

5.14 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

5.14.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the existing regulatory and environmental settings, and analyzes the Project's potential to result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts for the following public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, and library facilities. Additionally, this section analyzes the Project's potential to 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 or include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Development and operation of new or expanded public facilities may have an adverse physical effect on the environment, including impacts related to air quality, biological resources, lighting, noise, and transportation. Construction of a public facility is like that of any development with grading, trenching for improvements, extension of utility facilities, and the building of structures. These activities vary by public facility, but the construction techniques and materials are the same as private development construction. The impacts of all types of construction, including those associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, are discussed throughout this EIR.

See **Section 5.11: Land Use and Planning** for a discussion concerning the Project's potential to cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with Local Agency Formation Commission for San Bernardino County (SBLAFCO) policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect resulting from any proposal to remove (detach) and/or add (annex) lands to a city/public services district (e.g., fire protection districts).

See **Section 5.9: Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire** for a discussion concerning the Project's potential impacts concerning wildfires.

Proposed General Plan

Proposed General Plan-related information in this section is based on methodology and information discussed in **Section 5.14.3: Methodology For Evaluating Impacts** and **Section 5.14.4: Environmental Setting**, respectively, as well as responses to a questionnaire submitted to public service providers; see **Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Public Service Provider Questionnaires**.

Barstow International Gateway (BIG)

BIG-related information in this section is based on methodology and information discussed in **Section 5.14.3: Methodology For Evaluating Impacts** and **Section 5.14.4: Environmental Setting**.

Summary of Findings – Proposed General Plan

The City anticipates both population and job growth under the proposed General Plan. This analysis evaluates the impact of this growth on public services facilities such as fire, police, schools, libraries, and recreation. Demand for these public services would increase with new residents and employees in the City. Additional police and fire stations would be needed to meet the proposed General Plan's projected needs, the construction of which would result in less than significant environmental impacts following review pursuant to CEQA and compliance with City policies and standards. The proposed General Plan includes policies to ensure that public services increase to meet the new demand. It is also City policy to maintain fire and police staffing, facilities, and training activities to effectively respond to emergency and general public service needs. Because of this, impacts from the growth envisioned by the proposed General Plan would be less than significant.

Summary of Findings – Barstow International Gateway

BIG would not require the construction of new police stations, schools, libraries, or parks, nor would it substantially increase demand for these services. BIG does not include housing, so it would not directly contribute to population growth that typically drives demand for such facilities. While BIG would generate thousands of jobs, both during construction and operation, the use of existing recreational and public service facilities by workers is anticipated to be negligible. Emergency services such as fire and police protection are already planned to expand under the City's General Plan, and BIG's contribution to service demand is accounted for in those plans. Additionally, BIG would implement safety measures like perimeter fencing, lighting, and coordination with emergency responders to ensure adequate protection. Overall, BIG is expected to result in less than significant impacts on public services and recreation.

5.14.2 REGULATORY SETTING

5.14.2.1 Federal

International Fire Code

The International Fire Code establishes minimum requirements for fire prevention and fire protection systems using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. This model code regulates minimum fire safety requirements for new and existing buildings, facilities, storage, and processes. The International Fire Code includes general and specialized technical fire and life safety regulations addressing fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion hazards safety, use and storage of hazardous materials, protection of emergency responders, industrial processes, and many other topics. The International Fire Code is issued by the International Code Council, an international organization of building officials.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) mission is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national

incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003

In 2000, the secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior commissioned a report on how to respond to severe, ongoing fire activity, reduce impacts of fires on rural communities and the environment, and ensure sufficient firefighting resources in the future. This report, entitled *Managing the Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment: A Report to the President in Response to the Wildfires of 2000*, became the basis of the National Fire Plan. The National Fire Plan addresses five objectives: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability. The plan developed its implementation strategy via its 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and its Implementation Plan. Based on these two reports, in 2002, the President announced the Healthy Forest Initiative to implement the National Fire Plan; this became the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The National Fire Plan, as enacted under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, works towards the goals of reducing the devastation of wildland fires and improving the health of forests and rangelands.

California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement - Protection of Federal Responsibility Area

The California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement is an agreement made between the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, U.S. Forest Service, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement states that State and Federal Agencies shall jointly develop and review the Annual Operating Plan for the protection of Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA) located within State Direct Protection Areas (CAL FIRE, 2023). As identified in the Annual Operating Plan, the State will provide wildland fire protection at a level, which is most nearly equivalent to the wildland fire protection that would be provided directly by the federal agencies on FRAs of equal hazard, risk, and value.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act (29 United States Code 651 et seq.)

Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act (OSHA) to ensure worker and workplace safety. Their goal was to make sure employers provide their workers with a place of employment free from recognized hazards to safety and health, such as exposure to toxic chemicals, excessive noise levels, mechanical dangers, heat or cold stress, or unsanitary conditions. OSHA's construction standards require construction employers to have accident prevention programs that provide for frequent and regular inspection of the jobsites, materials, and equipment by competent persons designated by the employers. See 29 CFR 1926.20(b). OSHA's standards also limit hazardous chemical exposure and require employers to monitor other hazards in the workplace.

5.14.2.2 State

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

CAL FIRE protects the State from fires and wildlands fires, responds to emergencies, and protects and enhances forest, range, and watershed values providing social, economic, and environmental benefits to rural and urban citizens.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal supports CAL FIRE’s mission by focusing on fire prevention. It provides support through a variety of fire safety responsibilities including regulating buildings in which people live, congregate, or are confined; controlling substances and products that may, in and of themselves, or by their misuse, cause injuries, death, and destruction by fire; providing statewide direction for fire prevention in wildland areas; regulating hazardous liquid pipelines; reviewing regulations and building standards; and providing training and education in fire protection methods and responsibilities.

As detailed below, Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 4201-4204 and California Government Code (CGC) §§ 51175-51189 mandate CAL FIRE to map areas of substantial fire hazards (i.e., Fire Hazard Severity Zones [FHSZ]) Statewide. Areas where the State has the primary financial responsibility for wildfire prevention and suppression are classified as State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) and areas where a local fire protection agency has the primary responsibility are classified as Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) (CAL FIRE, 2025a). Also, areas administered or controlled by the federal government for which the federal agencies have administrative and protection responsibility are classified FRAs. These classifications influence where development occurs and how an agency will respond to future wildfire emergencies.

CAL FIRE’s Fire and Resource Assessment Program classifies Wildland-Urban Interface areas into one of three severity zones: Moderate FHSZ; High FHSZ; and Very High FHSZ (Very High FHSZ). All other areas are labeled as “non-VHFHSZ.” In LRAs, State law and City ordinance identifies Very High, High, and Moderate FHSZs.

California Code of Regulations Title 8 § 6773

In accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 8 § 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 hose sizing requirements, restrictions on the use of compressed air, access roads, and the testing, maintenance, and use of all firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

California Code of Regulations Title 24 (California Building Standards Code)

CCR Title 24, also known as the California Building Standards Code (CBSC), includes regulations for how buildings are designed and constructed, and are intended to ensure the maximum structural integrity and safety of private and public buildings. The CBSC, which applies to all applications for building permits, consists of 12 parts that contain CBSC administrative regulations for all State agencies that implement or enforce building standards. Local agencies must ensure the development complies with the CBSC standards. Cities and counties can adopt additional standards beyond the CBSC including CBSC Part 2, named the California Building Code (CBC), which is based upon the current 2024 International Building

Code, and CBSC Part 11, named the California Green Building Standards Code, also known as the CALGreen Code.

California Code of Regulations Title 24 Part 2 - California Building Code

The CBC contains general building design and construction requirements relating to fire and life safety, structural safety, and access compliance. CBC provisions provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of all buildings and structures and certain equipment.

CBC Title 24, Part 7 addresses prevention of ember penetration into homes, a leading cause of structure loss from wildfires. These codes have been developed through decades of after fire structure “save” and “loss” evaluations to determine what causes buildings to ignite or avoid ignition during wildfires. The resulting fire codes now emphasize mitigating former structural vulnerabilities through construction techniques and materials so that the buildings are resistant to ignitions from direct flames, heat, and embers, as indicated in CBC Chapter 1 § 1.1.2: Purpose.

California Code of Regulations Title 24 Part 9 - California Fire Code

The California Fire Code (CFC) contains regulations consistent with nationally recognized accepted practices for safeguarding, to a reasonable degree, life and property from various hazards, including fire and explosion, among others. The CFC also contains provisions to assist emergency response personnel. The CFC is pre-assembled with the International Fire Code with necessary California amendments. The CFC is based on the International Fire Code and integrates State amendments. The CFC contains fire safety-related building standards that are referenced in other parts of CCR Title 24. The CFC is updated once every three years. The CFC 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. The CFC provides minimum standards to increase the ability of a building or structure to resist the intrusion of flame or burning embers being projected by a vegetation fire and contributes to a systematic reduction in fire losses through the use of performance and prescriptive requirements.

California Government Code § 51175 through § 51189

The purpose of these statutes is to classify State lands in accordance with whether a very high fire hazard is present so that public officials are able to identify measures to retard the rate of spread, and reduce the potential intensity, of uncontrolled fires that threaten to destroy resources, life, or property, and to require that those measures be taken. This portion of the Government Code establishes the State’s moderate, high, and Very High FHSZs. This statute allows emergency response and hazard management departments to effectively locate areas that are more susceptible to fire hazards. This law also provides the framework for further preventive measures to decrease wildfire hazards.

California Government Code § 66474.02

CGC § 66474.02 requires that before a county can approve a tentative map, or a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required, for an area (development) located in an SRA or a Very High FHSZ, the following findings must be made:

- A finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the subdivision is consistent with regulations adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to PRC § 4290 and § 4291 or consistent with local ordinances certified by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as meeting or exceeding the State regulations.
- A finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that structural fire protection and suppression services will be available for the subdivision through any of the following entities: (a) A county, city, special district, political subdivision of the State, or another entity organized solely to provide fire protection services that is monitored and funded by a county or other public entity; or (b) CAL FIRE by contract entered into the California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement pursuant to PRC § 4133, § 4142, or § 4144.

Upon approving a tentative map, or a parcel map for which a tentative map was not required, for an area (development) in an SRA or Very High FHSZ, the County shall transmit a copy of the findings and accompanying maps to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

California Health and Safety Code

State fire laws are established in § 13000 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code and include laws for structural standards (similar to those identified in the CBC); fire protection and public notification systems; fire protection devices such as extinguishers and smoke alarms; standards for high-rise structures and childcare facilities; and fire suppression training. The State Fire Marshal is responsible for enforcement of these established laws and building standards for all State-owned buildings, State-occupied buildings, and State institutions.

Sections 16000 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code are intended to ensure that essential services buildings, which can provide essential services to the public after a disaster, are designed and constructed to minimize fire hazards and resist forces generated by earthquakes, gravity, and winds.

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

In 2009, the State passed legislation creating the California Governor's Office of Emergency Management Agency (now the Office of Emergency Services [Cal OES]) and authorizing it to prepare a Standardized Emergency Management System (SEM) program (Title 19 CCR § 2400 et seq.) that sets forth measures by which a jurisdiction should handle emergency disasters. Non-compliance with the Standardized Emergency Management System could result in the State withholding disaster relief from the non-complying jurisdiction in the event of an emergency disaster. The Standardized Emergency Management System provides the mechanism by which the local government requests assistance.

Cal OES serves as the lead agency for emergency management, mobilizing the State's resources, and obtaining federal resources in the State. It coordinates the State response to major emergencies in

support of local government. The primary responsibility for emergency management resides with the local government. Local jurisdictions first use their own resources and, as these are exhausted, obtain more from neighboring cities and special districts, the county in which they are located, and other counties throughout the State through the Statewide Mutual Aid System. Cal OES also maintains oversight of the State's Mutual Aid System.

Emergency Mutual Aid Agreements

The Emergency Mutual Aid Agreements system is a collaborative effort between city and county emergency managers in the Cal OES located in the coastal, southern, and inland regions of the State. The Emergency Mutual Aid Agreements system provides service in the emergency response and recovery efforts at the Southern Regional Emergency Operations Center, the local Emergency Operations Centers, the Disaster Field Office, and community service centers. The Emergency Mutual Aid Agreements system's purpose is to support disaster operations in affected jurisdictions by providing professional emergency management personnel. In accordance with the Emergency Mutual Aid Agreements system, State and local emergency managers have responded in support of each other under a variety of plans and procedures.

The Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System was established in 1961 and has been used to restore order during emergencies, including civil unrest, and to provide assistance to local agencies during other unusual events or catastrophic disasters. As a component of the SEMS, the Mutual Aid System is based on four organizational levels: cities, counties, regions, and the State. The State is divided into seven Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Regions. The county Sheriff serves as the "Operational Area Mutual Aid Coordinator." In each of the seven regions, one Sheriff, elected by his or her peers, serves as the Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator (RMAC). Cal OES Law Enforcement Branch has Assistant Chiefs assigned to each of the seven regions for direct coordination with law enforcement chiefs and sheriffs within each region.

California Senate Bill 50, California Government Code, and Education Code

California Senate Bill (SB) 50 places limitations on the power of local governments to require mitigation of school facilities by developers or to deny project approvals on the basis that public school facilities (classrooms, auditoriums, etc.) are inadequate. Under the provisions of SB 50, school districts can collect fees to offset the cost of expanding school capacity, which becomes necessary as development occurs. These fees are determined based on the square footage of proposed uses. AB 50 requires school districts to base their long-term facilities needs and costs on long-term population growth in order to qualify for this funding source. Payment of statutory school fees is deemed to be full and complete mitigation of school impacts under CEQA.

SB 50 (1997 – 1998) amended CGC § 65995, which contains limitations on Education Code § 17620, the statute that authorizes school districts to assess development fees within school district boundaries. CGC § 65995(b)(3) requires the maximum square footage assessment for development to be increased every two years, according to inflation adjustments. According to CGC § 65995(h), the payment of statutory fees is "deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in

governmental organization or reorganization...on the provision of adequate school facilities.” The school district is responsible for implementing the specific methods for mitigating school impacts under the CGC.

California State Assembly Bill 97 (AB 97)

Approved in July 2013, AB 97 revised existing laws related to financing for public schools, by requiring State funding for county superintendents and charter schools that previously received a general-purpose entitlement. The bill authorized local educational agencies to spend, for any local educational purpose, the funds previously required to be spent for specified categorical education programs, including, among others, programs for teacher training and class size reduction.

The Quimby Act

The Quimby Act (CGC § 66477) was established by the California legislature in 1965 to develop new or rehabilitate existing neighborhood or community park or recreation facilities. This legislation was enacted in response to the need to provide parks and recreation facilities for California’s growing communities. The Quimby Act gives the legislative body of a city or county the authority, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land or payment of in-lieu fees, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition of approval of a tract map or parcel map. The Quimby Act is implemented through City Ordinance and is discussed further below.

Mitigation Fee Act

The Mitigation Fee Act (CGC §§ 66000 through 66025) imposes requirements on a local agency that establishes, increases, or imposes an impact fee as a condition of development. This Act became enforceable on January 1, 1989, and has been amended from time to time. To comply with the Mitigation Fee Act, the City must follow four requirements:

1. Make certain determinations regarding the purpose and use of a fee and establish a nexus or connection between a development project or class of project and the public improvement being financed with the fee;
2. Segregate fee revenue from the general fund in order to avoid commingling of capital facilities fees and general funds;
3. Once it collects fee revenue, the jurisdiction must comply with annual accounting requirements regarding what it has collected and how it has spent that revenue, or how it plans to spend that revenue. Every five years, the jurisdiction must make findings regarding fee revenues that have not been spent on or committed to a project, describing the continuing need for the money; and
4. Refund any fee revenues, with interest, for which the jurisdiction cannot make the findings noted above, unless certain exceptions apply.

California Public Park Preservation Act

The primary instrument for protecting and preserving parkland is California’s Public Park Preservation Act of 1971 (PRC § 5400 et seq.). Under the Public Resource Code, cities and counties may not acquire any real property that is in use as a public park for nonpark use unless compensation, land, or both are provided to replace the parkland acquired. This provides no net loss of parkland and facilities.

Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000

Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) are approving bodies of government within each county responsible for regulating the organization and extension of services provided by cities and special districts. The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CGC § 56000 et seq) (CKH Act) established LAFCO's procedures to act on local agency boundary changes or organization, including city incorporations, annexations to a city or special district, and consolidations of cities or special districts. As discussed in Section 5.11.2.2, various laws have been enacted further defining LAFCO responsibility and authority.

As noted, LAFCOs have the power to act on local agency boundary changes and to adopt spheres of influence for local agencies. LAFCOs can adopt a revised sphere of influence (SOI) after a public hearing and pursuant to the procedures set forth in CGC § 56427. In regard to public facilities, the CKH Act directs LAFCOs preparing and updating SOIs to assess the present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area, as well as the present capacity and adequacy of public facilities, in order to ensure logical, orderly, development (CGC § 56430). In 2003, the Governor's Office of Land use and Climate Innovation (LCI) (formerly, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research [OPR]) issued Municipal Service Review (MSR) Guidelines that provided a step-by-step approach to the public service review process. The MSR Guidelines address the delivery of municipal services at a regional level, in a manner that informs other LAFCO boundary-setting decisions.

Other Service Districts

Table 5.14-1: Other Service Districts summarizes information from the City of Barstow (City) MSR showing service districts and service areas that provide services to all or part of the City and its unincorporated Sphere of influence (collectively, the proposed General Plan area). In general, a county service area (CSA) provides services that are wholly dependent upon a county board of supervisors. A CSA is not regulated by a LAFCO but is often referenced in the MSR as providing services. A community services district (CSD) is independent and has its own voter-elected board of directors.

Table 5.14-1: Other Service Districts	
District or Service Area	Service Authorized
Odessa Water District (subsidiary district of the City of Barstow)	Water
Barstow Fire Protection District (subsidiary district of the City of Barstow)	Fire Protection
Barstow Cemetery District	Cemetery
Barstow Heights Community Services District	Parks and Recreation*
County Service Area SL-1	Streetlights
County Service Area 40	Television
County Service Area 70 Improvement Zone S-7	Sewer
County Service Area 70 Improvement Zone W	Parks and Recreation
County Service Area 70 Improvement Zone R-42	Roads
Notes:	
*The District does not maintain either of the two parks it owns. The City maintains the parks under prior agreement.	
Source: San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (SBLAFCO). 2008. Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Updates for the Agencies within the Barstow Community. https://sbclafco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/items/oct2008/item_10.pdf .	

5.14.2.3 Local

County of San Bernardino Countywide Plan

The County adopted the Countywide Plan (CWP) in October 2020. The CWP Policy Plan addresses the physical, social, and economic issues facing the unincorporated areas of the County. **Table 5.14-2: Countywide Plan Policy Plan – Relevant Public Services and Recreation Goals and Policies** includes the public services and recreation-related goals and policies relevant to the Project.

Table 5.14-2: Countywide Plan Policy Plan – Relevant Public Services and Recreation Goals and Policies	
Goal or Policy	
LAND USE ELEMENT	
Goal LU 1	Fiscally Sustainable Growth. Growth and development that builds thriving communities, contributes to our Complete County, and is fiscally sustainable.
Policy LU-1.5	Development Impact Fees. We require payment of development impact fees to ensure that all new development pays its fair share of public infrastructure.
Goal LU 4	Community Design. Preservation and enhancement of unique community identities and their relationship with the natural environment.
HAZARDS ELEMENT	
Goal HZ 1	Natural Environmental Hazards. Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, property damage, and economic and social disruption caused by natural environmental hazards and adaptation to potential changes in climate.
Policy HZ-1.14	Long-Term Fire Hazard Reduction. We require proactive vegetation management/hazard abatement to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties, along roadsides of evacuation routes out of wildfire prone areas, and other private/public land where applicable, and we require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel modification, and roadside fuel reduction in the Fire Safety Overlay and/or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
PERSONAL & PROPERTY PROTECTION ELEMENT	
Goal PP 1	Effective crime prevention and law enforcement that leads to a real and perceived sense of public safety for residents, visitors, and businesses.
Policy PP-1.1	Law Enforcement Services. The Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services for unincorporated areas and distributes resources geographically while balancing levels of service and financial resources with continuously changing needs for personal and property protection.
Goal PP 3	Fire and Emergency Medical. Reduced risk of death, injury, property damage, and economic loss due to fires and other natural disasters, accidents, and medical incidents through prompt and capable emergency response.
Policy PP-3.6	Concurrent Protection Services. We require that fire department facilities, equipment, and staffing required to serve new development are operating prior to, or in conjunction with new development.
Policy PP-3.9	Street and Premise Signage. We require adequate street signage and premise identification be provided and maintained to ensure emergency services can quickly and efficiently respond.
Goal PP 4	Emergency Preparedness and Recovery. A reduced risk of and impact from injury, loss of life, property damage, and economic and social disruption resulting from emergencies, natural disasters, and potential changes in climate.

