Section 3.11
Public Services and Utilities

Introduction

This section identifies and evaluates issues related to public services (e.g., law enforcement) and utilities (e.g., electric service).

The "Affected Environment" discussion below describes the current setting of the action area. The purpose of this information is to establish the existing environmental context, or background, against which the reader can then understand the environmental changes caused by the action. The environmental setting information is intended to be directly or indirectly relevant to the subsequent discussion of impacts. For example, current services are described in the setting so that readers may assess whether the action would generate additional demand for these services.

The environmental changes associated with the action are discussed under "Environmental Consequences." This section identifies impacts, describes how they would occur, and prescribes mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts.

Affected Environment

Environmental Setting

Public Services

Law Enforcement

The Vallejo Police Department (VPD), Solano County Sheriff's Department, and California Highway Patrol (CHP) serve Vallejo. Although some businesses and corporations located on Mare Island provide their own private security, VPD has primary responsibility for law enforcement on Mare Island. VPD's main office is located on Amador Street in Vallejo. The Vallejo Police Department does not maintain an office or substation on Mare Island, but it conducts routine patrols of Mare Island on a daily basis and maintains mutual-aid agreements with the CHP,

Solano County Sheriff's Department, Napa County Sheriff's Department, and the cities of Napa, Fairfield, and Benicia (Lyons pers. comm.). The Vallejo Police Department's Crime Prevention Bureau is responsible for evaluating the safety features of new development proposals and public education programs.

Fire Protection

The Vallejo Fire Department provides fire protection for Mare Island and Vallejo. The Vallejo Fire Department is separated into three divisions: fire prevention, fire suppression, and training. They maintain mutual-aid agreements with the cities of American Canyon, Benicia, and Crockett (Keener pers. comm.). The Vallejo Fire Department is responsible to be the first responder to all emergency medical service calls in Vallejo. The Vallejo Fire Department's main office is located on Marin Street in Vallejo, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are located at each substation, including Mare Island. Station 8, located on Mare Island's California Street, is staffed 24 hours per day and is operated by Engine Company 8. A program is underway to provide certified paramedics at each substation in Vallejo.

Medical Services

Medical services for community residents are provided by Kaiser Medical Center, Sutter-Solano Medical Center, and First Hospital in Vallejo. Kaiser and Sutter-Solano operate full-service, 24-hour-per-day emergency rooms. First Hospital of Vallejo is a psychiatric hospital. Ambulance service within Mare Island and other portions of Vallejo is provided by private ambulance companies, contracted through the Vallejo Fire Department.

Utilities

The information discussed in this section was derived from the Mare Island Disposal and Reuse Plan Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) (Navy and City 1998) and the Mare Island Final Reuse Plan (City of Vallejo 1994b). This section includes an overview of the water distribution system, wastewater system, solid waste disposal, telephone service, gas and electric service, stormwater system, and specialized systems. As detailed below, Naval operations at Mare Island were supported by a complex utility infrastructure.

Water Distribution

The existing potable water system on Mare Island is serviced by the Vallejo Water District. The system includes a 5.7 million gallon water tank, constructed in 2000, and a gravity-driven distribution system. Potable water is supplied to Mare Island through two transmission mains that cross Mare Island Strait. One

main crosses via the Causeway Bridge, and the other crosses via a concrete easement that enters Mare Island just south of Pier 23. Water supply lines extend to the south end of the island and to Pier 35. No water supply lines are located at the disposal ponds.

The potable water distribution system provides water acceptable for drinking, industrial uses, fire protection, and landscape irrigation. The current system has adequate capacity for existing uses; however, a capital improvement project, primarily for improvements to storage capacity, is planned.

Historically, a saltwater distribution system was used on Mare Island to augment fire protection services and to provide flushing and cooling for ships and submarines at the piers and drydocks. Saltwater also was used for various industrial purposes. The system served most of the industrialized areas of the island, especially the controlled industrial area and the weapons station annex. The saltwater distribution system, though still in place, was abandoned in the late 1990s.

Wastewater System

Sanitary Wastewater

Originally, the Mare Island sewage collection system was a combined sanitary wastewater and stormwater collection system. The system also received industrial wastewater. Separation of the systems started in 1957, and substantial separation was achieved in 1974.

The sanitary wastewater system on Mare Island is maintained by the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District (VSFCD). The existing sanitary wastewater system is a gravity-flow system supplemented by 36 pump stations, an overflow pond, a chlorination station, and an emergency generation station. The main trunk sewer is in Railroad Avenue and serves the entire island. The flow converges on the main pump station at A Street and is pumped through an 18-inch-diameter force main across Mare Island Strait for treatment at the VSFCD treatment plant. No sanitary sewage treatment occurs on the island.

