

1. INTRODUCTION

This section of the Draft EIR discusses public library resources within the project area. The primary resource within the project area is the City of Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL). This section analyzes the proposed project’s impact on the local public library and its associated branch libraries.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The LAPL system provides public library services in the City of Los Angeles. The Library Division administers the library system and operates the Central Library and 70 branch libraries throughout the City. The Herald Examiner project is within the Central City area of Los Angeles and is served by the Central Library and Little Tokyo Branch Library. Information on these three libraries is provided in **Table IV.I.5-1, City of Los Angeles Library Facilities Serving the Herald Examiner Project**. The Central Library is the largest facility in the City’s library system and serves the entire community. It serves 7,000 people per day. The Central Library has architectural significance and also contains the Maguire Gardens. The Central Library building and its grounds were declared by the City of Los Angeles, in March 1967, as Historic-Cultural Monument No. 46 and declared at the federal level, in December 1970, as Historic-Cultural Monument No. 2345.¹ The Little Tokyo Branch Library contains books and materials in both English and Japanese.

**Table IV.I.5-1
City of Los Angeles Library Facilities
Serving the Herald Examiner Project**

Library and Location	Floor Area (Square feet)	Collection Size	Staff Positions	Public Computers	Service Population	Approximate Distance from Project Sites	Hours of Operation
Central Library 630 West 5 th Street	500,000	2.6 million	150	200	7,000 people per day	0.7 mile	Mon–Thurs 10:00 AM–8:00 PM
							Fri/Sat 10:00 AM–6:00 PM
							Sun 1:00 PM–5:00 PM
Little Tokyo Library 203 South Los Angeles Street	12,500	62,500	12	30	46,016	1.0 mile	Mon/Wed 12:30 PM–8:00 PM
							Tues/Sat 10:00 AM–5:30 PM
							Thurs/Fri 12:30 PM–5:30 PM
							Sun Closed

Source: Written correspondence with the City of Los Angeles Public Library, Anne Connor, Central Library Director, September 29, 2005.

¹ City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, *Historic-Cultural Monument Report*, November 10, 2004.

The location of each of these facilities in relation to the project sites are shown in **Figure IV.I.5-1, Central and Little Tokyo Branch Library Locations.**

The City of Los Angeles has expressed concern that both the Little Tokyo Branch Library and the Central Library have very limited parking to accommodate patron needs. Central Library patrons use Maguire's West Lawn garage and receive reduced-rate parking with a library card. Little Tokyo Library patrons receive 90 minutes free parking with validation.² Anne Connor, the Central Library Director indicated that the parking issue is the issue of most concern regarding the Central City Public Libraries.³ Although the parking is an issue, both the Central Library and the Little Tokyo Branch Library adequately meet the current demand for library services.⁴ There are no plans for the development of any new libraries to serve these Central City communities at this time.

The library collections consist primarily of books and, to a lesser extent, videos and compact discs. The Central Library includes amenities such as: a computer center, Depository Library for government documents, electronic information Magnet High School, InfoNow, Language Learning Center and Low-Vision Service Centers. Subject departments in the Central Library include: art, music and recreation, business and economics, children's literature, history and genealogy, international languages, literature and fiction, popular library, rare books, science, technology and parents, social science, philosophy and religion and Teen'Scape. In the current year, the LAPL system is spending \$3.33 per capita on library materials.⁵ The total volume of all library facilities is approximately 6,393,429 with approximately 59 percent of these volumes contained in the Central Library. Based on the estimates of the California State Department of Finance, the population for the City of Los Angeles at the start of 2005 was 3,957,875 residents; this translates into a volume-to-resident ratio in the City of 1.62 books per resident.

All of the branch libraries provide free access to computer workstations, which are connected to the Library's information network. In addition to providing Internet access, the workstations enable the public to search LAPL's many electronic resources, including the online catalog, over 100 subscription databases, word processing, language learning, literacy and a large historic document photograph collection. Specially designed websites are provided for children, teens and Spanish speakers.

² Written correspondence with the City of Los Angeles Public Library, Anne Connor, Central Library Director, September 29, 2005.

³ Phone conversation with Anne Connor, October 3, 2005.

⁴ Written correspondence with the City of Los Angeles Public Library, Anne Connor, Central Library Director, September 29, 2005.

⁵ Ibid.

Figure IV.I.5-1

Central and Little Tokyo Branch Library Locations

(See LA Library webpage, Find a Library Near You)

The City does not limit library use to residents of the City. However, while any person may use the City's libraries, the target population or service area is based on residents. The number of registered borrowers in 2003 was 1.65 million.⁶ In 2003, it was recorded that 15 million items were checked out per year.⁷

On November 3, 1998 the voters of Los Angeles passed a Library Bond Issue for \$178.3 million to improve, renovate, expand and construct 32 branch libraries, plus an additional 4, for a total of 36. All but four of the projects have been completed as of July 2005.

3. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

As stated in the City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework, library services are provided by the LAPL. The LAPL standard for determining the preferred library facility square footage is based upon ranges of population within a designated area.

There are goals and policies set forth by the City of Los Angeles in the General Plan Central City Community Element that relates to library services. A description of applicable goals and policies is provided in **Section IV.A, Land Use**.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

a. Significance Criteria

The *L.A. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Thresholds Guide* indicates that determination of a significant impact to libraries shall be made on a case-by-case basis, considering the following:

- 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 system).

⁶ Phone correspondence with the City of Los Angeles Public Library InfoNow Line, September 21, 2005.

⁷ Ibid.

b. Project Impacts

- *Impacts related to libraries are considered significant based on the net population increase resulting from the proposed project.*

As discussed in **Section IV.B, Population and Housing**, implementation of the proposed project would introduce 1,087 new residents into the South Park area of Downtown Los Angeles through the development of 575 new residential units. Additionally, approximately 260 individuals would be employed at the proposed retail, commercial and office uses for the project.

- *Impacts related to libraries are considered significant based on 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.*

Based on the estimates of the California State Department of Finance, the population for the City of Los Angeles at the start of 2005 was 3,957,875 residents; this translates into a volume-to-resident ratio in the City of 1.62 books per resident.

As stated in **Section IV.B**, implementation of the proposed project would introduce 1,087 residents as a result of the development of 575 new residential units. The proposed project would not include any features that would reduce the demand for library services. The addition of approximately 1,087 residents to the current estimated population of 3,957,875 in the City of Los Angeles would result in a volume-to-book ratio of 1.61 books per resident, which is approximately 0.6 percent below the current ratio of books per resident of 1.62 books per resident.

On November 3, 1998, the voters of Los Angeles passed a Library Bond Issue for \$178.3 million to improve, renovate, expand and construct 32 branch libraries, plus an additional four for a total of 36. All but four of the projects have been completed as of July 2005.

To reduce potentially significant impacts to library services associated with project implementation, a mitigation measure requiring the payment of fees to the LAPL would allow the library to adequately serve the anticipated demand associated with project implementation. The funds would be used for books, computers and other library materials. Therefore, potentially significant impacts can be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of the mitigation measure identified below.

- *Impacts related to libraries are considered significant based on whether the project includes features that would reduce the demand for library services (e.g., on-site library facilities or direct support to the Los Angeles Public Library system).*

Impacts to libraries from the proposed project could result from increased demand for library services by residents of the project. As stated in **Section IV.B**, implementation of the proposed project would

introduce 1,087 residents as a result of the development of 575 new residential units. In this instance, we are assuming the worst-case scenario in that the 1,087 residents are new residents from out of the City limits and are not relocated residents within the Los Angeles City limits. The addition of approximately 1,087 residents to the current estimated population of 3,957,875 in the City of Los Angeles would result in a volume-to-book ratio of 1.61 books per resident, which is approximately 0.6 percent below the current ratio of books per resident of 1.62 books per resident. The proposed project would not include any features that would reduce the demand for library services. To reduce potentially significant impacts to library services associated with project implementation, a mitigation measure requiring the payment of fees to the LAPL would allow the library to adequately serve the anticipated demand associated with project implementation. The funds would be used for books, computers and other library materials. Therefore, potentially significant impacts can be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of the mitigation measure identified below.

c. Cumulative Impacts

As discussed in **Section IV.B**, the proposed project and list of related projects identified in **Section III, General Description of Environmental Setting**, would result in the addition of 246,940 residents.

The addition of approximately 11,200 residents to the current estimated Citywide population of 3,957,875 would slightly reduce the present volume-to-resident ratio by 0.01. We are assuming the worst-case scenario in that the 11,200 residents are new residents from out of the City limits and not relocated residents within the Los Angeles City limits. Based on a future population of 3,969,075 residents, the volume to resident ratio in the City would fall to 1.61 volumes per resident, which is approximately 0.6 percent below the current ratio of volumes per resident. This could result in a potentially significant cumulative impact to library services.

However, as with the proposed project, each of the identified related projects is subject to CEQA review and project-specific impacts associated with the development of each project, relative to libraries, would be subject to mitigation similar to that required for the implementation of this project. Each project's individual contribution to the cumulatively significant impact can be mitigated to a less than significant level. Through this mitigation, adequate library services for the proposed population increase would be available. Therefore, through implementation of mitigation, potentially significant cumulative impacts to library services can be reduced to a less than significant level.

d. Mitigation Measures

MM-LIB-1. The LAPL requires that the project applicant pay a fee of \$200 per capita, based on the projected population of the development. The funds will be used for books, computers and other library materials.

e. Adverse Impacts

With the implementation of the mitigation measure listed above, no adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of the development of the proposed project.