Table 5.14-2: Countywide Plan Policy Plan – Relevant Public Services and Recreation Goals and Policies

Goal or Policy	
Policy PP-4.1	Emergency management plans. A reduced risk of and impact from injury, loss of life, property damage, and economic and social disruption resulting from emergencies, natural disasters, and potential changes in climate.
HEALTH & WELLNESS ELEMENT	
Goal HW-2	Education. A common culture that values education and lifelong learning and a populace with the education to participate and compete in the global economy.
Policy HW-2.2	Land Use Compatibility For Schools. We prioritize the safety and security of public schools in unincorporated areas by minimizing incompatible land uses near instructional facilities. We encourage school districts to place new schools where existing and planned land uses are compatible.
Goal HW 3	Community Development. Assets that contribute to a complete county and healthy neighborhoods and communities.
Policy HW-3.1	We collaborate with other public agencies, not-for-profit organizations, community groups, and private developers to improve the physical and built environment in which people live. We do so by improving such things as walkability, bicycle infrastructure, transit facilities, universal design, safe routes to school, indoor and outdoor air quality, gardens, green space and open space, and access to parks and recreation amenities.
Policy HW-3.3	Public Libraries. We operate public libraries in unincorporated areas and contract cities/towns to provide programs and facilities that ensure equitable access to information and digital technology, provide places and activities for people to connect with other people, promote literacy and reading for pleasure for children and adults, and foster a culture of creativity, innovation, and collaboration. We invest in the modernization and expansion of public library facilities as adequate funding is available.
NATURAL RESOURCE ELEMENT	
Goal NR 3	A system of well-planned and maintained parks, trails, and open space that provides recreation opportunities for residents, attracts visitors from across the region and around the country, and preserves the natural environment.
Policy NR-3.6	We coordinate with other jurisdictions and agencies to provide regional park land. We prioritize the maintenance and improvement of existing County parks and trails over their expansion or creation of new facilities.
Policy NR-3.7	We generate revenues from County-owned parks and facilities to offset the costs of operation and maintenance. We may also coordinate with local jurisdictions and leverage other resources to support the maintenance and improvement of park and trail facilities.
Policy NR-3.9	We support the provision of local and community parks, trails, and recreational programs and facilities in unincorporated areas when a locally-approved funding and financing mechanism is established to pay for acquisition, construction, maintenance, and operations. We encourage unincorporated communities to apply for funding and cooperate with them in their funding applications for local trails that are identified in a non-motorized transportation plan that is accepted or adopted by the County. We also encourage, where feasible, local trails to be separated from vehicular traffic to improve the safety of trail users.
Policy NR-3.10	We promote the creation of joint use facilities for local parks and recreation programs through coordination with the County Flood Control District, local school districts, utilities, and other public agencies.
Source: County of San Bernardino. 2020. <i>Countywide Plan</i> . https://countywideplan.sbcounty.gov/policy-plan/ .	

The CWP Policy Plan includes the following Policy Maps that address public services and recreation:

- Policy Map PP-1(A-C) Critical Facilities: This map depicts critical facilities consistent with the County of San Bernardino Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Policy Map PP-2 Evacuation Routes: This map depicts countywide evacuation routes.
- Policy Map PP-3 Sheriff Operations: This map depicts sheriff agency boundaries and existing sheriff facilities.
- Policy Map HW-1 Educational Facilities: Depicts the boundaries of the County's school districts and community college districts, and the locations of the universities and community colleges.
- Policy Map NR-2 Parks and Open Space Resources: This map depicts parks, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness areas/conservation lands and areas of critical environmental concern, and regional trails.

See **Section 5.14.4: Environmental Setting** for further discussion concerning the above facilities and routes, and their potential presence in the BIG footprint.

For applicability of the above CWP goals and policies to the proposed General Plan and BIG, see **Section 5.0: Environmental Analysis**.

Codified Ordinances of the County of San Bernardino

The Codified Ordinances of the County of San Bernardino (County Code) regulations addressing public services and recreation are provided below. For applicability of the above County Code standards to the proposed General Plan and BIG; see **Section 5.0**.

County Code Title 2 Division 3: Fire Protection and Explosives and Hazardous Materials. County Code Title 2 Chapter 2 includes the County's fire regulations and Chapter 3 includes the County's regulations concerning abatement of fire hazards. County Code § 23.0301 requires every owner or person in control of any land or interest in the unincorporated area of the County to abate all fire hazards and hazardous trees from such land and from all sidewalks, parkways, road easements and all other easements on such land. County Code § 23.0301 also includes the firebreak and fuel break standards that every owner and person in control of any buildings or structures in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material within the unincorporated area of the County are required to implement at all times. The San Bernardino County Fire Hazard Abatement Program enforces the fire hazard requirements outlined in County Code § 23.0301 in an effort to reduce the threat of wildfires.

County Code Title 8 Division 2: Land Use Zoning Districts and Allowed Land Uses. This division establishes the primary and overlay land use zoning districts applied to County property. The Fire Safety Overlay (County Code Chapter 82.13), which is mapped on the County General Plan Hazards Maps, corresponds to distinct geographic areas and the associated wildland fire hazard and was created to provide greater public safety in areas prone to wildland brush fires, by establishing additional development standards for these areas. There are no Fire Safety Overlays within the BIG footprint (San Bernardino, 2020).

County Code Chapter 89.02: Recreational Facilities Financing. Provides for the development of park and recreational facilities, through subdivision regulations, in an area where the need for parks has been expressed by the community, and a public agency exists to administer these facilities. County Code § 89.02.030: Requirements specifies the formulas to be used to determine the amount of parkland required to serve a subdivision and expected population.

San Bernardino County Fire Fees

The provisions of the County of San Bernardino Fire Protection District Ordinance (Ordinance No. FPD 23-01) require a fee payment for any developments requiring permitting under the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Fire Code (SBC Fire, 2023).

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Fees

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBC Sheriff) does not have development impact fees but does charge for a variety of special services such as hand crews, dozers, and fire prevention officers (SBC Fire, 2024).

School Services Developer School Fees

To help finance construction or reconstruction of school facilities needed to accommodate students coming from new development, the Barstow Unified School District (BUSD) may establish, levy and collect developer fees on residential, commercial, and industrial construction within the district, subject to restrictions specified by law and administrative regulation, pursuant to Education Code §§ 17620 et seq. and Government Code §§ 65995 et seq. The County is responsible for calculating square footage as part of the building permit process.

City of Barstow 2015-2020 General Plan

The City adopted the City of Barstow 2015-2020 General Plan (2015 General Plan) in February 2015. The 2015 General Plan is the overarching guide for implementation of the Development Code, which defines development regulations and establishes zoning districts throughout the City. **Table 5.14-3: 2015 General Plan Relevant Goals and Policies – Public Services and Recreation** includes the public services and recreation-related goals and policies relevant to the Project. There are no 2015 General Plan policies concerning recreation. For applicability of the 2015 General Plan goals and policies to the proposed General Plan and BIG, see **Section 5.0**.

Table 5.14-3: 2015 General Plan Relevant Goals and Policies – Public Services and Recreation	
Goal or Policy ¹	
SAFETY ELEMENT	
Goal 1	Public Safety Goals, Policies and Strategies. Maintain optimal levels of service and quality for fire and police protection, thereby ensuring the preservation and protection of health, well-being, and property for all types of development and all residents of the community.
Policy 1A	Increase police and fire staffing levels at an equal or greater rate than the City's overall population, household, and employment growth.
Goal 2	Public Safety Goals, Policies and Strategies. Expand police and fire facilities as needed in conjunction with future planned development.
Policy 2A	Review all new development proposals, as well as significant remodeling projects to determine potential impacts to public safety and the provision of police and fire protection services.
Policy 2B	Ensure, through planning and assessment, the adequacy of police and fire staffing and facilities to accommodate planned residential, commercial, and industrial growth.
Goal 3	Public Safety Goals, Policies and Strategies. Expand police and fire facilities as needed in conjunction with future planned development.
Policy 3A	Develop new safety and outreach programs for the community.
Goal 1	Emergency Preparation Goals, Policies and Strategies. Maintain a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan for the City, ensuring a high level of responsiveness to natural and human-caused disasters and other emergency situations
Policy 1A	Periodically update the Emergency Operations Plan and implement the plan's provisions on an ongoing basis.
Goal 2	Emergency Preparation Goals, Policies and Strategies. Continue to actively participate in regional and statewide emergency preparation efforts.
Policy 2.A	Cooperate and coordinate with San Bernardino County Emergency Services, Golden State Water Company, Southern California Edison and Southwest Gas Company and other agencies and utilities in the development and dissemination of information and instructions on appropriate actions in the event of a local disaster or emergency.
Goal 3	Emergency Preparation Goals, Policies and Strategies. Ensure that all development occurring under the General Plan is designed and built-in accordance with current standards for seismic safety, fire protection and defensible space.
Policy 3.1	Consider and assess vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters or emergencies when reviewing proposals for the siting and development of public/quasi-public facilities such as schools, water towers and power and communication transmitters
Source: City of Barstow. 2015. 2015-2020 General Plan. https://www.barstowca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5359/636607004808630000 .	

Code of the City of Barstow

The Code of the City of Barstow (Barstow Code) regulations addressing public services and recreation are provided below.

Barstow Code Chapter 9.64 Use of Public Parks and Facilities. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the use of public parks and recreation facilities in the City, with certain exceptions, for the optimum use and enjoyment of residents, children, and visitors of the City. The City wishes to ensure that City parks are safe, clean, well-maintained, and accessible to adults and children for recreational purposes (Barstow, 2025a).

Barstow Code Chapter 12.40: Development Impact Fees. Development Impact Fees (DIFs) are established pursuant to the Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code § 66000 et seq.). The DIF is imposed as a condition of the issuance of any permit for any development, unless expressly exempted under Barstow Code Chapter 12.40. The rate of the DIF is calculated pursuant to Barstow Code § 12.40.040 (Barstow, 2025a).

Barstow Code Chapter 16.04: Fire Code. In accordance with the CFC 2010 Edition (California Code of Regulations Title 24 Part 9) for the purpose of prescribing regulations governing conditions to life and property from fire, hazardous materials, or explosion (Barstow, 2025a).

Barstow Code Chapter 18.24: Parks Dedication. Parks Dedication or “Quimby Act Implementation Ordinance” specifies the requirements imposed on subdivisions [and tract or parcel maps] pursuant to the authority granted by the Quimby Act. Barstow Code § 18.24.020: Requirements specifies that as a condition of approval of a final subdivision map or parcel map, the subdivider will be required to dedicate land for neighborhood and community park or recreational purposes, pay a fee for such purposes, or both, at the time and according to the standards and formulas contained in Chapter 18.24. Barstow Code § 18.24.030: Parkland Standard specifies that the public interest, convenience, health, welfare, and safety require that 5.0 acres of property for each 1,000 persons residing within the City be devoted to neighborhood and community parks and recreational purposes. Barstow Code § 18.24.030 also specifies the formulas to be used to determine the parkland required to serve a subdivision and expected population (2.905 persons per detached dwelling unit and 2.399 persons per attached dwelling unit). The requirements of this chapter shall not apply to any commercial or industrial subdivision (Barstow Code § 18.24.020[c]) (Barstow, 2025a).

Barstow Code Chapter 19.04: Districts Established. Establishes the City’s zoning districts, including the “O” Open Space District (Barstow Code § 19.20.010: O [Open Space]), which is intended to provide for permanent open space in the community and to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the people by limiting developments in the areas. Open space may also be used for recreation, including, but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural value (Barstow Code § 19.20.010[a][3]). Additionally, the “PF” Public Facilities District is established for public schools (which include recreational areas), and all facilities (e.g., buildings and grounds) owned by the City or other government agencies and public service districts, such as parks (Barstow, 2025a).

For applicability of the Barstow Code standards to the Project, see **Section 5.0**.

San Bernardino County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

The intent of the San Bernardino County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (County HMP) is to reduce and/or eliminate loss of life and property as a result of natural hazards through appropriate hazard mitigations. Hazard mitigation is defined by FEMA as “any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards.” FEMA also defines a “hazard” as “any event or condition with the potential to cause fatalities, injuries, property damage, infrastructure damage, agricultural loss, environmental damage, business interruption, or other loss.”

The County HMP's purpose is to demonstrate the plan for reducing/eliminating risk in the unincorporated County areas and within areas overseen or managed by the County Flood Control District, Fire District and Special Districts Department. The HMP is a "living document" that is reviewed, monitored, and updated to reflect changing conditions and new information. As required by law, the HMP is updated every five years to remain in compliance with regulations and federal mitigation grant conditions. FEMA approved the current HMP in December 2022.

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire) is a community-based, all hazard emergency services provider. SBC Fire core services include the following:

- Fire Stations: 48 stations with 1,064 County fire personnel
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Special Operations, and Training.
- CONFIRE Dispatch: The joint powers authority known as CONFIRE is the communications and dispatch hub for numerous County fire agencies, including SBC Fire (CONFIRE, 2019).

The SBC Fire Hazardous Materials Division is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) responsible for administering the County's hazardous materials program. The CUPA's responsibilities include controlling the use, disposal, and transport of flammable chemicals and liquids.

San Bernardino County Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Operational Plan

Mutual Aid is an agreement in which two or more parties agree to furnish resources and facilities and to render services to each and every party of the agreement to prevent and combat any type of disaster or emergency. The San Bernardino County Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Operational Plan was prepared by the San Bernardino County Fire Chiefs as an information source outlining the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System in San Bernardino County. The system within the County is directly associated with the California Fire and Rescue Emergency Plan and dovetails into the established Mutual Aid System of the Plan. Basic to California's emergency planning is a local and area wide system of mutual aid, in which each local jurisdiction relies first upon its own resources, but in which mutual assistance is available from adjacent local jurisdictions, other jurisdictions within the area, and the resources of Cal OES Region 6, the State of California, or beyond, when necessary. The operational plan provides a practical and flexible pattern for the orderly development and operation of day-to-day mutual aid on a voluntary basis between cities, cities and counties, fire districts, special districts, county fire departments and applicable State agencies.

San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Plan

The San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) addresses the County's response to emergencies associated with natural disasters or human-caused emergencies. The EOP identifies existing conditions, infrastructure, threats, and hazards, and then describes the process and roles for the response and recovery actions. The EOP provides a comprehensive, single source of guidance and procedures for the County to prepare for and respond to significant or catastrophic natural, environmental, or conflict-related risks that produce situations requiring coordinated response. It further provides guidance regarding management concepts relating to response and abatement of various emergencies, identifies

organizational structures and relationships, and describes responsibilities and functions necessary to protect life and property.

Local Agency Formation Commission for San Bernardino County

The purpose of the LAFCO for San Bernardino County (SBLAFCO) is to implement the legislative direction and policies in the CKH Act in a manner that provides for an orderly and efficient growth pattern. The Commission guards the public interest by ensuring that local agencies provide efficient and cost-effective public services to maintain or improve our citizens' quality of life.

State law authorizes LAFCOs to exercise certain planning and regulatory functions. SBLAFCO accomplishes their planning function through their "sphere of influence" (SOI) program, which is intended to promote orderly land use and public service planning (CA LAFCO, 2023). As to their regulatory function, they review and approve any proposal to add (annex) land to a city or special district and/or remove (detach) land from a city or special district. For a jurisdictional change, SBLAFCO reviews the existing and proposed service providers, and the level and range of services currently provided. On May 21, 2003, the SBLAFCO adopted the LCI MSR Guidelines for service reviews and adopted local policies related to the processing of service reviews and review requirements for sphere of influence amendments. While the requirements of CGC § 56430 have changed over time, SBLAFCO has maintained this document as its policy guidelines. As required by SBLAFCO policy and State law, a Plan for Service shows that the extension of the City's services will maintain, and/or exceed, current service levels provided through the County and can be maintained for the foreseeable future.

City of Barstow Emergency Operations Plan

The City's previous EOP was last updated and adopted by City Council resolution in April 2015. The City is currently in the process of updating its EOP (Barstow, 2022). The Draft 2022 EOP has been developed in accordance with the County of San Bernardino Emergency Plan, the National Response Plan, the SEMS and the National Incident Management System. The City's EOP guides the City's response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural, human-made, and technological disasters. This plan is not intended to be used for normal day-to-day emergencies or the established routine procedures used to cope with such incidents. Rather, this plan concentrates on operational concepts and response procedures related to large-scale emergencies and disasters. City departments are responsible for ensuring the preparation and maintenance of the City's Standard Operating Procedures, resource lists and checklists that detail how assigned responsibilities are performed to support the implementation of the EOP. The Standard Operating Procedures include the specific emergency authorities that designated officials, and their successors can assume during emergency situations.

2019 Barstow Fire Protection District Strategic Operations Plan

The 2019 Barstow Fire Protection District Strategic Operations Plan (Strategic Operations Plan) identifies critical issues, and service gaps and provides goals to address the key issues identified, as well as action items that provide a method for achieving these goals. The Strategic Operations Plan's framework will guide policies and operations for the next five years and help ensure that the Barstow Fire Protection

District (BFPD) continues to provide high quality and reliable service to the community while ensuring the effective use of Fire District and City resources and funding.

City of Barstow Hazard Mitigation Plan

The City of Barstow Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is updated approximately every five years to remain compliant with regulations and federal grant conditions. The most recent HMP, adopted in 2019, provides new information on the hazards faced by Barstow. The HMP aims to reduce or eliminate risks to life and property from natural hazards by encouraging communities to develop goals and projects that increase disaster resilience. Hazard mitigation focuses on breaking the damage-reconstruction cycle by altering the built environment to reduce vulnerability and making recovery easier and less expensive. With an approved HMP, Barstow is eligible for federal mitigation funds to further reduce risks (Barstow, 2019).

City of Barstow Measure Q

On July 16, 2018, the Barstow City Council voted unanimously to place Measure Q, a public safety and City general services measure, on the November 2018 ballot. Measure Q allowed for the collection of a one-percent sales tax that would generate an estimated \$7 million (2018 dollars) in local funding for public safety and citywide services such as maintaining local fire protection and paramedic services, police services, and parks (Barstow, 2025b). The City's voters approved Measure Q in November 2018.

Barstow Police Department – School Resource Officer Program

The Barstow Police Department's (BPD) School Resource Officer Program began in January 1993 in a combined effort with the BUSD to create the safest learning environment possible for its community. The BPD has two School Resource Officers assigned to combat crime in and around the BUSD schools. The School Resource Officers have offices located at Barstow High School and Barstow Junior High School.

5.14.3 METHODOLOGY FOR EVALUATING IMPACTS

This section defines the study area (i.e., affected environment) and summarizes the methodology used to analyze the Project's potential impacts concerning public services and recreation.

5.14.3.1 Definition of Study Area

The study area is the geographic boundary in which the environmental investigations were conducted specific to each resource topic.

Proposed General Plan

The study area for the proposed General Plan's potential direct impacts concerning public services and recreation is the proposed General Plan area, which includes the existing City limits and the City's SOI; see **Figure 3-1: Regional Vicinity Map** and **Figure 3-2: Local Vicinity Map** in **Section 3:0: Project Description**. The study areas for the proposed General Plan's potential indirect impacts concerning public services and recreation are described in **Table 5.14-4: Definition of Study Areas – Proposed General Plan Public Services and Recreation**.