No sanitary wastewater piping is located at the disposal ponds. On the south end of the island, wastewater piping runs along Murphy Lane to Sewage Pump Station No. 5, located at the end of Murphy Lane.

Industrial Wastewater

Industrial wastewater is collected separately from sanitary wastewater and stormwater, and is conveyed by a system of underground pipes and pump stations to an Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP). The total system is referred to as the Industrial Wastewater System. Treated effluent from the IWTP flows to the sanitary wastewater system's Domestic Pump No. 4 and discharges to the collection system for treatment at the VSFCD treatment plant. In 1988, the IWTP was upgraded to meet increasingly stringent regulatory requirements. The blending and sludge ponds at the IWTP were closed by order of the Department

of Health Services for failure to meet the requirements of the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act of 1984.

Mare Island industrial wastewater was a composite of wastes from a large number of industrial operations, such as metal cleaning, electroplating and electrical repair shops, oil reclamation, classified research facilities, and photographic laboratories. The IWTP operated under the VSFCD Pretreatment Permit to discharge to the VSFCD collection system.

Solid Waste Disposal

The Vallejo Garbage Service is currently responsible for transporting all solid waste generated on Mare Island. Solid waste is collected from residential units and offices in dumpsters stationed throughout the island and taken to the Rabanco Landfill, located in American Canyon. The main office for the Vallejo Garbage Service is located on Broadway Street in Vallejo.

Stormwater System

Historically, the shipyard owned the stormwater system that covers all developed areas on Mare Island. The system received no routine maintenance, and repairs were made only when necessary.

VSFCD currently maintains the stormwater system on Mare Island. The stormwater collection and disposal system consists of a network of catch basins, pipes, manholes, and pump stations that intercept rainwater and other surface water runoff. The water is discharged to Mare Island Strait through outfall pipes with flapper valves that prevent backflow of tidal water into the system. The stormwater system operates under an National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and a Statewide General Industrial Storm Water Discharge Permit that require sampling and monitoring of discharges.

The proposed action would be serviced by the stormwater service system at the south end of the island.

Telephone Service

Currently, SBC Pacific Bell is the primary provider of telephone service for Mare Island. There is no telephone service at the disposal ponds. The existing telephone transmission lines located at the south end of the island extend to Piers 34 and 35 and run along Tyler Road to Building A-169. Telephone and communication service at Pier 35 provides service to the U.S. Coast Guard communications station.

Gas and Electricity Service

Currently, Island Energy is the major supplier of electrical power and natural gas for Mare Island. The primary electrical distribution system consists of a network of 26 major and a significant number of minor 12-kilovolt (kV) substations, scattered throughout the island. Normally, incoming power is received via two 115-kV circuits and transformed down to the primary distribution level, 12 kV, at Substation "H," by two transformers. The electrical system that extends to the south end of the island has been deenergized between Building A-216 and Pier 35 to accommodate the environmental remediation work being conducted by the U.S. Navy. At Pier 35, the system remains energized to provide power to the U.S. Coast Guard communications system located at the pier. No electrical utilities are located at the disposal ponds.

The gas distribution system consists of mains, 8 inches in diameter and smaller, which connect to form loops. Valves divide the sections of mains and permit isolation or bypassing of line failures with minimal service interruption.

No natural gas lines are located at the disposal ponds, and the existing gas system ends at Building A-216, in the Production Manufacturing Area at the south end of Mare Island. According to Island Energy, the piping from Building A-216 to Pier 35 has been cut and removed to disconnect it from the system. This removal was undertaken to prevent the lines from rupturing while the U.S. Navy conducted environmental remediation work.

Specialized Systems

Specialized shipyard systems that were required to support the industrial operations of the former shipyard include the dredge lines, fuel oil system, steam systems, hot water circulating system, and a dry dock flood and drain system.

Both the U.S. Navy navigational channel of Mare Island Strait and the waterfront area of the shipyard required dredging. The Corps annually performed dredging of the strait and disposed of the dredged material at the Carquinez disposal site. The shipyard performed dredging of the waterfront berths, dry docks, and finger piers and disposed of the dredged material in the ponds on the western side of the island. The shipyard dredging operation was authorized by a Corps permit. Mare Island maintained an NPDES permit issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for discharges of dredged material wastewater into San Pablo Bay. The permit expired in September 1996.

