

4. Libraries

Existing Conditions

The Los Angeles Public Library provides library facilities and services for the City of Los Angeles. At present, no Los Angeles Public Library branch is located within the Century City community.

The Project area is currently served by two local branches of the public library within neighboring communities (see **Figure PS-1**). The West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library, located at 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard, is approximately 2.5 miles to the west of the proposed Project site. This branch is 13,740 square feet and can accommodate a population of up to 109,000 people.⁴⁸ The Robertson Branch, located at 1719 South Robertson Boulevard, is approximately 2.5 miles to the southeast of the Project site. In addition, library and research facilities at UCLA, located less than two miles from the site, are open to members of the public on a non-circulating basis.

In November of 1998, a Library Construction Bond was approved through Proposition DD. This bond provides funds for the purchase of property and the design and construction of a new 12,500 square-foot Westwood Branch Library. The planned location for this library is at Glendon Avenue and Wellworth Avenue, which is within 2.25 miles from the proposed Project site. According to the Los Angeles Public Library, construction of this facility is planned to begin in 2002.⁴⁹ According to the Los Angeles Public Library Branch Facilities Site Selection Criteria⁵⁰, a 12,500 square-foot library can accommodate a population of 50,000 to 100,000 people.

The Palms Rancho Park Branch, located at 2920 Overland Avenue, is currently under construction. Expected to be completed in October 2002, it will be approximately 2.5 miles to the south of the Project site. When completed, the 10,500 square foot facility could accommodate a population of 35,000 to 50,000 people.

Threshold of Significance

According to the City of Los Angeles Draft CEQA Thresholds Guide (1998, p. J.5-2), a finding of significance involving library services shall be made on a case by case basis, considering the following factors:

- The net population increase resulting from the proposed project;
- The demand for library services anticipated at the time of project buildout compared to the expected level of service available. Consider, as applicable, scheduled improvements to library services (renovation, expansion, addition or relocation) and the project's proportional contribution to the demand; and
- Whether the project includes features that would reduce the demand for library services (e.g., on-site library facilities or direct support to the LAPL).

Project Impacts

Library needs are related to the size of the residential population, the geographic area served, and community characteristics. Projects that affect these factors (by increasing residential population in an area may increase demand for services from the public library. According to the City of Los Angeles Draft CEQA Thresholds Guide (City of Los Angeles, May 14, 1998, page J.5-1), projects that add fewer than 75 homes would not normally result in a significant impact on library services. The CEQA Thresholds Guide does not specify a threshold for commercial/office development.

⁴⁸ Source: City of Los Angeles Draft CEQA Thresholds Guide Tables J.5-1 and J.5-1.

⁴⁹ Construction schedules and facility square footages were obtained from the 1998 Library Bond Program October 2001 Progress Report prepared by the Los Angeles Public Library, Bureau of Engineering.

⁵⁰ Source: City of Los Angeles Draft CEQA Thresholds Guide, Page J.5-5, May 14, 1998.

The proposed Project consists of no new residential apartment units and a net increase of 100,125 square feet of development over existing uses. The Project's office space would contribute to the daytime employment level in the area, which could create some additional demand for local library service. However, this demand would be met by the existing and soon to be constructed facilities. Therefore, the Project's impact to library services would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

As described above, the proposed Project would not result in a significant impact on library services. Mitigation measures are not required or recommended.

Significant Project Impacts after Mitigation

The proposed Project would not result in a significant adverse impact on libraries.

Cumulative Impacts

General growth and specific development proposals in the Project area are expected to contribute to a cumulative increase in the demand for library facilities and services. Most of the development planned for the area is commercial, providing additional square footage of office and retail space. The related projects list identifies some residential projects that would develop a total of 776 residential units (apartments, condominiums, and senior housing). Also, daytime population would be added by commercial related projects (see **Table IV-1** in the Environmental Setting Section). However, the existing and under-construction libraries would be designed to accommodate a population up to 259,000 people. The Project's contribution to cumulative library impacts would be less than significant.