Table 5.14-4: Definition of Study Areas – Proposed General Plan Public Services and Recreation	
Public Service	Study Area Definition (Indirect Impacts): Service Agency
Fire Protection	City: Update Barstow Fire Protection District (BFPD) service area (the proposed General Plan includes annexation/transfer of responsibility to the BFPD as shown in Figure 5.14-1: Fire Protection Service Boundaries – Proposed General Plan). SOI: San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire) service area.
Police Protection	City: Updated Barstow Police Department (BPD) service area (the proposed General Plan includes annexation/transfer of responsibility to the BPD) SOI: California Highway Patrol (CHP) service area and San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department (SBC Sheriff) service area.
Schools	Barstow Unified School District (BUSD) service area
Libraries	Barstow Branch Library service area
Parks and Recreation	City: Barstow Parks and Recreation Department SOI: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Barstow Field Office
Sources: County of San Bernardino. 2025b. <i>Barstow Fire Protection District</i> . https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=6924926a52974757a1ac6ff4affc5b22 . San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire). 2025a. <i>Fire Stations – SBCo Fire Stations and Division Areas</i> . https://sbcfire.org/firestations/ . City of Barstow. 2021. <i>Barstow Police Patrol Beat</i> . https://www.barstowca.org/departments/police/beat-crime-mapping . San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department (SBC Sheriff). 2025a. <i>Patrol Stations</i> . https://wp.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/patrol-stations/ . San Bernardino. 2022. <i>Barstow Unified School District Areas</i> . https://open.sbcounty.gov/datasets/sbcounty::barstow-unified-school-district-areas/about . Barstow Unified School District (BUSD). 2022. <i>Barstow Unified 2022 Redistricting Adopted Map</i> . https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1651083402/barstowk12caus/ahjvcp6b0spokpmvvtc/AdoptedMap.pdf . San Bernardino County Library. 2025a. <i>Library Locations</i> . https://sbclib.org/library-locations/ . City of Barstow. 2025c. <i>Parks and Recreation Department</i> . https://www.barstowca.org/departments/community-services-department/parks-and-recreation-division . Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2025. <i>Barstow Field Office</i> . https://www.blm.gov/barstow#:~:text=The%20BLM%20Barstow%20Field%20Office,and%20communities%20in%20this%20effort .	

Barstow International Gateway

Public Services and Recreation

The BIG study area for direct impacts on public service facilities is the BIG footprint; see **Figure 3-1: Regional Vicinity Map** and **Figure 3-2: Local Vicinity Map** in **Section 3:0: Project Description**. The BIG study areas for indirect impacts concerning public services and recreation are described in **Table 5.14-5: Definition of Study Areas – BIG Public Services and Recreation**.

Table 5.14-5: Definition of Study Areas – BIG Public Services and Recreation	
Public Service	Study Area Definition (Indirect Impacts)
Fire Protection	BIG Within City and Within SBLAFCO Action Areas: The updated Barstow Fire Protection District (BFPD) service area, inclusive of the proposed annexations/transfer of responsibility (see Table 5.14-4: Definition of Study Areas – Proposed General Plan Public Services and Recreation). BIG Remaining in County: The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire) service area.
Police Protection	BIG Within City and Within SBLAFCO Action Areas: Updated Barstow Police Department (BPD) service area, inclusive of the proposed annexations/transfer of responsibility (see Table 5.14-4). BIG Remaining in County: California Highway Patrol (CHP) service area plus the San Bernardino County Sherriff's Department (SBC Sheriff) service area.
Schools	Barstow Unified School District (BUSD)
Libraries	Barstow Branch Library service area.
Parks and Recreation	The updated Barstow City limits, inclusive of the proposed annexations (see Table 5.14-4) plus a three-mile buffer around the BIG Specific Plan area to capture nearby parks in unincorporated County.
Sources: County of San Bernardino. 2025b. <i>Barstow Fire Protection District</i>. https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=6924926a52974757a1ac6ff4affc5b22. SBC Fire. 2025a <i>Fire Stations – SBCo Fire Stations and Division Areas</i>. https://sbcfire.org/firestations/. City of Barstow. 2021. <i>Barstow Police Patrol Beat</i>. https://www.barstowca.org/departments/police/beat-crime-mapping. SBC Sheriff. 2025a. <i>Patrol Stations</i>. https://wp.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/patrol-stations/. County of San Bernardino. 2021. <i>Barstow Unified School District Areas</i>. https://open.sbcounty.gov/datasets/sbcounty::barstow-unified-school-district-areas/about. BUSD. 2022. <i>Barstow Unified 2022 Redistricting Adopted Map</i>. https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1651083402/barstowk12caus/ahjvcp6b0spokpmvvtc/AdoptedMap.pdf. San Bernardino County Library. 2025a. <i>Library Locations</i>. https://sbclib.org/library-locations/.	

5.14.3.2 Methodology

Proposed General Plan

Responses to service provider questionnaires (see **Appendix 5.14 GP-1**) were used to identify potential impacts concerning public services and recreational facilities within the proposed General Plan area. In addition to the questionnaires, buildout information and the proposed Land Use Map (**Figure 3-3**) were provided to each service provider. Follow up phone calls were made to ensure that the proposed General Plan was understood, and meetings were held with the City's department heads to discuss their department's ability to continue to provide service over the proposed General Plan planning period. These materials requested their assistance in updating information on existing services within the proposed General Plan area, to assess whether providing new or physically altered governmental facilities would result in substantial adverse physical impacts. Most of the public services agencies and departments did not complete the questionnaire and instead provided the information for inclusion directly into this EIR. **Appendix 5.14 GP-1** contains the questionnaire along with responses received.

Barstow International Gateway

The BIG footprint is evaluated against the significance criteria/thresholds presented in this section. Two City zoning districts may be used for open space/recreational purposes: Open Space District and PF Public Facilities District. The BIG footprint's existing zoning is depicted on **Figures 5.11-6** through **5.11-9** and summarized in **Table 5.11-4: Existing Zoning Districts – BIG**. As indicated in **Table 5.11-4**, there are approximately 18 acres within the BIG footprint, which are associated with the San Bernardino County Flood Control District channel (i.e., southwest of Lenwood Road) and the Mojave River (i.e., north of the BIG footprint), which are zoned "O" Open Space but not designated as a recreational use (San Bernardino, 2024).

Impact thresholds and significance criteria are the basis for determining the impact's level of significance concerning public services and recreational facilities. This analysis considers the existing regulatory framework (i.e., laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards) where compliance would avoid or minimize a potentially significant environmental impact. For purposes of the impact analysis, it is assumed that BIG would be designed to comply with the most up-to-date building and fire codes and include fire safety measures and equipment. As applicable, feasible mitigation measures are recommended to reduce or eliminate BIG's potentially significant environmental impacts associated with public services and recreational facilities.

This analysis of potential impacts concerning public services examines BIG's temporary (i.e., construction) and permanent (i.e., operational) effects based on application of the significance criteria/thresholds. BIG could have a significant impact on public services if: (1) it would require the construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities to maintain acceptable levels of public services and (2) the construction or alteration of such facilities would result in a substantial adverse physical impact on the environment. The analysis of impacts on recreational facilities examines the temporary (i.e., construction) and permanent (i.e., operational) effects (direct and indirect) based on significance criteria/thresholds application. For each impact evaluation, the analyses are generally divided into two main categories: (1) temporary (construction) impacts; and (2) permanent (operations) impacts. Each criterion is discussed in the context of the study area. The impact conclusions consider the potential for changes in environmental conditions, as well as compliance with the regulatory framework enacted to protect the environment.

The baseline conditions and impact analyses are based on review of BIG plans, maps, and drawings; analysis of aerial photographs; review of various data available in public records, including local and regional planning documents; and determination of demand based on City and County Codes and information from service providers. The determination that BIG would or would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts concerning public services examines whether BIG would provide or result in demand for new or physically altered public service facilities, for which the construction could cause significant environmental impacts. The determination that a BIG component would or would not result in "substantial" adverse effects on recreational facilities considers BIG's direct impacts on existing recreational facilities within the BIG footprint (if any), BIG's indirect impacts on existing recreational facilities within the indirect study area, BIG's potential to affect local population or employment growth

that would affect parkland demand, and the severity of those impacts (e.g., the nature and duration of the impact) during construction and operations. The analysis also considers the applicable policies and regulations capable of avoiding or lessening potential impacts.

5.14.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Proposed General Plan

Fire Protection

Figure 5.14-1: Fire Protection Service Boundaries – Proposed General Plan shows the service boundaries of the Barstow Fire Protection District (BFPD) and San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire), as well as the locations of the fire stations that would serve the proposed General Plan area.

Barstow Fire Protection District

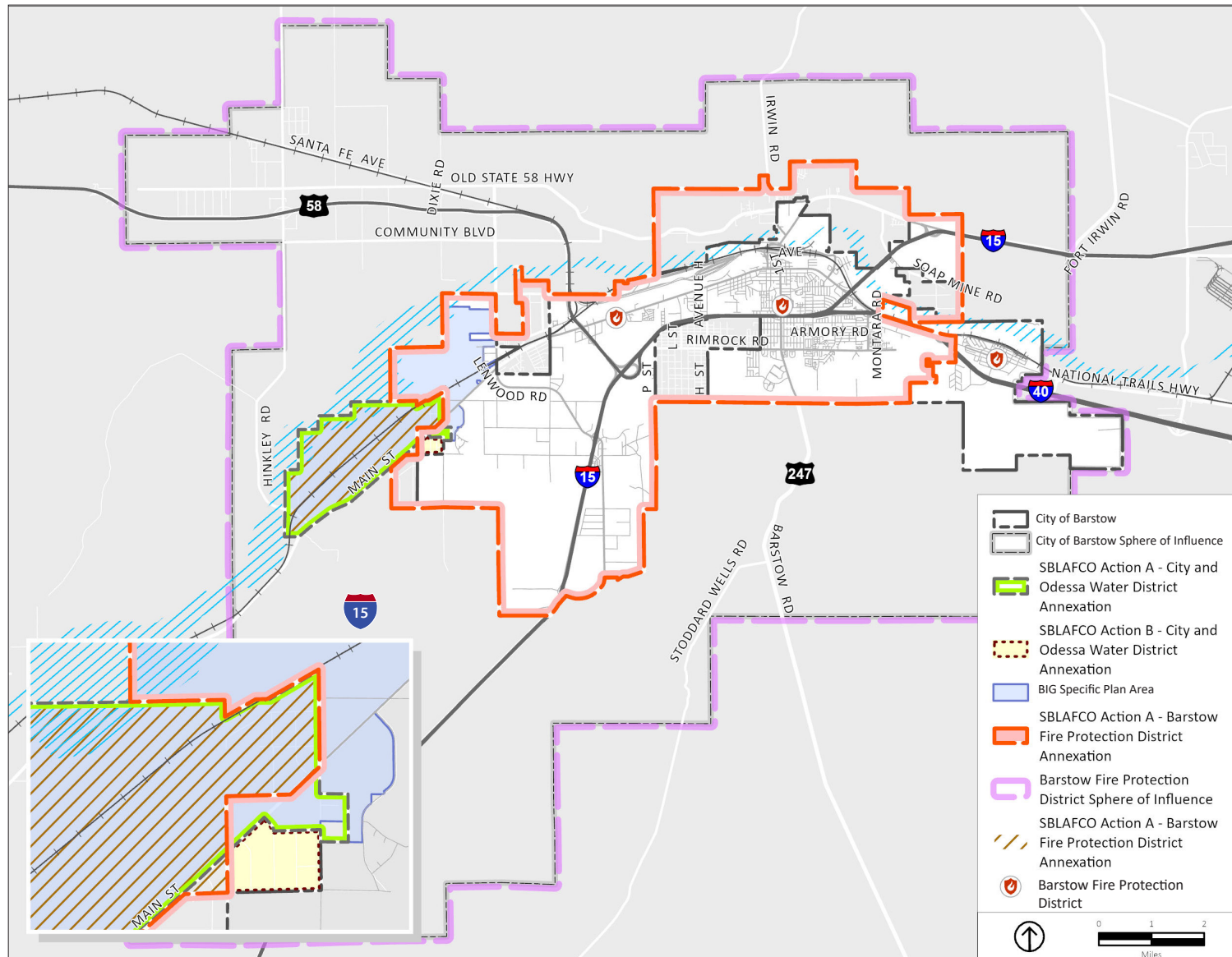
BFPD, which is a subsidiary district of the City, provides fire protection and prevention, emergency medical, rescue, and hazardous materials response services (Barstow, 2025d). BFPD currently serves a total population of approximately 47,946 persons (23,407 City residents and 24,539 unincorporated County residents) in an area of approximately 60 square miles (BFPD, 2019, p. 6). BFPD currently employs 30 employees (28 firefighter responders and two staff) (Cisneros, 2024).

Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreements. Under a mutual aid agreement, one agency can ask another agency for authorization to respond to a call. Under this arrangement, dispatch would ask the receiving agency if they needed assistance and would only send assistance as requested. Under an automatic aid agreement, calls are sent to the nearest agency able to respond and no pre-authorization is needed. Service providers can also provide contract services which generally function as automatic aid.

BFPD participates in automatic aid agreements with the SBC Fire and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Fire Department (MCLB), and in mutual aid agreement with the Fort Irwin Fire Department (Cisneros, 2024). BFPD does not contract with any other agency to provide suppression services for the proposed General Plan area's large, undeveloped areas. The Helendale SBC Fire Station, south of the City, serves areas west of BFPD and has an approximately 30-minute response time. The MCLB provides fire protection services to the eastern portion of the City.

Restated Municipal Services Agreement. The City of Barstow and the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians entered into a Restated Municipal Services Agreement to fund government services affected by a proposed casino on 23.1 acres along Lenwood Road (Resolution No. 5191-2024). Under the agreement, the Tribe committed to paying standard development impact fees and covering the costs of police and fire services if the proposed casino project comes to fruition. This included funding the construction and land acquisition for a new fire station, purchasing and staffing two fire apparatus, and providing for additional police personnel (Barstow, 2025c).

Response Times – BFPD and SBC Fire. Table 5.14-6: Fire Protection Response Times provides the goal and current average response times for BFPD and SBC Fire.



Source:
San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), 2025, City of Barstow, 2025

Figure 5.14-1
Fire Protection Service Boundaries – BIG

Table 5.14-6: Fire Protection Response Times		
Service Area Type	Goal Response Time	Current Response Time
Barstow Fire Protection District (BFPD)		
Metropolitan	< 4 minutes (emergency) 10 minutes (non-emergency)	8 minutes & 5 seconds (emergency) 10 minutes & 27 seconds (non-emergency)
Suburban	N/A	N/A
Wilderness	N/A	N/A
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire)		
Metropolitan	6 minutes	7 minutes & 7 seconds (emergency) 8 minutes & 21 seconds (non-emergency)
Suburban	7 minutes	6 minutes & 53 seconds (emergency) 7 minutes (non-emergency)
Wilderness	12 minutes	11 minutes & 16 seconds (emergency) 11 minutes & 14 seconds (non-emergency)
Notes: Data concerning fire protection are derived from SBC Fire's response, dated April 8, 2024, to the Barstow General Plan Update and Barstow International Gateway Project, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Questionnaire.		
Sources: Cisneros, C. (April 15, 2024). Responses to Barstow Fire Protection District Questionnaire. Appendix 5.14 GP-1. Munsey, D. (April 8, 2024). Responses to San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Questionnaire. Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Service Provider Questionnaires.		

Fire Hazard Severity Zones. As of July 2025, portions of the City are designated as Moderate FHSZ; no areas are mapped as High or Very High FHSZ. Therefore, the proposed General Plan area is not within a High or Very High FHSZ, whether in a SRA or LRA (CAL FIRE, 2025).

Fire Protection Facilities. Table 5.14-7: Fire Protection Facilities - Proposed General Plan describes each of the fire stations that would serve the proposed General Plan area and Figure 5.14-1 shows the locations of the existing fire stations within the City.

Funding. Potential funding sources for expansion of BFPD facilities include the General Fund/property taxes, Measure Q sales tax, Cell Tower Lease (BFPD receives money from the lease of open space for the location of cell towers), and development impact fees as a condition of the issuance of any development permit, as indicated in Barstow Code § 12.40.110: Fire Impact Fee, development agreement fees, and other lawful revenue sources.

Table 5.14-7: Fire Protection Facilities - Proposed General Plan			
Station	Address	Equipment	Daily Staffing
Barstow Fire Protection District (BFPD)			
BFPD Headquarters Fire Station 361	861 Barstow Road, Barstow	ME361 MS361 Duty BC	6
BFPD Fire Station 363	2600 West Main Street, Barstow	ME366	3
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire)			
SBC Fire Hinkley Fire Station 56	37284 Flower Road, Hinkley	1 engine 1 brush patrol 1 water tender	Paid call staffing
SBC Fire Helendale Fire Station 4	27089 Helendale Road, Helendale	Type 1 Fire Engine Brush Patrol Water Tender (type 6 fire engine)	5 on rotating shift, approximately 15 staff members
Notes: ME = Medic Engine; MS = Medical Support; BC = Battalion Chief. Data concerning fire protection are derived from SBC Fire's response, dated April 8, 2024, to the Barstow General Plan Update and Barstow International Gateway Project, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Questionnaire. References: Shawn Hamm, Personal communication, September 22, 2025.			

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire) is a community-based, all hazard emergency services provider. SBC Fire core services include the following: fire stations; emergency medical services, special operations, and training; and CONFIRE Dispatch, which is a joint powers authority that serves as the communications and dispatch hub for numerous County fire agencies, including SBC Fire (CONFIRE, 2019). The SBC Fire's total contract service area is approximately 67,990 acres (Munsey, 2024). SBC Fire is divided into five geographical divisions containing 48 full-service fire stations (SBC Fire, 2025b, c). SBC Fire Division 5's jurisdiction includes all unincorporated County areas, along with portions of certain cities such as Grand Terrace, Yucca Valley, San Bernardino, Needles, Upland, and Hesperia, as defined in various SBLAFCO actions. SBC Fire Division 5 also encompasses areas within the Helendale Community Services District, Twentynine Palms Water District, and the Crest Forest Fire Protection District. The SBC Fire Division 5 service area excludes the incorporated cities as well as various fire protection and community services districts. SBC Fire Division 5's service zone spans approximately 19,146 square miles (Munsey, 2024). SBC Fire strives to maintain a staffing ratio of 0.356 suppression personnel per 1,000 residents and currently has a staffing ratio of 1.1 personnel per 1,000 residents for a population estimate of 942,018 (Munsey, 2024). Hinkley Station Fire 56, which serves the unincorporated portion of the proposed General Plan area, has one engine, brush patrol, and water tender (**Table 5.14-7**).

SBC Fire Division 5 responded to 30,215 calls for service in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (SBC Fire, 2025c). Of these calls for services, there were 2,015 fire calls (structure fire, vegetation fire, vehicle fire, and other), 1,386 investigation/alarm calls, 489 hazardous materials calls, 22,511 medical aid calls, 414 public services calls, 53 rescue calls, 2,660 traffic collision calls, 123 traffic collision and extrication calls, and 564 miscellaneous calls (SBC Fire, 2025c).

SBC Fire’s response times vary depending on the area served. SBC Fire has a current performance standard for responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls within its service area of six minutes within metropolitan areas, seven minutes within suburban areas, and 12 minutes within wilderness areas. Currently, SBC Fire maintains average response times for emergency calls of 7 minutes and 7 seconds within Metropolitan areas, 6 minutes and 53 seconds within Suburban areas, and 11 minutes and 16 seconds within wilderness areas; see **Table 5.14-6**. SBC Fire has a mutual aid agreement with the MCLB Fire and Emergency Services (Munsey, 2024).

Funding. Funding sources for expansion of SBC Fire facilities include property tax and Service Zone FP-5 special tax (Munsey, 2024). Service Zone FP-5 provides fire, rescue, and emergency medical services with professional firefighters and specialized services like hand crews and fire prevention officers (SBC Fire 2024). The Technology Plan 2030 states SBC Fire plans to provide communications, dispatch, computer information systems support, and geographic information systems (CONFIRE) in the Northern Desert Division, situated within the proposed General Plan area (Munsey, 2024; SBC Fire 2025).

