

3. LIBRARIES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

As shown by **Table 44: Libraries**, the project area is currently served by the following libraries:

TABLE 44
LIBRARIES

Library Branch	Address	Maximum Branch Service Area Existing	Maximum Branch Service Area Proposed	Population Currently Served
Northridge ¹	9051 Darby Ave Northridge CA 91325	49,920	100,000	0
Chatsworth ¹	21052 Devonshire St Chatsworth CA 91311	43,704	100,000	0
Porter Ranch	11371 Tampa Ave Porter Ranch CA 91326	100,000	100,000	~36,000

¹Currently closed due to renovations. Scheduled to reopen by Fall 2003.

SOURCE: Email from Patricia Kiefer, Director of Branches, LA Public Library, to Carrie Riordan, Planning Associates, Inc., May 2, 2002.

According to 2000 Census data, the Chatsworth - Porter Ranch Community Plan Area has approximately 84,734 residents. The Porter Ranch Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library currently has the capacity to serve a population of approximately 100,000 residents. However, the current population served is approximately 36,000.⁷⁴

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide, the determination of significance 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 the project buildout compared to the expected level of service available. Consider, as applicable, scheduled improvement to library services (renovation, expansion, addition or relocation) and the project's proportional contribution to the demand; and

⁷⁴Per email from Patricia Kiefer, Director of Branches, Los Angeles Public Library, to Carrie Riordan, Planning Associates, Inc., May 2, 2002.

- 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).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Project Site

Library facilities in the Chatsworth - Porter Ranch Community Plan Area have the potential to be adversely affected by a change in the resident population of the Plan Area. Transient and temporary populations such as employees at the Site will not significantly affect library services. As shown in **Section IV, I: Population and Housing, Table 37: Proposed Project Site Population**, the proposed Project at the Project Site would generate a maximum of 1,547 new residents in the area.

As a result of the proposed Project, the resident population in the Chatsworth - Porter Ranch Plan Area will increase from 84,734 residents⁷⁵ to 86,281 residents. Based on the current service capacity of the Porter Ranch Library (approximately 100,000 residents), the demand for library services would not exceed the level of service available at the library branch currently serving the project area. Additionally, the Northridge Branch and the Chatsworth Branch Libraries are anticipated to open in late 2003 which will increase the capacity of library services in the project area. Therefore, the proposed Project at the Project Site will result in a less than significant impact on library services in the project area.

Further, the previously approved Homeplace Senior Housing facility will provide a library facility on Site for its residents. This would reduce demand on City of Los Angeles Public Library services.

Therefore, the proposed development at the Project Site will have a less than significant impact on the Los Angeles Public Library branches in the project area.

Add Area

As a result of the development scenarios analyzed for the Add Area, the resident population in the Chatsworth - Porter Ranch Plan Area will increase from 84,734 residents⁷⁶ to 84,984 residents. Based on the current service capacity of the Porter Ranch Library (approximately 100,000 residents), the demand for library services would not exceed the level of service available at the library branch currently serving the project area. Additionally, the Northridge Branch and the Chatsworth Branch Libraries are anticipated to open in late 2003 which will

⁷⁵2000 Census Data.

⁷⁶2000 Census Data.

increase the capacity of library services in the project area. Therefore, the development scenarios analyzed for the Add Area will result in a less than significant impact to library services in the project area.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

LEVEL OF IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION

Less than significant.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Related Projects

Only two of the related projects have residential elements that have the potential to affect library services by altering the permanent population in the area. Related Project No. 5 has the potential to generate approximately 9,443 new residents in the area. Related Project No. 6 has the potential to generate approximately 1,815 new residents. Based on these two related projects, the resident population in the project area could increase by approximately 11,258 residents to approximately 95,992 residents. This population would be accommodated by existing library services and any additional services that will open in the near future such as the Chatsworth and Northridge Library Branches.

Proposed Project, Add Area, and Related Projects

General growth and specific development proposals in the Northridge and Porter Ranch area will contribute to a cumulative increase in the demand for public services such as libraries. As indicated in the above discussion, only resident and permanent populations will affect the demand on library services. The proposed Project at the Project Site and development scenarios analyzed for the Add Area have the potential to generate a maximum of approximately 1,797 new residents. Related projects will increase population by approximately 13,055 residents. This could increase the total population in the Community Plan Area to 97,789 residents.

Based on the current capacity of the Porter Ranch Library Branch of 100,000 residents, demand for library services will not exceed the level of service currently available at the library branch serving the area. Additionally, the Northridge Branch and the Chatsworth Branch Libraries are anticipated to open in Fall 2003. This will increase the level of service available to the community. Therefore, the a significant cumulative impact to library services is not anticipated.