

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

K.3. PUBLIC SERVICES: LIBRARY

1. INTRODUCTION

This section discusses the physical setting and provides analysis of library services in the area where the Project would be developed. The information contained in this section is derived primarily from research of the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) System.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

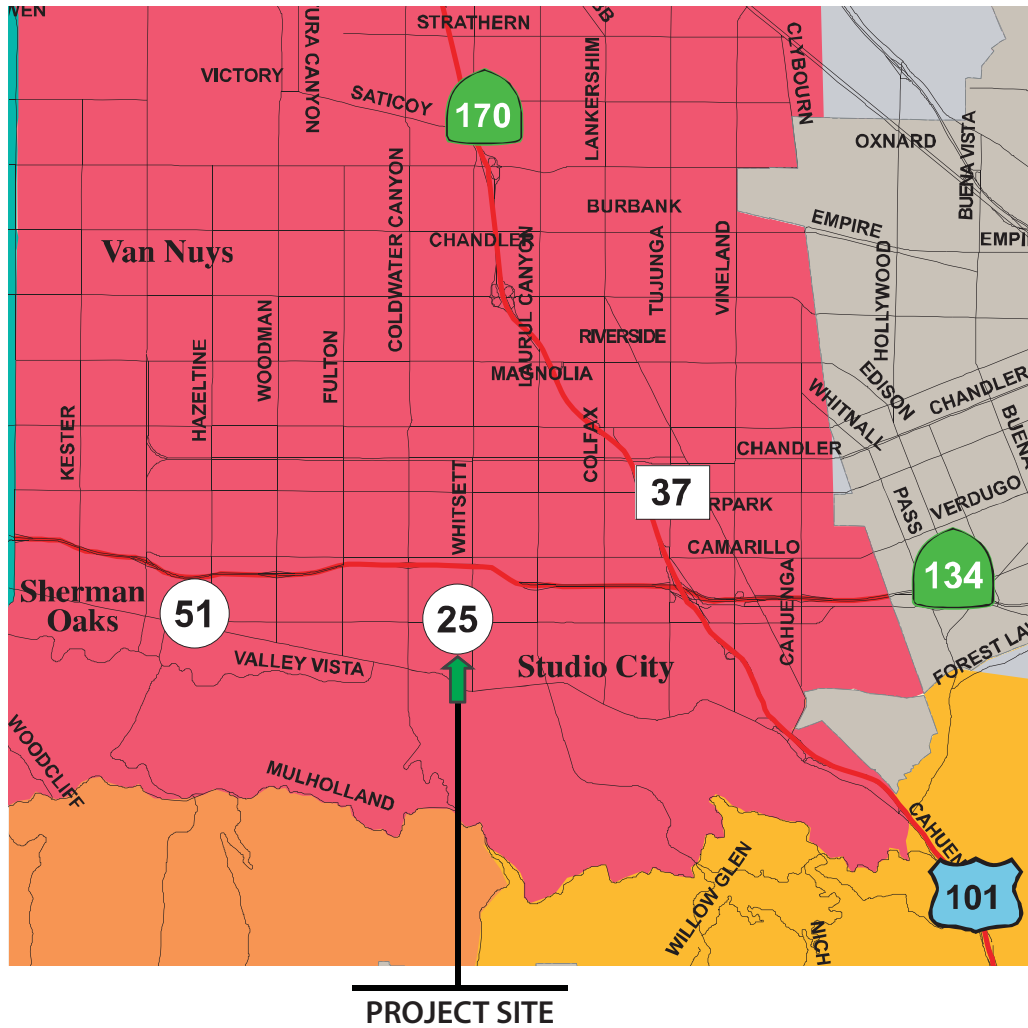
a. Physical Setting

Library service for the City of Los Angeles and the Project Site is provided by the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) System. The LAPL System provides library services at the Central Library and 72 branches throughout the City of Los Angeles. In 2007, the LAPL System welcomed 17 million visitors who borrowed 18 million items. The LAPL has a collection of 6.2 million books, CDs, DVDs, and downloadable books, music, and movies. Additionally, patrons of the LAPL can use 2,200 library computers with Internet access or bring their own computer and connect to library Wi-Fi systems.¹ The LAPL completed a Branch Facilities Plan in 2007 to guide the development of new libraries, expansion of existing libraries, and to determine the collection needs for the population it serves within its jurisdictional boundaries.