Police Protection

Barstow Police Department

The BPD, headquartered at 220 East Mountain View Street, provides 24/7 services to Barstow’s residents and businesses and has a service area of 40 square miles (Barstow, 2025f). The BPD has 47 sworn officers and 20 non-sworn staff. The police officers are trained in handling investigations from the initial report to prosecution. The Detective Division investigates major crimes that occur within the City and has the responsibility of conducting follow-up investigations into all felony crimes and criminal investigations where potential leads or suspects may develop. (Barstow, 2025g). The Patrol Division is responsible for responding to calls for service throughout the city and conducting proactive traffic, drug, and other community-oriented police efforts. Patrol officers use new and innovative strategies along with traditional techniques to fight crime and solve community issues. The Patrol Division provides law enforcement services 24/7, 365 days a year (Barstow, 2025h).

In 2023-2024, the BPD headquarters was renovated to expand its dispatch center and facility to accommodate current and future needs. The BPD expanded the records bureau, administrative offices, officers and supervisors work areas, interview rooms and holding cells. The BPD expanded the entire dispatch center to upgrade the three dispatching stations, add a fourth dispatching center, and create room for a fifth station to address all police and fire future dispatching needs.

The BPD strives to maintain a staffing ratio of 2.0 per 1,000 residents and currently has a staffing ratio of 1.8 per 1,000 residents. **Table 5.14-8: Barstow Police Department Average Response Times** identifies BPD’s goal and the average response time for emergency and non-emergency calls.

Table 5.14-8: Barstow Police Department Average Response Times		
Service Area Type	Goal Response Time	Current Response Time
City Boundaries	< 4 minutes (emergency)	4 minutes & 14 seconds (emergency)
	12 minutes (non-emergency)	17 minutes & 29 seconds (non-emergency)
Source: Barstow Police Department (Capt. D. Arthur, personal communication, December 12, 2024).		

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Barstow Patrol Station

The SBC Sheriff's Barstow Patrol Station covers approximately 9,200 square miles of San Bernardino County, including Barstow's unincorporated SOI area. Their jurisdiction begins on Interstate 15 (I-15) at Wildwash Road and continues to the State line between California and Nevada. Jurisdiction continues east to cover 80 miles of the 40 freeway, and on the west along Highway 58 to the Four Corners area. Coverage continues north on 395 to the Trona area where there is a resident post (assigned deputy) who patrols the area and responds to calls north of Four Corners. Another resident post in Baker covers the area from Razor Road to the State line. The Barstow Patrol Station patrols and covers calls for services in Barstow's unincorporated SOI area, and the communities of Lenwood, Hinkley, Dagget, and Newberry Springs. (SBC Sheriff, 2025b). The Barstow Patrol Station also has an MOU with the Fort Irwin Army base to investigate and handle crimes committed by civilians.

Due to the large territory the deputies cover, they regularly assist and are assisted by the California Highway Patrol, Barstow Police Department, and the Bureau of Land Management Rangers. They also work closely with the Provost Marshal's Office and the Criminal Intelligence Division investigators at Fort Irwin and the MCLB which are both located in San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Barstow Patrol Station's jurisdiction (SBC Sheriff, 2025b).

In addition to patrol responsibilities, SBC Sheriff Barstow Patrol Station deputies are also involved in many other aspects of law enforcement. Positions such as School Resource Officer, Reserve Deputy Coordinator, Acting Detective, Search and Rescue Coordinator, School Attendance Review Board Member, and Rural Crimes Task Force Member are all positions that allow deputies to become more involved and develop new skills (SBC Sheriff, 2025b).

There are 40 sworn and 12 professional staff assigned to the Barstow Patrol Station. Due to the vast size of the coverage area for the SBC Sheriff's office, it is not practical to estimate a response time to either emergency or non-emergency calls. The response time varies based on the location of the call, and the location of the deputies at any given time. As such, the response time can be as little as a few minutes to an hour or more. The resident posts were established at Trona and Baker to allow for quicker response times and to increase law enforcement presence in the areas. (Markegard, 2025).

School Services

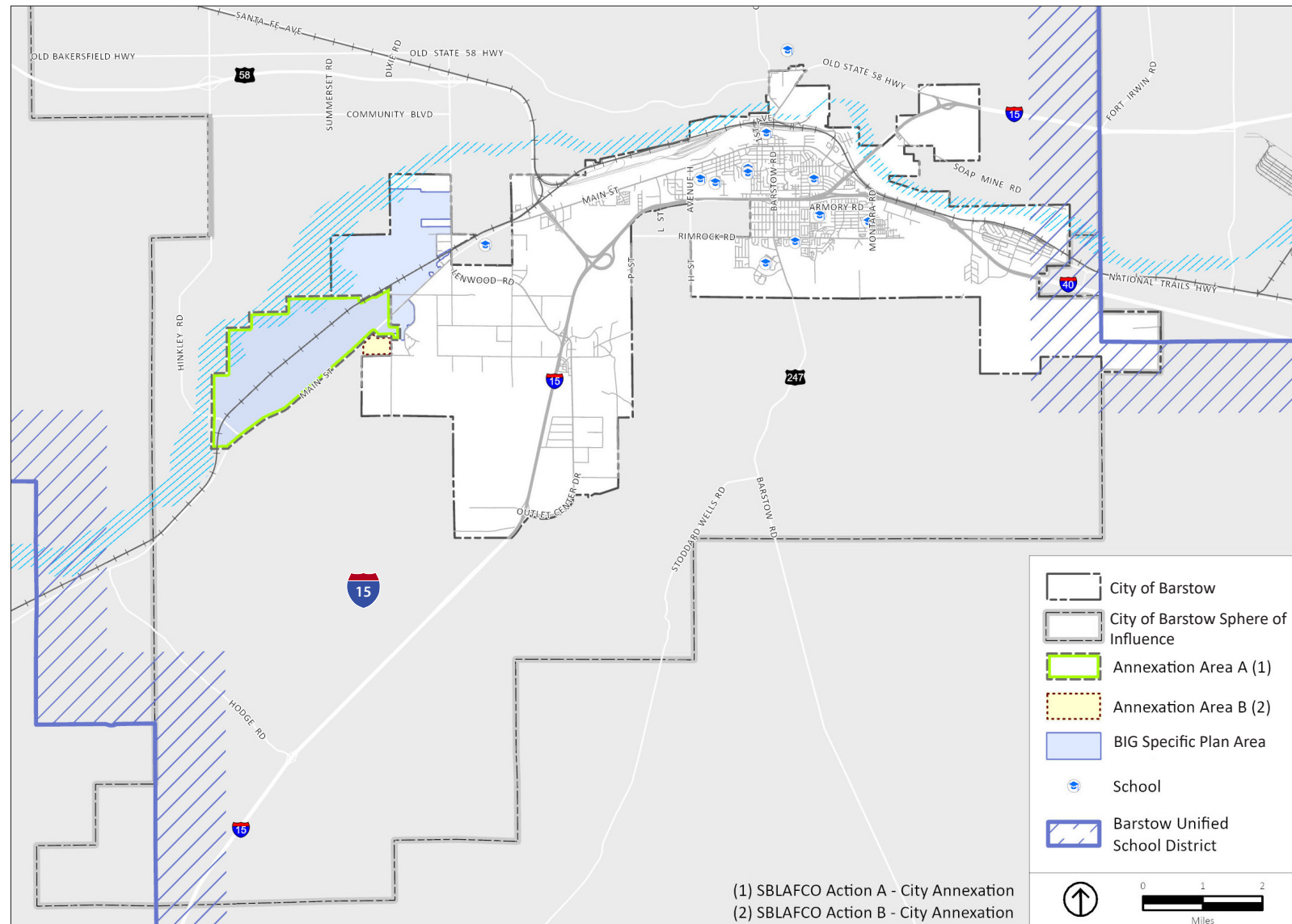
School Facilities

Public education services to the proposed General Plan area are provided by the Barstow Unified School District (BUSD), which has a total of 12 schools (including an adult school) as shown in **Table 5.14-9: Barstow Unified School District – Proposed General Plan** and **Figure 5.14-2: Barstow Unified School District Facilities – Proposed General Plan**.

Table 5.14-9: Barstow Unified School District – Proposed General Plan		
School and Location	Enrollment (2023-2024)	Total Capacity
Elementary Schools		
Barstow Fine Arts Academy 500 East Avenue G, Barstow	404	630
Cameron Elementary School 801 Muriel Drive, Barstow	493	930
Crestline Elementary School 2020 Monterey Avenue, Barstow	476	1,020
Henderson Elementary School 400 South Avenue E, Barstow	506	1,080
Lenwood Elementary School 34374 Ash Road, Barstow	460	720
Montara Elementary School 700 Montara Road, Barstow,	456	810
Skyline North Elementary School 36968 Camarillo Avenue, Barstow	388	600
Middle School		
Barstow STEM Academy 501 Silver Lane, Barstow	391	600
Junior High School		
Barstow Junior High School 1000 Armory Road, Barstow	703	930
High Schools and Adult Schools		
Barstow Adult School 720 East Main Street, Barstow	N/A	N/A
Barstow High School 430 South 1 st Avenue, Barstow	1,549	2,370
Central Continuation High School 402 North 2 nd Avenue, Barstow	74	600
N/A: This information was not provided		
Sources: Beaton, D. 2024, March 28. Responses to Barstow Unified School District Questionnaire. Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Service Provider Questionnaires. California Department of Education (CDE) .2024. Data Quest. https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/ .		

Funding. BUSD’s fee program applies to residential, industrial, commercial, and hotel/motel projects (Beaton, 2024). Additionally, in 2016, the voters of San Bernardino County approved Measure F, a \$39 million bond to repair, construct, and acquire school facilities (Beaton, 2024). Additionally, property taxes provide funding for BUSD.

Student Generation. School districts forecast the number of students that would be generated by new development by using district-specific rates to plan for future facilities and expansions or constructions. The student generation rate for elementary, intermediate/junior high, and high school is 0.60 student per unit (Beaton, 2024).



Source:
City of Barstow, 2025; County of San Bernardino, 2023.

Figure 5.14-2
Barstow Unified School District Facilities - Proposed General Plan

Additional Schools. On April 28, 2025, the Barstow Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit for a public middle and high school with a capacity of approximately 320 students at 1000 Montara Barstow (Barstow, 2025i).

Library Services

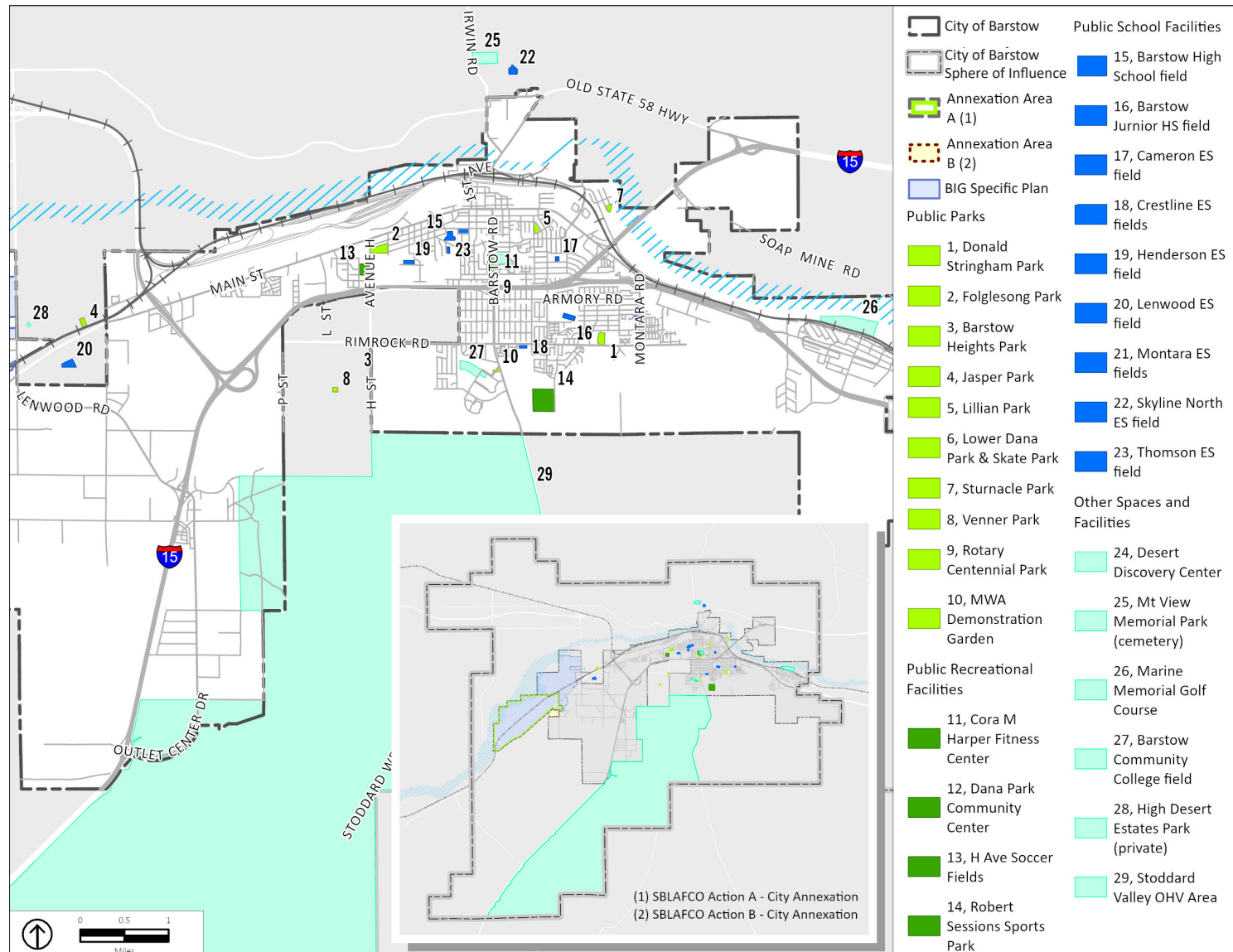
Barstow Branch Library, which was originally established in 1914, is centrally located at 304 East Buena Vista Street in the City of Barstow and is an 8,534-square-foot facility (Orosco, 2024). The library's resources and special services include public computers, public Wi-Fi, adult and children's programs, and volunteer opportunities (Orosco, 2024). All 32 branch libraries in San Bernardino County provide free access to computer workstations which are connected to the San Bernardino County Library's information network (SBL, 2023). In addition to providing Internet access, these workstations enable the public to search San Bernardino County Library's electronic resources including the online catalog, subscription databases, word processing, language learning, literacy, and a large historic document and photograph collection (SBL, 2023). The Barstow Branch Library offers Adult Literary Services (SBL, 2025b). Library funding is provided by property tax (Orosco, 2024). San Bernardino County Library indicated that customer requests, collection circulation and usage, and program attendance, among other metrics, are used to determine the amount of library space and number of volumes, or collection size, needed to serve a given population.¹ The library's funding source is through property tax (Orosco, 2024).

There is also a library at Barstow Community College and the general public may enter and use any of the services available at the library, including the ability to request up to five periodicals at a time for in-house review. Library card access (and the ability to check materials out) is limited to currently enrolled students, alumni, faculty, staff, and veterans. This library is open year-round Monday through Friday, except during summertime, when it is only open Monday through Thursday.

Recreation

There are 14 parks and recreational facilities within the proposed General Plan area, totaling approximately 89 acres. Approximately 35 acres of recreation space are also provided through use agreements with BUSD. Approximately 107 acres of recreation space are available at unique facilities such as a nature center. Of the roughly 53,000 acres designated as the Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area, over 20,000 acres is within the City's SOI. **Figure 5.14-3: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities - Proposed General Plan** shows the locations of these facilities within the City and its unincorporated SOI. **Table 5.14-10: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities – Proposed General Plan** lists the existing facilities, acreages, and amenities. The City's parks and recreational facilities are currently adequate per the Barstow Municipal Code (Barstow Code) § 18.24.030, Parks Dedication, which requires that 5.0 acres of parkland per 1000 residents be dedicated to community parks or recreational purposes (Crank, 2024).

¹ Current data concerning libraries are derived from San Bernardino County Library's response, dated April 8, 2024, to the Barstow General Plan Update and Barstow International Gateway Project, San Bernardino County Library – Barstow Branch Library Questionnaire.



Source:
City of Barstow, 2025.

Figure 5.14-3
Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities - Proposed General Plan

Funding sources for City park and recreational facilities include the General Fund and Measure Q (a one percent special tax) (Crank, 2024). Due to budget constraints, the City does not have plans to construct additional recreational facilities in the current budget forecast (Crank, 2024).

Table 5.14-10: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities – Proposed General Plan				
Park/Facility Name	Acreage ¹			Amenities/Notes
	Total	Factor	Applied	
Public Parks	35.26	--	35.26	--
Donald Stringham Park	6.34	100%	6.34	Basketball court (outdoor), ballfield, ballfield with lights, football field; BUSD land lease agreement (LLA) ²
Foglesong Park	10.10	100%	10.10	BBQ, picnic tables, playground, ballfield, ballfield with lights, public pool, restrooms, stage, horseshoe pits
Barstow Heights Park (Barstow Heights)	2.02	100%	2.02	Basketball court (outdoor), BBQ, picnic tables, playground, volleyball court (outdoor), restrooms, horseshoe pits
Jasper Park (Lenwood)	3.17	100%	3.17	Basketball court (outdoor), picnic shelters, BBQ, picnic tables, playground, restrooms
Lillian Park	3.69	100%	3.69	BBQ, picnic tables, playground, ballfield, ballfield with lights, restrooms
Lower Dana Park & Skate Park	3.88	100%	3.88	Picnic shelters, BBQ, picnic tables, playground, tennis courts with lights, skate park, restrooms
Sturnacle Park	2.44	100%	2.44	Basketball court (outdoor), picnic tables, playground, ballfield, restrooms
Venner Park (Barstow Heights)	1.80	100%	1.80	Basketball court (outdoor), picnic shelters, BBQ, picnic tables, playground, restrooms
Rotary Centennial Park	0.66	100%	0.66	Historical assets, trail
MWA Demonstration Garden	1.14	100%	1.14	Sustainable garden, xeriscaping, self-guided trails
Public Recreation Facilities	53.90	--	53.90	--
Cora M Harper Fitness Center	1.64	100%	1.64	Kitchen, cardio/weight rooms racquetball courts, basketball court (indoor), restrooms, stage
Dana Park Community Center	4.05	100%	4.05	Multi-purpose room, kitchen, BBQ, picnic tables, playground, skateboard park, and restrooms
H Ave Soccer Fields	9.28	100%	9.28	Soccer field, soccer field with lights, restrooms
Robert Sessions Sports Park	38.93	100%	38.93	Basketball court (outdoor), BBQ, picnic tables, playground, ballfield with lights, soccer field with lights, volleyball court (outdoor), restrooms, batting cages
Public School Facilities	34.91	--	15.88	--
Barstow High Fields	9.25	50%	4.62	BUSD agreement ³
Barstow Junior High Fields	4.61	50%	2.31	BUSD agreement ³
Cameron Elementary Fields	1.50	50%	0.75	BUSD agreement ³
Crestline Elementary Fields	2.06	50%	1.03	BUSD agreement ³

Table 5.14-10: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities – Proposed General Plan				
Park/Facility Name	Acreage ¹			Amenities/Notes
	Total	Factor	Applied	
Henderson Elementary Fields	3.11	50%	1.55	BUSD agreement ³
Lenwood Elementary Fields (Lenwood)	6.30	25%	1.57	TBD ⁴
Montara Elementary Fields	1.47	50%	0.73	BUSD agreement ³
Skyline North Elementary Fields (north SOI)	4.96	50%	2.48	BUSD agreement ³
Thomson Elementary Fields	1.67	50%	0.83	BUSD agreement ³
Other Spaces and Facilities	106.74	--	9.77	--
Desert Discover Center	12.97	25%	3.24	Educational center, self-guided trails, and natural, cultural, and historical assets
Mt View Memorial Park (north SOI)	22.80	10%	2.28	Public cemetery, walking trails
Marine Memorial Golf Course	53.68	10%	5.37	Public golf course (9-hole) (outside gate of MCLB)
Barstow Community College (recreation facilities only)	16.52	5%	0.83	Ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts (inside), weight/wellness center; access limited to students, faculty, those enrolled in recreation classes, and Barstow High School tennis team ⁵
High Desert Estates Park (Lenwood)	0.76	0%	0	Private
Stoddard Valley OHV Area	--	0%	--	OHV trails, camping ⁶
Total Public Parks and Recreation	230.80	varies	114.81	
Notes: 1. These columns show the “Total” acreage of the facility, a “Factor” that considers what proportion of the facility should be considered when evaluating the provision of public park and recreation facilities, and the amount that should be “Applied” toward measuring the provision of public park and recreation facilities. 2. Subject to Land Lease Agreement between City of Barstow and Barstow Unified School District (BUSD). 3. Used by local organized youth sports leagues based on an annual Use of Facilities Agreement with BUSD that guarantees access/use. 4. Owned and maintained by BUSD and currently in need of rehabilitation. 5. Tennis courts used by High School team based on an agreement between Barstow Community College and BUSD; any community member can access campus and some athletics facilities upon signing up for a recreation course. 6. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) area controlled by the Federal Bureau of Land Management; acreage not shown.				
Source: City of Barstow, 2025.				

