting from the implementation of this alternative is expected that would in turn increase demand for fire and police protection services. Similarly, the habitat restoration actions and the various flood protection actions would not change the demand for public services or the ability of agencies to provide them. Consequently, there would be no impact.

Alternative Ravenswood A Level of Significance: No Impact

Alternative Ravenswood B. Under Alternative Ravenswood B, Ponds R5 and S5 would become managed ponds of moderate depth for ducks and small shorebirds, Pond R3 would be enhanced for western snowy plover habitat, and Pond R4 would become tidal marsh. The changes proposed under this alternative would provide additional flood protection, improve habitat, and improve recreation and access. Existing trails along the southern boundary of the pond cluster and along the boundary with Bedwell Bayfront Park would continue to be maintained. A viewing platform would be constructed on an existing trail near Ponds R5 and S5 to improve public access and environmental education benefits at the adjacent wildlife habitat in Ponds R5 and S5. By incorporating environmental education opportunities at these ponds, this action would provide the public with enhanced recreational experiences at the relatively high-use Bedwell Bayfront Park in Menlo Park.

An increase in the use of additional recreation and public access facilities as well as the currently existing ones may incrementally increase demand for fire and police protection services, including USFWS law enforcement. The construction of Phase 2 actions would result in some new recreation facilities. These facilities are primarily extensions of existing services (e.g., viewing platforms) and are not expected to substantially increase the need for fire and police protection services such that new facilities or additional staff would be required. The proposed recreation facilities would be designed in a manner that would facilitate the movement of emergency service providers in the event of an emergency (e.g., trails would be wide enough to accommodate vehicles and the provision of entrances). These alternatives would not be expected to increase the need for fire and police protection services to such an extent as to cause a reduction in acceptable response time or to outpace natural growth in the region and require construction of new fire and police stations as part of the SBSP Restoration Project. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

Alternative Ravenswood B Level of Significance: Less than Significant

Alternative Ravenswood C. This alternative would be similar to Alternative Ravenswood B except that Ponds R5 and S5 would be managed ponds designed to simulate tidal mudflats and Pond R3 would be further enhanced for western snowy plovers; also, additional recreation and access components would be added. In addition to the viewing platform at Ponds R5 and S5, described for Alternative Ravenswood B above, a spur trail on an elevated boardwalk and a viewing platform would be constructed along the northwestern corner of Pond R4. The trail would begin at the northeast corner of Bedwell Bayfront Park and extend to the northeast along a boardwalk above the lowered and breached levee. The viewing platform would be constructed at the northern terminus of the trail. A trail along the eastern levees of Ponds R5 and S5 would be constructed and linked to the existing trails located on the outer levees of these ponds to form a loop around these ponds. Impacts would be the same as for Alternative Ravenswood B.

Alternative Ravenswood C Level of Significance: Less than Significant

Alternative Ravenswood D. This alternative would be similar to Alternative Ravenswood C except that there would be more activities encouraging habitat creation, salinity treatment, stormwater detention capacity, and flood control capability. The same public access features list in Alternative Ravenswood C would be added, but the trail at the northwest corner of Pond R4 would be on the improved levee itself instead of on a boardwalk. Impacts would be the same as for Alternative Ravenswood C.

Alternative Ravenswood D Level of Significance: Less than Significant

Impact Summary

Phase 2 impacts and levels of significance are summarized in Table 3.14-1. The levels of significance are those remaining after implementation of program-level mitigation measures, project-level design features, and the AMP and other Refuge management documents and practices. The public services analysis required no project-level mitigation measures in order to reduce the impacts to a level that was less than significant.

Table 3.14-1 Phase 2 Summary of Impacts – Public Services

| IMPACT | ALTERNATIVE | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|----|----|---------------|-----|-----|----|----|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | ISLAND | | | MOUNTAIN VIEW | | | A8 | | RAVENSWOOD | | | |
| | A | B | C | A | B | C | A | B | A | B | C | D |
| Phase 2 Impact 3.14-1: Increased demand for fire and police protection services. | NI | NI | NI | NI | LTS | LTS | NI | NI | NI | LTS | LTS | LTS |
| Notes: Alternative A at each pond cluster is the No Action Alternative (No Project Alternative under CEQA). LTS = Less than Significant NI = No Impact | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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3.14 Public Services.....3.14-1

 3.14.1 Physical Setting3.14-1

 3.14.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....3.14-8

Table 3.14-1 Phase 2 Summary of Impacts – Public Services3.14-13