The LAPL Branch Facilities Plan requires that a population of 45,000 persons and above be served by a library branch that is 14,500 square feet in size and a population of below 45,000 persons be served by a library branch that is 12,500 square feet in size.

The Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library of the LAPL System is the closest library and currently serves the Project Site. Additionally, the North Hollywood Regional Branch Library and the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch Library are near enough to the Project Site to provide library services. *Figure IV.K.3-1: Location of Nearest LAPL Libraries* shows these three closest libraries serving the Project Site. Additionally, *Table IV.K.3-1: LAPL Libraries Serving the Project Site* provides details of each of these libraries including their addresses, distances from the Project Site, building sizes, and item collection sizes.

¹ Library Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Public Library Annual Report 2008-2009, <http://www.lfla.org/annual-report/index.php>. Accessed April 26, 2012.



- East Valley Area
- Western Area
- Hollywood Area
- West Valley Area
- Out of City Area
- 37 North Hollywood Regional Branch Library
- 25 Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library
- 51 Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch Library

FIGURE IV.K.3-1
LOCATIONS OF NEAREST LAPL LIBRARIES

SOURCE: LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY WEBSITE



TABLE IV.K.3-1
LAPL LIBRARIES SERVING THE PROJECT SITE¹

LIBRARY NAME	ADDRESS	DISTANCE FROM SITE (MILES)	LIBRARY BUILDING SIZE (SQ. FT.)	ITEM COLLECTION SIZE ²
Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library	12511 Moorpark Street Studio City, CA	0.3	10,500	62,529
North Hollywood Regional Branch Library	5211 Tujunga Avenue North Hollywood, CA	2.9	15,150	52,138
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch Library	14245 Moorpark Street Sherman Oaks, CA	2.5	12,500	54,948

¹ Source: City of Los Angeles, L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide, 2006, pgs. K.5-6 through K.5-12.
² Karen Pickard-Four, Acting Senior Librarian, Studio City Branch Library, personal communication, 10 July 2012.

The Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library, located approximately 0.3 miles to the north, is the closest library to the Project Site. The Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library was originally built in 1963, damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake, and rebuilt in its current location in 2001. The library was originally 5,230 square feet. It has since been expanded and this branch is now 10,500 square feet in size. This branch has a collection of approximately 62,529 items and also features reading areas for adults, teens, and children; 28 computers with Internet service (including four computers designated for children and four catalogue computers); a storytelling area; and a multipurpose meeting room. The library averages approximately 5,000 patrons a week or approximately 20,000 patrons a month.²

According to 2008 estimates by the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, the population of Studio City (including ZIP code 91604 and portions of ZIP codes 91602 and 91607) is approximately 37,201 persons. Per the standards set forth by the LAPL's Branch Facilities Plan, for a community population of less than 45,000 persons, the Studio City Library is currently undersized for the population that it is serving.

In addition to the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch and North Hollywood Regional Branch Libraries could also provide service to the Project. The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch Library is located approximately 2.5 miles to the west of the Project Site at 14245 Moorpark Street in Sherman Oaks, houses a collection of 54,948 items³, and is 12,500 square feet in size. The North Hollywood Regional Branch Library is located approximately 2.9 miles to the northeast of the Project Site at 5211 Tujunga Avenue in North Hollywood, houses a collection of 52,138 items⁴, and is 15,150 square feet in size.

² Karen Pickard-Four, Acting Senior Librarian, Studio City Library, personal communication, 10 July 2012.

³ Personnel at Sherman Oaks Library, personal communication, 10 July 2012. Information as of April 2012.

⁴ Personnel at North Hollywood Regional Library, personal communication, 10 July 2012. Information as of April 2012.

b. Regulatory and Policy Setting

(1) City of Los Angeles General Plan

The City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element provides guidance regarding citywide land use issues along with direction on infrastructure and public services.⁵ The LAPL standard for determining the preferred library facility square footage is based upon ranges of population within a designated area. Objectives and policies for the provision of adequate library services and facilities to meet the needs of the City residents are as follows⁶:

Objective 9.20: Adopt a citywide library service standard by the year 2000.