Barstow International Gateway

See the **Section 5.14.4: Environmental Setting** regarding the proposed General Plan for further details regarding public services and recreation.

Fire Protection

SBC Fire and BFPD provide fire protection services to the BIG study area; see **Figure 5.14-1**. See the **Section 5.14.4: Environmental Setting– Fire Protection** regarding the proposed General Plan for further details regarding fire protection.

Barstow Fire Protection District

There are two active BFPD fire stations within the BIG fire protection study area: BFPD Station 366, which is located at 2600 West Main Street in Barstow, approximately 0.6-mile northeast of the BIG footprint; and the BFPD Headquarters Station 361, which is located at 861 Barstow Road in Barstow, approximately 3.8 miles northeast of the BIG footprint. Additionally, there is one inactive fire station, currently used for storage purposes, located at 29780 Highway 58 in Barstow, approximately 6.5 miles northeast of the BIG Specific Plan area and approximately 3.0 miles northeast of the BIG footprint.

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

See the **Section 5.14.4: Environmental Setting**, regarding the proposed General Plan, above, for further details regarding SBC Fire. There are two SBC Fire Division 5 stations that serve the BIG study area: Helendale Fire Station 4 and Hinkley Fire Station 56. Helendale Fire Station 4, which is the station nearest the BIG footprint, is approximately 4 miles southwest of the BIG Specific Plan area, in the City of Helendale (SBC Fire, ND). Hinkley Fire Station 56, which is approximately 7 miles north of the BIG Specific Plan area.

BNSF Emergency Response Plan

BNSF has prepared a System Emergency Response Plan (BNSF Response Plan) to respond to emergencies (BNSF, 2025b). The BNSF Response Plan describes procedures for responding to hazardous release emergencies, persons and agencies to contact, locations for personnel to evacuate to, and prevention practices to limit the potential of these emergencies. BNSF has also established a website (www.BNSFhazmat.com) to communicate with first responders (BNSF, 2025a).

BNSF integrates (by contract) additional Incident Management Team expertise in areas such as incident management, wildlife management, water and air dispersion modeling, toxicology, chemistry, firefighting, communications, and railroad and commodity salvage. Contracted incident management experts are capable of supporting the BNSF Incident Management team to manage large-scale incidents. Additionally, BNSF provides free railroad hazmat response training to an average of 8,000 local emergency responders per year in communities across our network. In 2020, BNSF provided hazmat response training to more than 9,000 first responders across its network (BNSF, 2025b).

BNSF has strategically deployed hazmat equipment across the national network of railways, including fire foam application trailers and wildland trailers. A BNSF-owned fire trailer is located at the existing BNSF rail yard in the City (BNSF Hazmat, 2016). Trailers are mobilized to the location of an incident, such as oil

fires resulting from train derailment, and contract industrial firefighters are deployed to operate the equipment (BNSF Hazmat, 2021). Additionally, these fire-fighting foam trailers are available as an asset to other railroads and local communities within an approximately 150-mile radius.

The BNSF Response Plan contains policy framework in the event of an unanticipated accident, collision, or train derailment that could release hazardous materials and wastes into the environment (BNSF, 2016). In the event of a train derailment, appropriate BNSF hazmat personnel are mobilized immediately, and hazardous materials contractors, environmental response contractors, and shippers are notified immediately. See **Section 5.9** for further discussion on emergency responses to a potential train derailment scenario.

Training Local Emergency Responders

BNSF coordinates and works closely with CAL FIRE for wildfire response in the State. The BNSF environmental team trains local responders on hazmat awareness and emergency response to ensure that BNSF can work effectively with communities and respond quickly in the unlikely event that a hazmat emergency occurs.

BNSF provides free railroad hazmat response training to an average of 8,000 local emergency responders per year in communities across our network. BNSF has provided training for more than 125,000 emergency responders since 1996. In 2020, BNSF provided hazmat response training to more than 9,000 first responders across its network (BNSF, 2024).

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

No portion of the BIG footprint is within or near an SRA – it is located in an LRA, and an approximately 32-acre portion is within a FRA; see **Figure 5.9-6: California State Responsibility Zones - BIG**. No portion of the BIG footprint is within or near lands classified as a Very High FHSZ. The BIG footprint is within lands classified as Moderate FHSZs (see **Figure 5.9-7 Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Federal Responsibility Areas – BIG** and **Figure 5.9-8: Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas - BIG**). The BIG footprint is approximately 40 miles to the south of the nearest Very High FHSZs. Additionally, the BIG footprint is not within or near an SRA and does not contain lands classified as a Very High FHSZ (CAL FIRE, 2025); see **Section 5.9**.

Police Protection

The CHP, SBC Sheriff, and BPD provide police protection services to portions of the BIG study areas. Approximately 2,686 acres of the BIG study area is within the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department service area, while the remainder is within the BPD service area, except the roadways within unincorporated County areas, which are within the CHP service area.

California Highway Patrol

In the BIG study areas, the CHP patrols I-15, I-40, State Route (SR-247), SR-127, SR-58, U.S. Highway 395 and about 1,400 miles of County roads (CHP, 2022).

County of San Bernardino Sheriff's Department

The Barstow Sheriff's Station, which is located at 225 East Mountain View Street in Barstow, approximately 3.6 miles east of the BIG footprint, is the only SBC Sheriff station within the BIG study area.

City of Barstow Police Department

The BPD operates out of their station located at 220 East Mountain View Street, Suite B, in Barstow, approximately 3.7 miles east of the BIG footprint.

BNSF Police Team

The BNSF Police Team is the law enforcement division of BNSF's Resource Protection Team. Railroad police officers² are provided police authority from State and local governments and are authorized interstate authority by the federal government (BNSF, 2024). BNSF contracts railroad police officers to enforce State laws for protection of railroad property, personnel, passengers, and cargo in liaison with local and Federal law enforcement agencies. The BNSF Police team consists of over 180 sworn agents and over 20 support personnel that work in partnership with State and local agencies to help deter crimes conducted on railroad property or against railroad employees (BNSF, ND).

Schools

BUSD provides school services to the BIG study area (San Bernardino, 2021), as depicted in **Figure 5.14-2. Table 5.14-11: School Facilities Near BIG** lists the 12 schools within the BUSD, their locations, distances from the BIG footprint, and current enrollments. The schools nearest the BIG footprint and within the BIG study area are: Lenwood Elementary School, which is located approximately 0.1 mile to the south of the BIG Specific Plan area; Barstow Junior High [middle] School, which is located approximately 1.8 miles to the east of BIG off-site improvement areas; and Barstow High School, which is approximately 1.7 miles to the east of BIG off-site improvement areas. Lenwood Elementary School enrolls 460 students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade; Barstow Junior High School enrolls 703 students in grades seven through eight; and Barstow High School enrolls 1,549 students in grades nine through twelve.³ Additionally, BUSD has no current plans to build any new schools that would serve the BIG footprint.

² As defined in 49 CFR 207.2, *railroad police officer* means a peace officer who is commissioned in his or her State of legal residence or State of primary employment and directly employed by or contracted by a railroad to enforce State laws for the protection of railroad property, personnel, passengers, or cargo.

³ Current data concerning schools are derived from BUSD's response, dated March 28, 2024, to the Barstow General Plan Update and Barstow International Gateway Project, Barstow Unified School District Questionnaire.

Table 5.14-11: School Facilities Near BIG

School Name	Street Address Approximate Distance From BIG
Elementary Schools	
Barstow Fine Arts Academy	500 South Avenue G, Barstow 0.8 mile east of BIG
Cameron Elementary School	801 Muriel Drive, Barstow 2.2 miles east of BIG
Crestline Elementary School	2020 Monterey Avenue, Barstow 1.2 miles east of BIG
Henderson Elementary School	400 South Avenue E, Barstow 1 mile east of BIG
Lenwood Elementary School	34374 Ash Road, Barstow 0.1 mile south of BIG
Montara Elementary School	700 Montara Road, Barstow 2.4 miles east of BIG
Skyline North Elementary School	36968 Camarillo Avenue, Barstow 3.1 miles east of BIG
Middle School	
Barstow STEM Academy	501 Silver Lane, Barstow 1.5 miles east of BIG
Junior High School	
Barstow Junior High School	1000 Armory Road, Barstow 1.8 miles east of BIG
High Schools and Adult Schools	
Barstow Adult School	720 East Main Street, Barstow 2.3 miles east of BIG
Barstow High School	430 South 1 st Avenue, Barstow 1.7 miles east of BIG
Central Continuation High School	402 North 2nd Avenue, Barstow 1.9 miles east of BIG
Barstow Adult School	720 East Main Street, Barstow 2.3 miles east of BIG
Barstow High School	430 South 1 st Avenue, Barstow 1.7 miles east of BIG
Central Continuation High School	402 North 2 nd Avenue, Barstow 1.9 miles east of BIG
Notes: 1. Schools nearest the BIG footprint, measured from nearest edge of BIG footprint boundary, inclusive of off-site improvement areas. 2. Current data concerning schools are derived from BUSD's response, dated March 28, 2024, to the Barstow General Plan Update and Barstow International Gateway Project, Barstow Unified School District Questionnaire.	

Libraries

The library nearest the BIG footprint and the only one within the BIG study area is the Barstow Branch Library, which is located approximately 3.8 miles to the east, at 304 East Buena Vista Street in Barstow. The Barstow Branch Library is one of 32 branch libraries managed and maintained by the San Bernardino County Library system (San Bernardino County Library, 2022).

Recreation

Except for approximately 108 dwelling units, approximately 93,725 square feet of non-residential uses (commercial and industrial), and approximately 312 acres of Important Farmland, the BIG footprint is vacant with little to no improvements. There are no parks or other recreational facilities within the BIG footprint; see also

Existing Recreational Facilities discussion below. The BIG footprint is bordered by the Mojave River to the north.

Existing Parkland Demand

As previously noted, Barstow Code § 18.24.030 specifies the requirement that 5.0 acres of property be devoted to parks and recreational purposes for each 1,000 persons residing within the City. There are approximately 108 dwelling units within the BIG footprint. The parkland demand associated with these existing residences is approximately 1.82 acres; see **Table 5.14-12: Existing Parkland Demand – BIG**.

Table 5.14-12: Existing Parkland Demand – BIG					
Dwelling Type	Dwelling Units	Persons Per Dwelling Unit ^{1, 2}	Parkland Population Estimate ¹	Parkland Demand Factor (Acres per Person) ³	Estimated Parkland Demand ³
Detached- Single-Family	108	2.905	314	0.005	1.57
Detached- Mobile Home	0	2.217	0	0.005	0
Attached- Multi-Family	0	2.399	0	0.005	0
Total	108	--		--	1.82
Notes: 1. Per Barstow Code § 18.24.030: Parkland Standard, expected population shall be calculated based on the following standard: 2.905 persons per detached dwelling, 2.399 persons per attached dwelling, and 2.217 persons per mobile home dwelling. 2. It is noted that these factors differ from Department of Finance average persons per household, which are used in Section 5.13: Population and Housing . However, Barstow Code § 18.24.030 specifically directs use of Barstow Code § 18.24.030 factors exclusively for calculating parkland demand, and as such were used in this analysis. 3. Per Barstow Code § 18.24.030, the following formula shall be used to determine the amount of parkland required to serve a subdivision: (required parkland [acres])=[expected population]*0.005					
Sources: Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., 2024. Barstow Code § 18.24.030.					

Existing Recreational Facilities

According to CWP Policy Map NR-2, no County recreational facilities are within the BIG footprint. Three recreational facilities are within the indirect study area, as discussed below. A NOP comment letter stated that unincorporated portions of the BIG footprint and its immediate areas are sometimes used for

unauthorized hiking, off-roading, and bicycling activities. However, there are no designated County or City recreational facilities within the BIG footprint. Further, since this use is unauthorized and not related to a designated recreational facility, it is not required to be included in the impact analysis under CEQA.

As depicted in **Figure 5.14-3**, there are no designated City recreational facilities within the BIG Specific Plan area. There are 18 recreational facilities within the indirect study area, as depicted in the figure, listed in **Table 5.14-13: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities - BIG**, and described below. These include recreational facilities, within the indirect study area for parks and recreational facilities, that a BIG employee could reasonably travel to during their allotted 30-minute lunch break period. The recreational facilities nearest the BIG footprint are Jasper Park, which is immediately adjacent to the easterly lead track, Lenwood Elementary Fields, which is approximately 490 feet south of the BIG footprint, and High Desert Estates Park, which is approximately 760 feet east of the BIG footprint, within the High Desert Estates community. These three facilities are within the unincorporated County but owned/maintained by various agencies.

Table 5.14-13: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities - BIG			
Name	Location (Jurisdiction)	Acres	Distance from BIG Footprint^{1,2}
Jasper Park (Lenwood) ³	25473 Jasper Road, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	3.17	Immediately north of/adjacent to proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of less than one minute)
Lenwood Elementary Fields (Lenwood) ³	34374 Ash Road, Barstow (Local – Unincorporated SOI, BUSD)	6.30	Approximately 490 feet south of proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of less than one minute)
High Desert Estates Park (Lenwood) ³	High Desert Estates HOA, Lenwood (Private – Unincorporated SOI)	0.76	Approximately 760 feet east of the BIG Specific Plan boundary, and approximately 780 feet north of proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of less than one minute)
H Avenue Soccer Fields	800 South Avenue H, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	9.28	Approximately 2.24 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately four minutes)
Foglesong Park	300 South Avenue G, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	10.10	Approximately 2.38 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately four minutes)
Dana Park Community Center	850 Barstow Road, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	4.05	Approximately 3.69 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately six minutes)
Lower Dana Park & Skate Park	850 Barstow Road, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	3.88	Approximately 3.69 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately six minutes)
Rotary Centennial Park	At the southeast corner of East Virginia Way and Barstow Road, Barstow (City of Barstow)	0.66	Approximately 3.76 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately six minutes)

Table 5.14-13: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities - BIG			
Name	Location (Jurisdiction)	Acres	Distance from BIG Footprint ^{1,2}
Cora M Harper Fitness Center	841 Barstow Road, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	1.64	Approximately 3.76 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately six minutes)
Lillian Park	901 Bigger Street, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	3.69	Approximately 4.25 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately seven minutes)
Robert Sessions Memorial Sports Park	2800 Mayor Katy Parkway, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	38.93	Approximately 4.37 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately eight minutes)
Cameron Elementary Fields	801 Muriel Drive, Barstow (Barstow Unified School District)	1.50	Approximately 4.46 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately eight minutes)
Donald Stringham Park	1610 Rimrock Road, Barstow (Barstow Unified School District)	6.34	Approximately 4.98 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately eight minutes)
Sturnacle Park	1434 Sage Drive, Barstow (Barstow Parks and Recreation Division)	2.44	Approximately 5.1 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately nine minutes)
Montara Elementary Fields	700 Montara Road, Barstow (Barstow Unified School District)	1.47	Approximately 5.29 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately nine minutes)
Sorensen Field	Near A Street and 15 th Street, Barstow (MCLB)	3.6	Approximately 7.11 miles east of the BIG footprint and proposed lead track extension. (Estimated commute time of approximately 12 minutes)
Notes: ¹ This measurement is taken from the edge of the BIG footprint to the nearest recreational facility property. ² Estimated commute times are based on a standard speed of 35 miles per hour. This speed is derived from United States Department of Transportation estimates for average commute times for small cities. ³ These recreational facilities are within unincorporated land as identified in CWP Policy Map NR-2. Sources: City of Barstow, Parks and Recreation Division. (ND). <i>Barstow Parks and Recreation Sites and Services</i>. https://www.barstowca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/368/635378749145130000. County of San Bernardino. (2020). <i>Countywide Plan Policy Map NR-2 Parks and Open Space Resources</i>. https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5595acba44fd4509830282e4417f7c9e. U.S. Department of Transportation. (2006). <i>NHTS Brief National Household Travel Survey</i>. https://nhts.ornl.gov/briefs/Commuting%20for%20Life.pdf.			

As previously addressed, two City zoning districts may be used for open space/recreational purposes: Open Space District and PF Public Facilities District. The BIG footprint's existing zoning is depicted on **Figures 5.11-6 through 5.11-9** and summarized in **Table 5.11-4: Existing Zoning Districts - BIG**. As

indicated in **Table 5.11-4**, there are approximately 18 acres within the BIG footprint, which are associated with the San Bernardino County Flood Control District channel (i.e., southwest of Lenwood Road) and the Mojave River (i.e., north of the BIG footprint), which are zoned “O” Open Space but not designated as a recreational use (San Bernardino, 2024).

5.14.5 IMPACT THRESHOLDS AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

State CEQA Guidelines **Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form** includes questions concerning public services and recreation. The issues presented in the Environmental Checklist Form have been used to formulate thresholds of significance in this section. Accordingly, the Project would have a significant effect if it would:

- **Impact 5.14-1:** Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection services.
- **Impact 5.14-2:** Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities, need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for police protection services.
- **Impact 5.14-3:** Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, 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 for school services.
- **Impact 5.14-4:** Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered public library facilities, need for new or physically altered public library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for public library services.
- **Impact 5.14-5:** Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities, need for new or physically altered park facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for parks; or Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.
- **Impact 5.14-6:** 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.

5.14.6 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Applicable Proposed General Plan Policies

The proposed General Plan goals and policies relevant to public services and recreation are listed below.

Public Facilities and Services Element

- **Policy PFS-2.1 Response capacity.** Maintain police and fire staffing, facilities, and training activities to effectively respond to emergency and general public service calls and to create a real and perceived sense of safety for residents, visitors, and businesses.
- **Policy PFS-2.2 Community awareness.** Promote public safety by maintaining and enhancing police, disaster, and emergency preparation education and outreach programs in multiple languages and methods to be inclusive of those with access and functional needs.
- **Policy PFS-2.6 Lifelong learning and career advancement.** Advocate for the continued provision and expansion of educational programs available through Barstow Community College to support lifelong learning.
- **Policy PFS-2.7 Scholastic achievement and planning.** Advocate for the continued pursuit of academic excellence and coordinate on the location of schools and facility improvements with public school and community college districts.
- **Policy PFS-2.8 Library access.** Coordinate with the County and other entities to maintain, expand, and improve library services, technologies, and facilities to meet the needs of the community, increase library patronage, and support the role of libraries as a focal point of community engagement and events. [EJ-CE]

Safety Element

- **Policy S-1.2 Mutual aid.** Maintain mutual aid agreements with the County, MCLB, and Ft. Irwin fire departments to maximize the ability to respond to emergencies in Barstow and surrounding communities.
- **Policy S-1.5 Water for fire protection.** Coordinate with water suppliers and fire protection agencies to ensure adequate provision of water supplies for structural fire suppression.
- **Policy S-2.1 Resilient public facilities.** Require new critical and public facilities to be located and designed to operate during, minimize their exposure to, and susceptibility to damage from flooding, seismic and geological effects, and urban fires. Retrofit existing City facilities and encourage existing private facilities to be retrofitted to remain operational during an emergency.