The dry dock flood and drain system allowed for the filling and draining of dry docks. The system consists of a series of flooding and discharge tunnels, sluice gates, and pumping stations.

A steam turbine generator capable of producing 5,000 kilowatts was located in the Central Power Plant (steam plant). The system was rendered useless upon shutdown of the boilers in 1995. Other systems that were scheduled for

shutdown and removal by the time of base closure include dedicated emergency electrical generators for industrial radio communications, emergency service radio communications, the emergency command center, food storage facilities, industrial waste and sewage treatment plant, dry dock pumphouses, controlled industrial area security lighting, and the Naval medical/dental clinic.

Regulatory Setting

No federal, state, or local regulations concerning public services or utilities pertain to the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences

Standards for Determining Significance under NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) criteria for determining significance are listed in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 1508.27, but are considered more broad and less stringent than California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) criteria, set forth below. Also, the CEQA criteria below incorporate NEPA standards. For these reasons, identification of impacts as significant under CEQA is treated herein as sufficient for identifying impacts considered significant under NEPA. Mitigation measures set forth to minimize CEQA significant impacts are presumed to also mitigate NEPA significant impacts. These assumptions are made only for the purpose of identifying the magnitude of particular impacts; this document complies with NEPA requirements and uses the CEQA analysis only as a source of supporting information.

Criteria for Determining Significance under CEQA

According to the State CEQA Guidelines and professional judgment, a project would have a significant effect on public services or utilities if it would result in any of the following.

- Demand for new facilities, or impacts associated with the provision of new facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for
  - fire protection,
  - law enforcement,
  - schools,
  - parks, or
  - other public facilities.

- Exceedance of wastewater treatment requirements or construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities causing significant environmental effects.
- Construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities causing significant environmental effects.
- Additional water supplies (e.g., expanded entitlements).
- Creation of substantial additional solid waste or fail to comply with pertinent solid waste regulations.

Methods and Assumptions for the Effect Analysis

The proposed action would use existing infrastructure, such as the stormwater drainage system, in the action area. However, the action would not involve the construction of facilities, which require utility connections. Also, the action would employ approximately 10 people, which would not result in a potential impact on public services.

Effects

Effect 3.11-1: Potential for Physical Impacts Resulting from Provision of New Services or Strain on Existing Services

The proposed action would not increase the demand for public services or utilities in excess of the existing systems' capacities. The action would employ approximately 10 people. The action would have no effect on schools or parks. The effect of the operation and the added employment would have minimal effect on law enforcement, fire protection, and other public services.

With the exception of the possible use of an electric off-loader at Pier 35, the action would not result in the need to expand any existing utilities or the installation of new utilities. If an electric off-loader is used, the appropriate utility provider (i.e., Island Energy) would be contacted to ensure the existing infrastructure is adequate. See Environmental Commitment C-3: Use Electrically Powered Off-Loader, When Practicable. (Section 3.6, Air Quality, "Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Measures."

Mare Island has a specialized dredging system that supported dredging operations before base closure. This system was abandoned but left in place after dredging operations ceased. The Disposal and Reuse EIS/EIR states, in its discussion of existing utility systems, that specialized dredging and dry dock systems could be reused without resulting in any potential impacts on these systems. Because no new or additional public services or utility infrastructure would be required by the project, the proposed action would not adversely affect these resources.

No Action

There would be no effect on public services or utilities under the No Action scenario because this scenario would not create a need to use any of the existing services or utilities on Mare Island. No mitigation is required.

Alternatives 1, 2, and 3

This effect is considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Measures

WESTON has not made any previous environmental commitments relating to public services or utilities. Because no significant effects on public services or utilities would result from the action alternatives, no mitigation is required.

Summary of Effects and Mitigation Measures by Alternative

Table 3.11-1. Summary of Public Services and Utilities Effects and Mitigation Measures

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	No Action
Public Services and Utilities				
Effect 3.11-1: Potential for Physical Impacts Resulting from Provision of New Services or Strain on Existing Services				
Quantitative Comparison	No notable effect	No notable effect	No notable effect	No effect
Significance before Mitigation	LS	LS	LS	NE
Significance after Mitigation	LS	LS	LS	NE
Mitigation Measures				
None required	X	X	X	X
None available				

Notes:

SU = Significant and unavoidable.
S = Significant.
PS = Potentially significant (same as significant for CEQA and NEPA purposes).
LS = Less than significant.
NE = No effect.