Open Space Conservation Element

- **Policy OSC-1.1 Parkland standard.** Require developers of new single-family, multifamily, residential or mixed-use residential projects to provide or pay fees equivalent to a ratio of three acres of public park lands per 1,000 persons.
- **Policy OSC-1.2 Diverse recreation opportunities.** Design, maintain, and improve parks and recreation facilities to provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities for people of all ages

and abilities. Adopt and periodically update a parks master plan that identifies the community's recreational needs and interests to improve and adapt park facilities and programming.

- **Policy OSC-1.3 Joint-use facilities.** Pursue opportunities to use public utility easements, and other quasi-public areas for recreational uses and playfields.
- **Policy OSC-1.4 Floodplain park planning.** Coordinate with public and private entities to design and use land in the 100-year and 500-year floodplain to serve as either active public park or passive public recreation spaces.
- **Policy OSC-1.5 Open space linkages.** Establish and maintain pedestrian and bicycle networks that link open space and recreation facilities.

Impact 5.14-1 *Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection services?*

Proposed General Plan

The proposed General Plan would annex approximately 2,785 acres of unincorporated County lands into the City of Barstow, including approximately 2,686 acres under SBLAFCO Action A (includes a 2,676-acre portion of the BIG Specific Plan area and an additional approximately 10 acres) and approximately 99 acres under SBLAFCO Action B; see **Section 3.0: Project Description**. Completion of SBLAFCO Action Areas A would transfer responsibility of fire protection services from SBC Fire to BFPD. When completed, approximately 2,605 acres of SBLAFCO Action A, inclusive of BIG, would be within BFPD responsibility. While these actions are a part of the proposed General Plan, it would be the same for any other development within the City's unincorporated SOI considered by the City. The City cannot approve development within their unincorporated SOI unless the land is annexed and brought into the City's jurisdiction. While growth is projected within the City's unincorporated SOI, City-approved physical development cannot occur until the land is annexed into the City limits. The process of annexation would transfer responsibility of fire protection services from SBC Fire to BFPD; see **Figure 5.14-1**. Other growth in the City's unincorporated SOI that would not be annexed to the City would remain within SBC Fire responsibility.

An increase in service demand is related to the type, location, and configuration of land uses, and increases in population and employees. As shown in **Table 5.13-3: Buildout Under 2015 General Plan Compared to Proposed General Plan Area Projections** in **Section 5.13: Population and Housing**, substantial growth is projected within the proposed General Plan area. While growth is projected within the City's unincorporated SOI, City-approved physical development cannot occur until the land is annexed into the City limits, as discussed above. The proposed General Plan does not include any land use designation changes within the City's unincorporated SOI.

The City has not adopted standards for the ratio of firefighters to population as each agency establishes needs based on various factors including calls for service, geographic areas, access, budget, and community expectations. The City Council reviews service needs with input from the Fire Chief and the community during the budget process in accordance with Policy PFS-2.1 Response Capacity. (Cisneros, 2024). Three factors were considered in providing fire service to the proposed General Plan:

- **Personnel.** Currently, BFPD has 30 employees. The proposed General Plan's projected population growth of 18,751 new residents by 2048 is an approximately 75 percent increase over the existing population within the current BFPD service boundary of approximately 24,867 persons. The BFPD estimates that the large geographic area that factors into response times combined with the anticipated growth under the proposed General Plan (including BIG) would increase the number of calls. This would create a demand for additional fire facilities to accommodate the projected 12 additional firefighters (including 5 additional firefighters for BIG) needed at proposed General Plan buildout; see **Fire Stations** discussion below.
- **Equipment.** The proposed General Plan would allow construction of large buildings such as the 9.0 million square feet in BIG's transload warehouse area and planned casino and hotels. Larger and taller buildings require the ability to project fire suppression over larger roof areas, and at heights not possible with the BFPD's existing equipment. The Fire Chief has noted that BIG and planned casino and hotels would require a ladder truck and specially trained personnel, along with a building to store and maintain the equipment. In the interim, the ladder truck would be stored in existing facilities; however, ultimately a new fire station would be needed. (Cisneros, 2024)
- **Fire Stations.** While the BFPD has fire equipment to equip a third engine company in reserve, no appropriately positioned or constructed fire stations exist to meet the proposed General Plan's projected needs. The locations of the new fire stations needed to meet the proposed General Plan's future needs would be determined by future growth patterns and infrastructure needs. As critical emergency facilities, new fire (and police) stations must be located outside of flood plains and away from seismic faults, and built to a higher standard than conventional buildings, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 16000, et seq. This adds to the cost of emergency facilities and limits where they can be built. In addition, some stations may need specialized equipment (i.e., ladder truck) that would affect the station's design and size.

Until actual physical growth patterns emerge, the precise locations of the fire stations cannot be determined. The City owns several properties that could be used as an interim fire station, or that have existing buildings that could be adapted and repurposed as a fire station. The City could also trade/sell surplus land in compliance with applicable law, to acquire or purchase a new fire station site. However, each fire station site would need to be evaluated for adequacy and ability to support the fire station, available funding, and any potential environmental impacts pursuant to CEQA, including consideration of alternatives to each proposed new station site. In addition, the City may co-locate fire services with police services, and provide community training facilities, to gain operational efficiency. Co-location of a fire and police station could potentially reduce environmental impacts, as development would occur on one site as opposed to two sites. BFPD reports that to serve future development under the proposed General Plan,

as projected at full buildout in 2048, BFPD would need the facilities, staffing, and equipment identified below (Heldreth, 2025).

Five fire stations (two existing, one re-established, and two new) would be required to meet future needs as projected at full buildout of the proposed General Plan in 2048, as follows:

- BFPD Existing Station 361: Headquarters Station 361 at 861 Barstow Road, Barstow.
- BFPD Existing Station 363: Station 363 at 2600 West Main Street, Barstow. This facility is assumed to need interior upgrades and minor on-site expansion to meet current standards for fire stations and additional personnel.
- BFPD Re-established Station: Station at 29780 Old Highway 58, Barstow. This facility, which is currently used for storage, is assumed to need interior upgrades and minor on-site expansion to meet current standards for fire stations and additional personnel.
- Two New BFPD Stations: The locations of these future stations have not been identified; however, one station may be north of Highway 58. Each new station would need to be a minimum of 15,000 square feet on a site greater than two acres, meeting all applicable fire station siting requirements and standards for fire stations.

Additionally, pursuant to the Restated Municipal Service Agreement between the City of Barstow and the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians (Tribe) (Resolution No. 5191-2024), there are plans to develop a casino (i.e., the Alternative B-Barstow Reduced Casino-Hotel Complex) on 23.1 acres, which is assumed under the proposed General Plan. As part of the development, the Tribe would pay standard Development Impact Fees and cover the costs for City services, including fire (and police) protection. The development's equipment/staffing needs for fire protection services are one fire ladder truck, one fire engine, and 22 fire department personnel. If the proposed development comes to fruition, the Tribe would provide two acres of land and payment for equipment, staffing, and construction of a fire station. If constructed, this station would serve the Tribe, as well as the City.

Future construction of the two new fire stations and physical alterations to the three existing stations would be required to comply with applicable regulations governing construction. Fire stations are considered essential services buildings and must comply with the requirements of the Essential Services Buildings Seismic Safety Act of 1986 and be designed and constructed to minimize impacts from fires, earthquakes, and other hazards, as well as California Building and Fire Codes, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, etc. That is, as critical emergency facilities, new fire stations must be out of flood plains, away from seismic faults, and built to a higher standard than conventional buildings. This requirement adds to the cost of the facilities and limits where they can be built. Until growth patterns emerge, the precise location of the stations cannot be determined. Knowing the pattern and extent of growth is essential because density, access, utilities, are all theoretical until actual development occurs.

At the time the development of future fire stations is warranted, appropriate environmental analyses pursuant to CEQA would be conducted. While fire stations are critical facilities and need to meet specific siting criteria described in this section, the physical construction of the fire station is similar to commercial

buildings anticipated by the proposed General Plan with site grading of the site, trenching for utilities, and paving of parking lots and circulation areas. The buildings would be constructed of wood, concrete, and steel and would not require special techniques or materials. The environmental impact of commercial construction includes noise, dust, and use of heavy machinery, the impacts of which are evaluated throughout this EIR. Future construction of the two fire stations and physical alterations to the three existing stations could cause significant environmental impacts. However, the timing and locations of these facilities is unknown and there are no specific development proposals at this time. The potential environmental impacts from construction of fire protection facilities would be reduced through proposed General Plan policies such as Policy OSC-4.4 Stormwater and Urban Runoff, which would regulate the quantity and quality of stormwater, Policy S-2.1 Resilient Public Facilities, which would ensure the buildings meet State standards, and Policy PFS-2.1 Response Capacity, which would ensure placement of the new fire stations meets the City's response times and service needs. Further, all public improvements would require project-specific environmental analysis prior to ground disturbance. As part of that environmental analysis, site-specific impacts to biological and cultural resources would be addressed. While the location and size of the future fire stations is unknown, the process for consideration, approval and construction is such that impacts from construction of fire facilities are expected to be less than significant. Also, the future facilities would undergo separate, project-specific environmental review pursuant to CEQA. That is, subsequent review may be required pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15162(a) and 15164. Therefore, the proposed General Plan would result in the need for new and physically altered fire protection facilities, but their construction would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts. A less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

As previously noted, the BFPD operates as a Dependent District to the City of Barstow, which annually augments the BFPD budget from the City's General Fund, including from certain available Measure Q revenues. As future development is proposed within the City, fire impact fees would have to be paid as a condition of issuing a permit for any development, per Barstow Code § 12.40 Development Impact Fees. Development impact fees and other lawful revenue sources, such as development agreement fees or community facilities district fees and taxes, would be available to fund the construction of fire facilities and land acquisition. Furthermore, mutual and automatic aid agreements would ensure that fire protection services in the City's unincorporated SOI are supplemented if additional firefighting services are needed.

The proposed General Plan includes several policies aimed at ensuring adequate level of fire protection service, such as Policy PFS-2.1, which calls for maintaining fire staffing, facilities, and training activities to effectively respond to emergencies, and Policy S-1.2, which calls for maintaining mutual aid agreements with SBC Fire and the MCLB and Fort Irwin Fire Departments to maximize the ability to respond to emergencies. In addition, several policies focus on fiscal jurisdiction and infrastructure requirements, including Policy LU-2.5, which requires new development to pay its fair share for necessary infrastructure, services, and capital improvements and mandates a fiscal impact analysis for proposed General Plan amendments. Policy LU-2.6 requires new development to use special assessment districts and other financing mechanisms for improvements to public services and infrastructure, ensuring fiscal neutrality.

Policy LU-2.7 emphasizes coordination with the County to implement fees that address the fair share impact of development in unincorporated areas on City roadways, infrastructure, and public services.

Unlike capital improvements that can be financed by development impact fees or other lawful, one-time revenue sources, recurring staff costs are borne by the General Fund (and Measure Q), and other lawful recurring revenue sources, such as development agreement fees or community facilities district fees, and taxes, and allocated by City Council action when approving budgets. The Fiscal Impact Analysis prepared to identify BIG's projected fiscal impacts concluded that the extra tax revenues from BIG would allow for the City to pay for seven additional firefighters, allowing BFPD to hire a full ladder truck company. BFPD and the City intend to use the anticipated extra tax revenues from BIG on a fair share basis, to pay for the 12 additional firefighters.⁴

Future increases in BFPD staffing would be subject to BFPD Board decisions as tax and other revenues allow residential population and daytime/nighttime employee populations served figures change over time. The additional BFPD positions are also subject to BFPD Board decisions and future staffing and budgeting decisions. As the increase in demand would be coupled with new construction it is reasonable to assume that adequate tax and other revenues would be available at the time the staffing is needed. Further, proposed General Plan Policy LU-2.5 Fiscal impact of new development requires that new development be revenue neutral or have a positive impact on the City budget. As required by proposed General Plan Policy LU-2.6 Financing mechanisms revenue neutrality can be accomplished through special assessment districts and other financing mechanisms for improvements to and expansions of existing public services and infrastructure (including capital costs and ongoing operations and maintenance), when necessary to maintain fiscal neutrality.

Physical construction of new fire stations would be funded through both existing revenue sources such as the general fund, as well as conditions of approval, development agreements, and development impact fees applied citywide at the time of building permit issuance. In some instances, the development may construct facilities to City specifications for dedication to the City similar to how roadways, pipelines, and other public improvements are dedicated.

Impact 5.14-1: General Plan: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-1: General Plan: Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-1: General Plan: Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Barstow International Gateway

The BIG footprint totals approximately 5,000 acres of which approximately 2,676 acres of the BIG Specific Plan area currently within unincorporated County areas would be annexed to the City and responsibility for fire protection services within 2,605 acres of the BIG Specific Plan area, currently within the SBC Fire service area, would transfer from SBC Fire to BFPD; see proposed General Plan discussion above. BIG's off-site improvement areas that would remain within the unincorporated County (i.e., would not be

⁴ Conclusions of the Fiscal Impact Analyses ("FIAs") for the Annexation of the Barstow International Gateway Project ("BIG Project").

annexed) would continue to be within SBC Fire responsibility. BIG proposes to construct various improvements throughout the approximately 5,000 acres, which would occur over approximately three years and generate approximately 8,188 direct construction jobs and 5,373 operational jobs by 2048; see **Section 5.13: Population and Housing**. BIG's proposed Specific Plan area improvements and off-site rail and non-rail improvements are described in detail in **Section 3.0: Project Description** and **Section 5.11: Land Use and Planning**.

BFPD would serve all of the BIG Specific Plan area and the BIG off-site rail and non-rail improvement areas that would remain within City jurisdiction listed below.

- **Rail Improvements:** East Lead
- **Non-Rail Improvements:**
 - Drainage: Lenwood Channel widening.
 - Transportation and Bridges (BR): BR 6.5A; and BR 4.3
 - Utilities: Tortilla Substation upgrades and Main Street sewer line replacement (refer to **Section 5.17**).

SBC Fire would serve the BIG off-site rail and non-rail improvement areas that would remain in County jurisdiction listed below.

- **Rail Improvements:** East Lead; and West Lead
- **Non-Rail Improvements**
 - Transportation and Bridges (BR): BR 4.9; BR 5.1; BR 10.5; BR 11.3; BR 11.3A; BR 12.3; BR 12.5; BR 13; BR 13.7; BR 14; BR 14.3; BR 15.2; BR 15.7; and BR 16.4
 - Stormwater Drainage: Lenwood Channel widening.
 - Utilities: Main Street sewer line replacement and 33 kilovolt (kv) extension from Tortilla Substation (refer to **Section 5.17: Utilities and Service Systems**).

Construction

As previously noted, all of the BIG Specific Plan area and the BIG off-site rail and non-rail improvement areas that would remain within City jurisdiction would be within BFPD responsibility. BIG's off-site improvement areas that would remain within the unincorporated County would continue to be within SBC Fire responsibility. Generally, the proposed improvements would involve grading, construction equipment, and temporary construction staging areas. However, construction-related activity would be temporary and would not involve activities that would result in an increased demand for fire protection such that construction of new facilities would be warranted. As mentioned above, all construction activities would be subject to compliance with applicable emergency response and fire safety requirements of BFPD, the CFC, and the Barstow Code. In addition, construction of off-site improvements may result in temporary lane closures and detours for affected roadway segments. However, construction activities associated with the proposed improvements are not anticipated to result in any significant emergency access impacts; see **Section 5.15: Transportation**.

During typical construction, hazards inherently associated with building operations are continuously being generated at construction sites. Typical hazards at construction sites (e.g., those associated with falls, stairways/ladders, scaffolding, electrical, trenching/excavations, and motor vehicle safety/work zones) would also place increased demands for emergency medical services. Additionally, clearing and grubbing would remove potential fuel for fires which could occur during construction. The potential for emergency response incidents related to hazardous construction operations would be minimized through compliance with the established regulatory framework, including Cal/OSHA, which ensures that employers provide their workers with a place of employment free from recognized hazards to safety and health, such as exposure to toxic chemicals, excessive noise levels, mechanical dangers, heat or cold stress, or unsanitary conditions. However, during the construction phase, permanent fire protection systems and equipment are typically not yet installed. Similarly, walls, floors, doors, etc., that are designed/intended to minimize fire spread, are typically not installed until a later construction phase. Given these factors, as well as the BIG footprint's vast area, duration of construction, presence of construction equipment and fuels/flammables, and number of construction workers, increased demands for fire protection and emergency medical services within both SBC Fire's and BFPD's service areas could occur during BIG's construction phase. However, BIG proposes a Fire Prevention and Extinguishing Plan (Construction Fire Prevention Plan), which would be developed in collaboration with BFPD/SBC Fire (as appropriate) and would minimize calls for fire protection services to BIG construction sites.

The Construction Fire Prevention Plan would establish procedures for expedient handling of "imminent danger" type hazards and identify storage locations of flammables and temporary potentially hazardous devices (e.g., heating devices) and would be implemented throughout the course of construction. The Construction Manager (or their designee [i.e., prime contractor]) would be responsible for construction site fire protection and would communicate relevant safety measures and requirements to the construction workers, tradesmen, and delivery drivers. The Construction Fire Prevention Plan would specify that prior to construction, the BFPD/SBC Fire (as appropriate) would be made aware of construction plans and kept up to date during the course of construction concerning construction details (e.g., construction site access during working and non-working hours, location of standpipe systems, pumper connections, fuel storage, stairways, power and fuel shutoffs, emergency generators, chemicals/hazardous substances, and fixed-fire extinguishing systems). Implementation of the Construction Fire Prevention Plan would minimize the potential demands on SBC Fire and BFPD during BIG's construction phase. Further, BIG's proposed Construction Fire Prevention Plan would serve to minimize the demand for fire protection services to the BIG footprint during construction. Given their temporary nature, BIG construction activities would not result in the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable response times for fire protection services. Therefore, BIG construction activities would not result in significant environmental impacts due to construction of fire protection facilities. A less than significant impact would occur in this regard, and no mitigation is required.

Operations

As described in **Section 3.0**, various activities would occur throughout the BIG area, and various equipment and machinery would operate on the site. BIG's operational employment is estimated to total

5,373 jobs by 2048; see **Section 5.13**. During operations, BIG would use equipment and machinery that would present the risk of electrical fire. Additionally, BIG would present the risk of injury or medical emergency involving employees due to the use of heavy machinery and hazardous materials, although this impact is considered to be less than significant; see **Section 5.9** for discussion concerning hazardous materials and potential hazards. Therefore, given these factors, the vastness of the BIG footprint, and the BIG Specific Plan area's various operations and related employment, BIG would increase the demand for fire protection and emergency medical services and equipment/infrastructure within the BFPD and SBC Fire service areas. However, as discussed below, BIG would be subject to County and Barstow Codes, which specify design requirements concerning fire safety, thereby reducing demand for services. Additionally, BIG would comply with the BNSF Emergency Response Plan, which includes procedures for responding to emergencies and communicating with first responders.

BFPD (BIG Specific Plan Area and BIG Off-Site Improvement Areas Currently in City). The rail yard and transload warehouse center would be constructed pursuant to CFC requirements and industry standards. During the entitlement process, BFPD would review development within the BIG Specific Plan area concerning fire safety. BFPD would evaluate BIG for compliance with regulatory requirements that would aid in fire safety and support fire suppression activities, such as a fire protection system, automatic fire sprinklers, paved access, and required aisle widths. Development within the BIG Specific Plan area would be subject to compliance with Barstow Code Chapter 12.40: Development Impact Fees (DIFs) pursuant to the most current BFPD Fee Schedule provisions. This includes payment of Fire Impact Fees pursuant to Barstow Code § 12.40.110, which would be imposed as a condition of the issuance of any permit for any development. Compliance with the BFPD Fee Schedule and preparation of construction plans pursuant to engineering, State, and industry standards would be required prior to construction. The BIG Specific Plan area would also be subject to compliance with Barstow Code Chapter 16.04: Fire Code, which incorporates the California Fire Code, and includes regulations to protect life and property from fire, hazardous materials, or explosion.

There are two BFPD fire stations (i.e., BFPD Stations 363 and BFPD Headquarters Station 361) within the BIG study area. As discussed above, these two facilities are assumed to need interior upgrades and minor on-site expansion. As concluded in the proposed General Plan analysis above (see **Impact 5.14-1: General Plan**), the anticipated growth under the proposed General Plan (inclusive of BIG) would require five BFPD fire stations (two existing; one re-established; and two new). As concluded above, the proposed General Plan would result in less than significant environmental impacts concerning fire protection facilities. Further, the proposed General Plan includes several policies aimed at protecting the environment (i.e., OSC-4.4, Policy S-2.1, and Policy PFS-2.1); see discussion above.

Various BIG off-site improvements are within the current City boundary and would be served by the BFPD. These are identified above and described in **Section 3.0**. Generally, these off-site improvements would be unoccupied and would not result in an increase in fire protection demand during operations. The off-site improvement areas that are within the City are spread out to the east of the BIG Specific Plan area and are not concentrated in a single area. Additionally, these off-site improvements are small in scale and predominantly would occur in already developed areas of the City currently served by BFPD. BIG's off-site improvements would not result in a need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities. Therefore,

BIG's off-site improvements would not require construction of fire protection facilities or result in an adverse physical impact concerning fire protection facilities, and less than significant impact would occur.

SBC Fire (BIG Off-Site Improvement Areas Remaining in County). SBC Fire would continue to serve the off-site improvement areas that would remain within unincorporated San Bernardino County. SBC Fire would review these BIG off-site improvements concerning fire safety during BIG's entitlement process. Site design features that would aid in fire safety and support fire suppression activities, such as a fire protection system, automatic fire sprinklers, paved access, and required aisle widths would be evaluated for compliance with standards and adequacy. Further, these BIG off-site improvements would be required to comply with the then current SBC Fire Fee Schedule, which require a fee payment for any developments requiring permitting that the County then applies to the funding of fire protection facilities (SBC Fire, 2019). Compliance with the SBC Fire Fee Schedule and preparation of construction plans pursuant to engineering, State, and industry standards would be required prior to construction. BIG off-site improvements would also be subject to compliance with County Code §§ 23.0101, et. seq., which incorporates the CFC and includes regulations to protect life and property from fire, hazardous materials, or explosion and SBC Fire's Ordinance No. FPD 23-01, which includes payment of fees, which would be imposed as a condition of the issuance of any development permit required under the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Fire Code. Additionally, on April 8, 2024, SBC Fire responded to a questionnaire sent out on behalf of the proposed General Plan and BIG. According to the response from Daniel R. Munsey, SBC Fire Chief/Fire Warden, SBC Fire has adequate emergency response staff to accommodate the Project (Munsey, 2024).

Therefore, as concluded above, future growth under the proposed General Plan (including BIG) would create a demand for construction of new SBC fire protection facilities but would not result in adverse physical impacts concerning fire protection facilities, and a less than significant impact would occur.

Impact 5.14-1: BIG: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-1: BIG Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-1: BIG Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Impact 5.14-2 *Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities, need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for police protection services?*

Proposed General Plan

The proposed General Plan would annex approximately 2,785 acres of unincorporated County lands into the City of Barstow, including approximately 2,686 acres under SBLAFCO Action A and approximately 99 acres under SBLAFCO Action B; see **Section 3.0**. All of SBLAFCO Actions A and B areas are currently within

SBC Sheriff and CHP responsibility. For those annexed areas, the responsibility for police protection services would transfer from the County and SBC Sheriff to BPD. Areas not annexed to the City would remain in the County and within SBC Sheriff responsibility. The CHP responsibility would remain unaltered, and the CHP would continue to patrol I-15, I-40, SR-247, SR- 127, SR-58, and U.S. Highway 395.

As new development occurs, new or expanded police facilities may be needed to support the associated population and employment growth. In 2023-2024, the current BPD police headquarters underwent a major renovation expanding its dispatch center and facility to accommodate current and future needs. The department added a third dispatching center and created room for a fifth workstation to address the dispatching needs for police calls. The remodeled station is adequate to meet the City's present needs, however, would not be able to accommodate the proposed General Plan (Capt. D. Arthur, personal communication, December 12, 2024), as discussed in the **Police Station** section below.

Personnel. The BPD currently has 47 budgeted positions. Based on a projected population increase of nearly 18,751 persons added to the City's population by 2048, the BPD estimates the need for 9 police officers, including 6 police officers to serve BIG,⁵ bringing the total to 52 police officers; see also **Police Station** discussion.

Unlike capital improvements that can be financed by development impact fees or other lawful one-time revenue sources, recurring staff costs are borne by the General Fund (and Measure Q) and other lawful recurring revenue sources, such as development agreement fees or community facilities district fees and taxes, and allocated by City Council action when approving budgets. The Fiscal Impact Analysis prepared to identify BIG's projected fiscal impacts concluded the extra tax revenues from BIG would pay for three additional police officers, who would provide additional police services expected to be key to maintaining the safety of BIG, its workers and facilities, and the surrounding City area. The City intends to use the extra tax revenues from BIG to pay for nine new police officers. Future increases in BPD staffing would be subject to City Council decisions as tax and other revenues allow and residential population and daytime/nighttime employee populations served figures change over time. The additional BPD positions would also be subject to City Council decisions and future staffing and budgeting decisions. As the increase in police services demand would be coupled with new construction (see **Police Stations** below) it is reasonable to assume that adequate tax revenue would be available at the time the additional police staffing is needed. Further, proposed General Plan Policy LU-2.5 Fiscal impact of new development. requires that new development be revenue neutral or have a positive impact on the City budget. As required by proposed General Plan Policy LU-2.6 Financing mechanisms revenue neutrality can be accomplished through special assessment districts and other financing mechanisms for improvements to and expansions of existing public services and infrastructure (including capital costs and ongoing operations and maintenance), when necessary to maintain fiscal neutrality.

Police Stations. As the City expands geographically and development intensifies, one additional police station would be needed to accommodate the increase in police personnel. The City's DIF includes the new police station; however, the location has not yet been determined. In addition to the new police station, satellite offices may be developed as needed to increase coverage and manage response times.

⁵ Ibid.

These offices could be co-located with fire stations, or within community buildings or shopping centers as they typically have minimal equipment (i.e., desk, restroom, lockers) and function more as a meeting location than a traditional police station. The timing and placement of any satellite offices would be determined at the time of development of new construction, or demand in existing developed areas. There is no set formula for when or if satellite offices would be needed, and as they would be part of another building, they would not be expected to result in a new environmental impact. Once the location and timing of a substation is determined the City would proceed with the environmental analysis necessary to allow construction.

Like fire protection facilities, police stations are considered essential services buildings and must comply with the requirements of California Health and Safety Code § 16000 and be designed and constructed to minimize impacts from fires, earthquakes, and other hazards, as well as the California Building and Fire Codes, NPDES, etc. That is, as critical emergency facilities, new police stations must be out of flood plains, away from seismic faults, and built to a higher standard than conventional buildings, pursuant to Essential Services Buildings Seismic Safety Act of 1986 SB 122 Health and Safety Code Section 16000, et seq. This adds to the cost of the facilities and limits where they can be built. Until growth begins to occur, the precise location of the stations cannot be determined. The City owns several properties that could be used as a new police station, or that have existing buildings that could be adapted and repurposed as a police station, or could be traded/sold, in compliance with applicable law, to acquire or purchase a new police station site. However, each of the site(s) would need to be evaluated for adequacy and ability to support the police station, for available funding, and for any potential environmental impacts pursuant to CEQA, including consideration of alternatives to each proposed new station. In addition, the City may co-locate police services with fire services, and provide community training facilities, to gain operational efficiency.

While police stations are critical facilities and need to meet specific siting criteria described in this section, the physical construction of the police station is similar to other commercial buildings anticipated by the proposed General Plan with grading of the site, trenching for utilities, paving of parking and maneuvering areas, with the buildings constructed of wood, concrete and steel. The impacts of commercial construction include noise, dust, and use of heavy machinery, the impacts of which are evaluated throughout this EIR. Further, all public improvements would require project-specific environmental analysis prior to ground disturbance. As part of that environmental analysis, site-specific impacts to biological and cultural resources would be addressed. While the location and size of the future police stations is unknown, the process for consideration, approval and construction is such that impacts of construction are expected to be less than significant.

As addressed in **Impact 5.14-2: General Plan**, the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians (the Tribe) proposes to develop a casino. As part of the development, the Tribe would pay standard DIFs and cover the costs for City services, including police protection. The Tribe would also fund the staffing of 17 police officers and establish a problem gambling program for the Barstow area.

While the proposed General Plan's implementation may ultimately necessitate the construction or substantial alteration of police protection facilities, such development would occur incrementally and be subject to separate discretionary approvals and environmental review. Given the regulatory safeguards

in place, the availability of potential sites, the City's planning framework, and the financial commitments from major developments, the physical impacts associated with future police facilities are expected to be less than significant.

Additionally, multiple satellite offices are likely to be required. Because the satellite offices would be co-located with fire stations, or within community buildings or shopping centers, they would not result in new construction or increased physical expansion of existing buildings, the construction of which could result in a significant environmental impact.

Therefore, the proposed General Plan would result in a less than significant impact concerning police protection facilities.

Impact 5.14-2: General Plan: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-2: General Plan: Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-2: General Plan: Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Barstow International Gateway

The BIG footprint totals approximately 5,000 acres of which approximately 2,676 acres of the BIG Specific Plan area currently within unincorporated County areas would be annexed to the City. BIG off-site improvement areas that would remain within the unincorporated County (i.e., would not be annexed) would continue to be served by SBC Sheriff. BIG proposes to construct various improvements throughout the approximately 5,000 acres, which would occur over approximately three years and generate approximately 8,188 direct construction jobs and 5,373 operational jobs by 2048; see **Section 5.13: Population and Housing**. BIG's proposed Specific Plan area improvements and proposed off-site rail and non-rail improvements are described in detail in **Section 3.0** and **Section 5.11**.

The BIG Specific Plan area and the BIG off-site rail and non-rail improvement areas that would remain within City jurisdiction, as listed below, would be within BPD responsibility

- **Rail Improvements:** East Lead
- **Non-Rail Improvements:**
 - Drainage: Lenwood Channel widening.
 - Transportation and Bridges (BR): BR 6.5A; and BR 4.3
 - Utilities: Tortilla Substation upgrades and Main Street sewer line replacement (refer to **Section 5.17**).

The BIG off-site rail and non-rail improvement areas that would remain within County jurisdiction, as listed below, would be within SBC Sheriff responsibility.

- **Rail Improvements:** East Lead; and West Lead

- **Non-Rail Improvements**

- Transportation and Bridges (BR): BR 4.9; BR 5.1; BR 10.5; BR 11.3; BR 11.3A; BR 12.3; BR 12.5; BR 13; BR 13.7; BR 14; BR 14.3; BR 15.2; BR 15.7; and BR 16.4
- Stormwater Drainage: Lenwood Channel widening.
- Utilities: Main Street sewer line replacement and 33 kilovolt (kv) extension from Tortilla Substation (refer to **Section 5.17: Utilities and Service Systems**).

Construction

During typical construction, potential safety challenges inherently associated with building operations include theft, vandalism, and arson. Also, during construction phases, permanent lighting, security systems and equipment are typically not yet installed. However, given the temporary nature of BIG's construction activities, and since the construction sites are anticipated to provide their own private security, BIG construction activities would not result in the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities. Further, all construction activities within the County would be subject to applicable CBCSD emergency response requirements, including the provision of fencing and lighting, during construction. Therefore, BIG construction activities would not require construction of police protection facilities or result in an adverse physical impact concerning police protection facilities, and a less than significant impact would occur. In addition, construction of off-site improvements may result in temporary lane closures and detours for affected roadway segments potentially impacting emergency access; see **Section 5.15: Transportation**.

Operations

BIG proposes various improvements including a rail yard with intermodal facility and block swap yard, a transload warehouse center of approximately 9.0 million square feet, and various off-site rail and non-rail improvements. BIG does not propose new or physically altered police protection facilities. The long-term employment within the BIG Specific Plan area is estimated to total approximately 5,373 direct jobs; refer to **Section 5.13**. Calls for police protection services as a result of BIG implementation are anticipated to be typical of industrial and warehouse incidents and emergencies such as burglaries and vehicle accidents. Therefore, given these factors, the vastness of the BIG footprint, and the BIG Specific Plan area's various operations and related employment, BIG would increase the demand for police protection services and equipment/infrastructure within the BPD and SBC Sheriff service areas. However, BIG proposes security measures to incorporate "defensible space" and other crime prevention features, such as the following:

- **Perimeter Fencing:** Fencing would be placed around the rail yard, each transload warehouse center building within the transload warehouse center, and solar farm.
- **Security Gates:** All primary entrances to the rail yard, each transload warehouse center, and solar farm would include locked gates. The rail yard gate would only allow heavy trucks that were already scheduled and cleared for container pick-up/drop-off.
- **Lighting:** The rail yard and transload warehouse center would include Barstow Code compliant security lighting around buildings, parking lots, and driveways to dissuade unauthorized trespass.

- **Railroad Police:**⁶ Railroad police would also provide security at the BIG rail yard, as commissioned by 49 CFR Part 207. Railroad police may enforce relevant laws for the protection of the railroad’s employees, passengers, patrons, and property or property entrusted to the railroad for transportation purposes, and the movement of cargo in the railroad’s possession or while on the railroad’s property. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are an estimated 100 Transit and Railroad Police employed in California (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023).

Further, as discussed below, BIG would be subject to County and Barstow regulations and review concerning police protection.

BPD (BIG Specific Plan Area and BIG Off-Site Improvement Areas Currently in City). The transload warehouse center would be constructed pursuant to BPD requirements. BPD review would occur during BIG’s entitlement process. Site design features concerning adequate site signage, lighting, and other crime safety preventative measures that would aid crime prevention would be evaluated. For example, chain link fencing with barbed wire would be implemented throughout the BIG Specific Plan area. Where possible, fencing would be located outside the BNSF rail right-of-way and encompassing areas to limit trespassing for safety. Additionally, a minimum level of adequate lighting would be provided throughout the BIG Specific Plan area, for safety and security purposes. Further, BIG transload warehouse center would also be subject to compliance with Barstow Code Chapter 12.40: Development Impact Fees (DIFs), which would be imposed as a condition for the issuance of any permit for any development.

As concluded in the proposed General Plan analysis above (see **Impact 5.14-1: General Plan**), the anticipated growth under the proposed General Plan (inclusive of BIG) would require one additional police station and nine police officers, including six police officers to serve BIG.⁷ As also concluded above, the proposed General Plan would result in less than significant environmental impacts concerning police protection facilities.

Various BIG off-site improvement areas are within the current City boundary and would continue to be served by BPD. These are identified above and described in **Section 3.0**. Generally, these off-site improvements would be unoccupied and would not result in an increase in police protection demand during operations. Additionally, these off-site improvements are small in scale and predominantly would occur in already disturbed areas (i.e., the City). Therefore, the provision of off-site improvements would not result in a need for new or physically altered police protection facilities such that a substantial adverse impact would occur, nor would construction of these off-site improvements result in an increased demand for police protection services. Therefore, the off-site improvements would not result in an adverse physical impact concerning police protection facilities, and less than significant impact would occur.

SBC Sheriff (BIG Off-Site Improvement Areas Remaining in County). During BIG’s entitlement process, SBC Sheriff would review BIG off-site improvements within areas remaining in unincorporated San Bernardino County concerning safety. Site design features concerning adequate site signage, lighting, and other crime safety preventative measures that would aid in crime prevention would be evaluated. Further,

⁶ BNSF Railroad Police protection services (and other services) are not governmental services and therefore not subject to review under CEQA. They are provided herein for informational purposes only.

⁷ Conclusions of the Fiscal Impact Analyses (“FIAs”) for the Annexation of the Barstow International Gateway Project (“Big Project”).

BIG off-site improvement areas remaining in the County would be required to comply with the most current SBC Sheriff Fee Schedule, which require a fee payment for any developments requiring permitting that the County then applies to the funding of police protection facilities. Compliance with the SBC Sheriff service fees and preparation of construction plans pursuant to engineering, State, and industry standards would be required prior to construction.

Given BIG's proposed crime prevention features (as discussed above), the existing BPD facilities, and the current regulatory framework (e.g., Barstow Code requirements) described above, BIG Specific Plan operations would not result in the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable response times for police protection services. Further, BIG's proposed off-site improvements by nature would not present land uses that would increase the demand for police protection services. Therefore, BIG operations would not result in significant environmental impacts due to construction of police protection facilities. A less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Impact 5.14-2: BIG: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-2: BIG Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-2: BIG Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Impact 5.14-3	<i>Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, 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 for school services?</i>
----------------------	---

Proposed General Plan

The proposed General Plan proposes to annex approximately 2,785 acres of unincorporated County lands into the City of Barstow including approximately 2,686 acres under SBLAFCO Action A (includes a 2,676-acre portion of the BIG Specific Plan area and an additional 10 acres) and approximately 99 acres under SBLAFCO Action B; see **Section 3.7**. All of SBLAFCO Actions A and B are currently within the BUSD. Those portions of the proposed General Plan that would not be annexed would also remain within the BUSD.

The proposed General Plan is forecast to increase the number of housing units by approximately 50 percent (6,679 dwelling units) and the population by approximately 75 percent (18,751 persons) when compared to existing conditions. As a result, the BUSD's student population would increase resulting in a higher demand for school services.

Based on BUSD's established student generation rates, the proposed General Plan would result in approximately 4,007 new students.⁸ As new development occurs, new or expanded school facilities be needed to support the associated population growth. Prior to the development of new or expanded

⁸ 6,679 dwelling units multiplied by BUSD's 0.60 student generation rate.

school facilities, an environmental analysis would be conducted to ensure the impacts of development are addressed. The construction of new schools would be required to comply with applicable regulations such as the California Fire and Building Codes, NPDES, etc., and the construction of new schools, as well as the review of design and construction plans, would be overseen by the Division of the State Architect and the California Department of Education. Future construction of the two schools could cause environmental impacts. However, the timing and location of these facilities is unknown. These facilities would undergo separate, project-specific review pursuant to CEQA. That is, subsequent CEQA analysis, in the form of a subsequent EIR or EIR Addendum, may be required pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15162(a) and 15164.

Additionally, California Government Code §§ 65995(h) and 65996(b) provide mitigation for project specific impacts to school facilities. Such mitigation measures include fees, charges, or requirements levied against construction, pursuant to Education Code § 17620. Further, the proposed General Plan includes Policy PFS-2.7 which calls for advocating for academic excellence by coordinating the locations of future school locations and facility improvements.

Pursuant to CGC § 65995(h), payment of the impact fees fully mitigates CEQA impacts to schools. Although the increased demand for school facilities may occur under the proposed General Plan, payment of impact fees in compliance with CGC § 65995 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Impact 5.14-3: General Plan: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-3: General Plan: Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-3: General Plan: Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Barstow International Gateway

Construction

The BIG footprint is located almost entirely within BUSD boundaries; see **Figure 5.14-2**. BIG proposes to construct a rail yard and a transload warehouse center, as well as off-site rail and non-rail improvements. BIG does not propose new or physically altered school facilities. Construction of BIG's proposed improvements would occur over approximately three years and generate approximately 8,188 direct construction jobs; see **Section 5.13**. Note that construction of off-site improvements would be temporary, operational impacts to schools in the vicinity of these off-site improvement areas is expected to be minimal. Given the temporary nature of construction employment, BIG construction activities are not anticipated to generate an increase in the BUSD's student population. Further, CGC § 65995 requires developers to pay the school district a fee at the time of issuance of building permits to offset potential impacts from new development on school facilities. Payment of fees mandated under CGC § 65995 is the mitigation measure prescribed by the statute, and payment of such fees is deemed full and complete mitigation of BIG impacts on school facilities as a matter of law. Therefore, because BIG construction activities would not result in the need for new or physically altered school facilities, BIG would not result in significant environmental impacts due to construction of such school facilities. A less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Operations

BIG's operational employment is estimated to total approximately 5,373 jobs; see **Section 5.13**. As BIG does not propose housing it would not directly increase the BUSD's student population. California Government Code §§ 65995 requires developers to pay the school district a fee at the time of issuance of building permits to offset potential impacts from new development on school facilities. Payment of fees is deemed full and complete mitigation of BIG impacts on school facilities as a matter of law. Additionally, as concluded in the proposed General Plan analysis above, although the increased demand for school facilities may occur under the proposed General Plan, payment of impact fees in compliance with CGC § 65995 would reduce impacts to less than significant. Therefore, because BIG would not result in the need for new or physically altered school facilities, BIG would not result in significant environmental impacts due to construction of school facilities. A less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Impact 5.14-3: BIG: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-3: BIG Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-3: BIG Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Impact 5.14-4 *Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities, need for new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for library services?*

Proposed General Plan

The proposed General Plan would annex approximately 2,785 acres of unincorporated County lands into the City of Barstow; including approximately 2,686 acres under SBLAFCO Action A and approximately 99 acres under SBLAFCO Action B; see **Section 3.7**. San Bernardino County Library currently serves all of SBLAFCO Actions A and B. The San Bernardino County Library system would continue to serve those remaining areas that would not be annexed.

The proposed General Plan is forecast to increase the number of housing units by approximately 50 percent (6,679 dwelling units) and the population by approximately 75 percent (18,751 persons) when compared to existing conditions (see **Table 5.13-3**). An increase in residents would increase the demand for library services. The Barstow Branch Library states that the proposed General Plan would create a potential need for approximately 1,500 square feet of additional children's space and depending on the actual increase in usage, two additional personnel (Orosco, 2024). This additional 1,500-square-foot space would not create a significant environmental impact as this would be within the existing library building (Orosco, 2024).

The proposed General Plan contains Policy PFS-2.8 which calls for the City to continue coordination with the County and other entities to maintain, expand, and improve library services, technologies, and facilities to meet the needs of the community, increase library patronage, and support the library's role as a focal point of community engagement and events. Guided by this policy, the City would also coordinate with Barstow Community College to evaluate how to best expand the general public's ability to use the College's library resources. Future development would also generate new tax revenues and funding sources for the Barstow Branch Library through the payment of property taxes.

Impacts associated with the development of library facilities due to the proposed General Plan would not be substantial as this potential addition would be within the existing library. Therefore, impacts are determined to be less than significant.

Impact 5.14-4: General Plan: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-4: General Plan: Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-4: General Plan: Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Barstow International Gateway

Construction

The Barstow Branch Library is the library nearest the BIG footprint, and the only one in the study area. BIG proposes to construct a rail yard and a transload warehouse center, as well as off-site rail and non-rail improvements. BIG does not propose new or physically altered library facilities. Construction of BIG's proposed improvements would occur over approximately three years and generate approximately 8,188 direct construction jobs; see **Section 5.13**. Given the temporary nature of construction employment, and since by nature, the workplace offers minimal opportunity for other activities, workers' use of library facilities is anticipated to be nominal. As such, BIG construction activities are not anticipated to generate an increased demand for library facilities. Therefore, because BIG construction activities would not result in the need for new or physically altered library facilities, BIG would not result in significant environmental impacts due to construction of such library facilities. A less than significant impact would occur.

Operations

BIG's operational employment is estimated to total 5,373 jobs; see **Section 5.13**. BIG does not propose housing that would directly increase the City's population or result in the need for new or physically altered library facilities. Since by nature, the workplace offers minimal opportunity for other activities, employees' use of library facilities, except for the potential for library facilities (e.g., free wifi, public computers, etc.) to be used during the job application process, and anticipated demand for library services is anticipated to be nominal. The indirect growth of new housing, and new residents that might place a demand on library services is evaluated above as part of the General Plan. BIG would have a less than significant impact on library services.

Impact 5.14-4: BIG: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-4: BIG Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-4: BIG Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Impact 5.14-5 *Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities, need for new or physically altered park facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for parks?*

Would the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Proposed General Plan

Development and operation of new or expanded recreational facilities may have an adverse physical effect on the environment, including impacts related to air quality, biological resources, lighting, noise, and traffic. Construction of a park is like that of any development with grading, trenching for improvements, extension of water, sewer, and power lines, and the building of structures such as restrooms, concession stands, amphitheaters, skateboard parks, and parking lots. Park construction uses similar materials such as plastics, oils, paints, concrete and asphalt, although at lower amounts than more intense development. Over the 20-plus year horizon of the proposed General Plan, the City would continue to assess the need for additional parks and recreational facilities and consider additional parks and recreational facilities as community demand and need and available funding availability allow.

Construction and Operations

Each jurisdiction determines the appropriate park standard based in part on the guidance provided by CGC § 66477, commonly referred to as the Quimby Act. The Quimby Act applies to the division (or subdivision) of land and requires a standard of 3.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and, for projects greater than 50 parcels, the dedication of land. The City's current park standard is 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents per Barstow Code Chapter 18.24: Parks Dedication.

Substantial growth is projected under the proposed General Plan. As the City's park standard does not apply outside of incorporated boundaries (the unincorporated portion of its SOI), the small amount of projected growth for the unincorporated SOI is excluded for the following analysis. The proposed General Plan is forecast to increase the City's housing by approximately 50 percent (6,679 dwelling units) and the population by approximately 75 percent (18,751 persons) when compared to existing conditions. The forecast population growth and the City's current parkland standard, approximately 93.8 acres of parks and open space would be necessary by 2048 to serve the 18,751 residents.⁹

The City has approximately 82 acres of public parks and recreation facilities within its current incorporated boundary (excludes facilities in the unincorporated communities of Lenwood and Barstow Heights) (see **Table 5.14-10**). Additionally, the City considers a portion of public-school sports fields that are used regularly by youth sports organizations (roughly 16 acres) as well as a portion of other publicly-owned

⁹ 18,751 residents multiplied by 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents results in 93.75 acres.

spaces and facilities (roughly 8 acres) to count towards its current overall parkland standard. Added together, the City provides approximately 106 acres of public parks and recreation facilities, indicating that the City has historically established parkland facilities in incorporated areas consistent with its standards based on the Quimby Act.

The proposed General Plan includes policies that seek to ensure adequate and safe park and recreational facilities, apply parkland requirements for a wider variety of new residential development, and move forward with a more feasible parkland standard. Policy OSC-1.1 requires developers of new residential and mixed-use residential projects to provide or pay fees equivalent to a ratio of three acres of public parklands per 1,000 persons for new residential development and Policy OSC-1.2 aims to design, maintain, and enhance parks and recreation facilities to cater to the diverse recreational needs and interests of the community. This is a change from existing standards and future implementation would need to revise the City's development standards to ensure the parkland requirement is consistent for residential development subject to the Quimby Act (primarily single-family homes) and to add the requirement for all other types of residential (e.g., multifamily development, whether standalone or as part of a mixed-use project). Under the new policy and standard, the City's projected 2048 population of 43,618 would generate a total need for approximately 131 acres of land for public parks and recreation facilities. Given the existing 106 acres, the net increase would be approximately 25 acres.

While the Quimby Act is an excellent tool to help preserve land for parks and provide funding for their development it only applies to the subdivision of land. Future development in accordance with the Project would be required to comply with Barstow Code Chapter 18.24 requires that subdividers dedicate land for parks and/or pay a fair share fee. Payment of in-lieu park fees is seldom sufficient to build the park or improvements later that can lead to a shortfall of parks. In addition, as the Quimby Act only applies to subdivision of land and not apartments or other types of housing development where the division of land is unnecessary, the City can miss out on fees from the higher density residential development that needs more local open space to offset the smaller parcel sizes. In this instance the City must rely on the Mitigation Fee Act that provides the authority for all development impact fees. The proposed General Plan Policy LU-2.6 Financing mechanisms, requires that new development to employ special assessment districts and other financing mechanisms for improvements to and expansions of existing public services and infrastructure such as parks, including capital costs and ongoing operations and maintenance, when necessary to maintain fiscal neutrality. This policy, along with payment of the City's Development Impact Fee required by Chapter 12.40 of the Barstow Code, would ensure that park facilities are built with new development and adequately maintained.

The proposed General Plan also includes policies that would explore and review other land uses to convert to recreational areas such as Policy OSC-1.3 which encourages the use of public utility easements, flood control channels, school facilities, and other quasi-public areas for recreational uses, and Policy OSC-1.4 which would identify opportunities to convert land in the 100-year and 500-year floodplain to park and passive recreation spaces.

At a programmatic level of analysis, it is speculative and infeasible to evaluate project-specific environmental impacts with the specific construction of future recreational facilities since specific sites

and timeframes for development are unknown. When specific projects are required to meet the growth demands, the appropriate level of analysis required under CEQA would be conducted by the City. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Impact 5.14-5: General Plan: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-5: General Plan: Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-5: General Plan: Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

Barstow International Gateway

Construction

BIG does not propose new or physically altered park facilities, thus would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with their construction. Further, BIG does not include recreational facilities, thus, would not result in adverse physical effects on the environment in this regard. BIG proposes to construct a rail yard and a transload warehouse center, as well as various off-site improvements. Construction of BIG's proposed improvements would occur over approximately three years and generate approximately 8,188 direct construction jobs; see **Section 5.13**. Given the temporary nature of construction employment, and since by nature, the workplace offers minimal opportunity for recreation/leisure, workers' use of park/recreational facilities is anticipated to be limited while construction activities are being conducted and would cease once construction activities end. As such, BIG construction activities are not anticipated to generate an increased demand for park facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, because BIG construction activities would not result in the need for new or physically altered park facilities, BIG would not result in significant environmental impacts due to construction of such park facilities. A less than significant impact would occur.

Operations

BIG's operational employment is estimated to total approximately 5,373 jobs; see **Section 5.13**. BIG does not propose new or physically altered park facilities, thus would not result in adverse physical impacts in this regard. Further, BIG does not include recreational facilities, thus, BIG would not result in adverse physical effects on the environment in this regard. BIG does not propose housing, thus, BIG would not directly increase the City's population or result in the need for new or physically altered park facilities. Since by nature, the workplace offers minimal opportunity for recreation/leisure, employees' use of park/recreational facilities is anticipated to be nominal. Additionally, as concluded in the proposed General Plan analysis above, impacts related to the provision of new or physically altered park facilities would be less than significant. As such, BIG operations are not expected to result in the need for new or physically altered park facilities, facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, BIG would not result in significant environmental impacts due to construction of park facilities. A less than significant impact would occur.

Impact 5.14-5: BIG: Level of Significance Before Mitigation: Less than Significant Impact.

Impact 5.14-5: BIG Mitigation Measures: No mitigation required.

Impact 5.14-5: BIG Level of Significance After Mitigation: No significant impact would occur.

5.14.7 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Proposed General Plan

There are no significant and unavoidable impacts to concerning public services and recreation as a result of the proposed General Plan.

Barstow International Gateway

There are no significant and unavoidable impacts to concerning public services and recreation as a result of BIG.

5.14.8 REFERENCES

Barstow, City of. 2025a. *Code of Ordinances*.

https://library.municode.com/ca/barstow/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_TIT16FIPR_CH16.04FICO.

_____. 2025b. *Measure Q*. <https://www.barstowca.org/government/measure-q>.

_____. 2025c. Parks and Recreation Department. <https://www.barstowca.org/departments/community-services-department/parks-and-recreation-division>.

_____. 2025d. Barstow Fire Protection District. <https://www.barstowca.org/departments/fire-protection-district>.

_____. 2025e. Approval of the Restated Municipal Services Agreement Between Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians, and the City of Barstow. https://barstowcityca.igm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2998&MediaPosition=&ID=5796&CssClass=.

_____. 2025f. About Barstow Police Department. <https://www.barstowca.org/departments/police/about-barstow-police-department#:~:text=Due%20to%20of%20our%20location,initial%20report%20to%20successful%20prosecution>.

_____. Barstow, City of. 2025g. Detective Division. <https://www.barstowca.org/departments/police/detective-division>.

_____. Barstow, City of. 2025h. Patrol Division. <https://www.barstowca.org/departments/police/patrol-division>.

- _____. Barstow, City of. 2025i. Planning Commission Agenda April 28, 2025.
<https://barstowcityca.igm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=2532&Inline=True>.
Barstow, City of. 2022. Emergency Operations
Plan.<https://www.barstowca.org/departments/fire-protection-district/bfpd-strategic-plan>
- _____. Barstow, City of. 2021. Barstow Police Patrol Beat.
<https://www.barstowca.org/departments/police/beat-crime-mapping>.
- _____. Barstow, City of. 2019. *Hazard Mitigation Plan*.
- _____. Barstow, City of. 2015. *The City of Barstow 2015-2020 General Plan*.
<https://www.barstowca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5359/636607004808630000>.<https://www.barstowca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/368/635378749145130000>
<https://www.barstowca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/368/635378749145130000>Barstow Fire
Protection District (BFPD). 2019. Barstow Fire Protection District Strategic Operations Plan.
<https://www.barstowca.org/home/showpublisheddocument/5475/636740735314700000>.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2025. Barstow Field Office.
<https://www.blm.gov/barstow#:~:text=The%20BLM%20Barstow%20Field%20Office,and%20communities%20in%20this%20effort>
- Barstow Unified School District (BUSD). 2022. Barstow Unified 2022 Redistricting Adopted Map.
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1651083402/barstowk12caus/ahjvcp6b0spokpmvvtc/AadoptedMap.pdf>.
- Beaton, D. 2024 (March 28). Responses to Barstow Unified School District Questionnaire. **Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Service Provider Questionnaires.**
- BNSF Railway Company. 2025a. *System Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan*.
https://www.bnsfhazmat.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/BNSF-SERP_Rev2-July-2025.pdf.
- _____. 2025b. *First Responder Training*. <https://www.bnsf.com/in-the-community/environment/environmental-protection.page>.
- _____. 2021. *2020 Railroad Emergency Response and Hazardous Materials Awareness*.
<https://www.bnsfhazmat.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-BNSF-Community-Training.pdf>.
- _____. 2016. *Community Responders Equipment*. <https://www.bnsfhazmat.com/community-responders/equipment/>.
- _____. 2024. *Police Team*. <https://www.bnsf.com/in-the-community/safety-and-security/police-team.page>.
- California Association Local Agency Formation Commission (CA LAFCO). 2024. *Guide to Cortese–Knox–Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000*.
https://calafco.org/images/downloads/Cortese_Knox_Hertzberg_Act/ckh_2024_update.pdf.
- California, State of, Department of Education (CDE). 2024. *Data Quest*. <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

- California, State of, Department of Finance. 2023. *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State - January 1, 2021-2023*. <https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/e-5-population-and-housing-estimates-for-cities-counties-and-the-state-2020-2023/>.
- California, State of, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). 2025a. Fire Hazard Severity Zones. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones#:~:text=Explore%20Fire%20Hazard%20Severity%20Zones,and%20ignition%20resistant%20building%20construction.&text=Please%20enable%20JavaScript%20to%20use%20this%20site>.
- _____. 2025b. *Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer*. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/03beab8511814e79a0e4eabf0d3e7247/>.
- California Highway Patrol. 2025. *835 Barstow*. <https://www.chp.ca.gov/find-an-office/>
- Cisneros, C. 2024, April 15. Responses to Barstow Fire Protection District Questionnaire. **Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Service Provider Questionnaires.**
- CONFIRE. 2019. *CONFIRE Emergency Communications Center*. <https://www.confire.org/>.
- _____. 2014. *2014 San Bernardino County Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Operational Plan*. <https://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/SBCFire/content/pdf/Mutual-Aid-Manual-with-Zone11.pdf>.
- Markegard, Ron. 2025 (April 2). *San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Questionnaire*. **Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Service Provider Questionnaires.**
- Crank, L. 2024 (April 8). *Responses to Recreation and Parks Questionnaire*. **Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Service Provider Questionnaires.**
- Education Data Partnership. 2023. *Barstow Unified District Profile*. <http://www.ed-data.org/district/San-Bernardino/Barstow-Unified>.
- Heldreth, Chris – Building Official/Fire Marshal. 2025. Personal Communication.
- Munsey, D. 2024 (April 8). Responses to San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Questionnaire. **Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Service Provider Questionnaires.**
- National Center for Education Statistics. 2023. *Common Core Data Public School Data 2022-2023 School Year*. https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/school_list.asp?Search=1&DistrictID=0604020.
- Orosco, M. 2024 (April 8). *Responses to San Bernardino County Library Questionnaire*. **Appendix 5.14 GP-1: Service Provider Questionnaires.**
- San Bernardino, County of. 2025a. Code of Ordinances https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/sanbernardinoca/latest/sanbernardino_ca/0-0-0-2.
- _____. 2021. Barstow Unified School District Areas. <https://open.sbcounty.gov/datasets/sbcounty::barstow-unified-school-district-areas/about>.
- _____. 2020. *Countywide Plan*. <https://countywideplan.sbcounty.gov/>.

-
- _____. 2019. *San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report*.
https://files.ceganet.opr.ca.gov/116951-2/attachment/k8XsQzELfwSoB_aDc9ZvGy89iOIYuwKbtvzB6Obhs54mYC3Wf4RyjScsbRJZDFI89M00aKgU-tfDUI000.
- _____. 2020a. *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*.
https://www.sbcounty.gov/atc/DBMFiles/2020%20CAFR%20FINAL_23168140321.pdf.
- _____. *NR-2 Parks and Open Space Resources*.
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5595acba44fd4509830282e4417f7c9e>.
- _____. 2024. *Public Parcel Viewer* [Web App].
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=87e70bb9b6994559ba7512792588d57a>.
- San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBC Fire). 2025a. Fire Stations – SBCo Fire Stations and Division Areas. <https://sbcfire.org/firestations/>.
- _____. 2025b. Service Zone FP-5 2024 Information. <https://sbcfire.org/fp5/>.
- _____. 2025c. San Bernardino County Fire Facts (FY 2022-2023). <https://sbcfire.org/statistics-fy-2022-23/>.
- _____. 2025d. Technology Plan 2030. from <https://sbcfire.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/SBCoFPD-Technology-Plan-2030.pdf>.
- _____. 2024. Service Zone FP-5. https://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/SBCFire/documents/FP-5/2022/fp5_factsheet_2022.pdf.
- _____. 2023. *Ordinance No. FPD 23-01*. <https://sbcfire.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2023/05/Ordinance-No.-FPD-23-01.pdf><https://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/SBCFire/documents/SBCFPD-Fire-Code-Ordinance-20-01.signed.pdf>.
- San Bernardino County Library. 2025a. *Library Locations*. <https://sbclib.org/library-locations/>.
- _____. 2025b. Adult Literacy. <https://library.sbcounty.gov/literacy-program/>.
<https://sbcfire.org/statistics/>
- _____. https://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/SBCFire/documents/FP-5/2022/fp5_factsheet_2022.pdf<https://sbcfire.org/firestations/><https://sbcfire.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/SBCoFPD-Technology-Plan-2030.pdf><https://sbclib.org/about-us/>
2023. *Barstow Branch Library*. <https://sbclib.org/library-locations/barstow-branch-library/>.
- San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (SBLAFCO). 2008. Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Updates for the Agencies within the Barstow Community.
https://sbclafco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/items/oct2008/item_10.pdf.
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBC Sheriff). 2025a. Patrol Stations.
<https://wp.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/patrol-stations/>.
-

- _____. 2025b. *Barstow Patrol Station*. <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/patrol-stations/barstowtrona/>.
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2023. *Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics*.
<https://www.bls.gov/oes/>.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. ND. *California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement*.
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5380381.pdf.
- U.S. Department of Transportation. 2006. *NHTS Brief National Household Travel Survey*.
<https://nhts.ornl.gov/briefs/Commuting%20for%20Life.pdf>.