Policy 9.20.1: Develop library standards dealing with the facilities' net floor area, the appropriate number of permanent collection books per resident, and their service radius.

Policy 9.20.2: Develop a citywide policy for locating non-English language permanent collections.

Objective 9.21: Ensure library services for current and future residents and businesses.

Policy 9.21.1: Seek additional resources to maintain and expand library services.

Policy 9.21.2: Encourage the expansion of non-traditional library services, such as book mobiles and other book sharing strategies, where permanent facilities are not adequate.

Policy 9.21.3: Encourage the inclusion of library facilities in mixed-use structures in community and regional centers, at transit stations, and in mixed-use boulevards.

(2) Sherman Oaks-Studio City-Toluca Lake-Cahuenga Pass Community Plan

The Sherman Oaks-Studio City-Toluca Lake-Cahuenga Pass Community Plan Area is serviced by two public library branches, both neighborhood in scale. Each of the branches are located on small sites and are in need of expansion and updating. It should be noted that the North Hollywood Regional Branch Library lies within the North Hollywood-Valley Village Community Plan Area. The following goal, objective, and policy are provided by the Plan to ensure adequate library service to the population within its jurisdiction⁷:

Goal 7: Ensure adequate library facilities and services are provided to the area's residents.

⁵ Department of City Planning Los Angeles, California, Safety Element of the Los Angeles City General Plan, adopted November 26, 1996.

⁶ City of Los Angeles General Plan, Framework Element, Chapter 9 Infrastructure and Public Services, July 27, 1995.

⁷ City of Los Angeles General Plan, Sherman Oaks-Studio City-Toluca Lake-Cahuenga Pass Community Plan, May 13, 1998, pg. III-14.

Objective 7-1: To encourage the City's Library Department to provide adequate library service which response to the needs of the community.

Policy 7-1.1: Encourage flexibility in siting libraries in mixed-use projects, shopping malls, pedestrian oriented areas, transit stations, office buildings, and similarly accessible facilities.

(3) *Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) Branch Facilities Plan*⁸

The LAPL Branch Facilities Plan was adopted by the Board of Library Commissioners in 1988. It consists of two components: 1) a Site Selection Guidelines that set standards for the size and features of branches based on location and the population served in each community; and 2) a List of Projects, identifying the facility status and need of each existing branch library and identifying the need for branch libraries in communities without existing libraries.

The Branch Facilities Plan was implemented through back-to-back Bond Measures approved by more than two-third of the voters of Los Angeles. Phase I was the 1989 Bond Program, which provided \$53.4 million for 26 projects. Twenty-nine libraries were built in the 1989 bond program. The LAPL successfully obtained additional funds from the Community Development Block Grant award of federal funds, from the California State Library Proposition 85, and from Friends of the Library groups for a total branch construction program of \$108 million.

Phase II was the 1998 Bond Program. It provided \$178.3 million for 32 projects. The original 32 projects in the 1998 bond program were built on time and under budget. Four additional projects were added through managed savings, Friends of the Library contributions, and a California State Library Proposition 14 grant for a total construction program of \$226.3 million. Thus far, a total of 64 facilities have been built and/or renovated under the two Bond Programs. Through separate funding, during this same time period, the landmark Central Library was renovated and expanded to more than double the size of the historic building.

The 1998 Branch Facilities Plan became the blueprint for the most significant change in the LAPL infrastructure in its history. Based on the facilities plan and the construction funds obtained in the subsequent bond issues, 90 percent of the library infrastructure was replaced in a fifteen-year period. The LAPL completed the largest public library building program in the nation on time and under budget. Library space in new and renovated state-of-the-art facilities was more than doubled from 700,000 square feet to more than 1,400,000 square feet in the Central Library and 71 branch libraries in the City of Los Angeles.

In 2006, a preliminary revision to the Branch Facilities Plan was drafted and presented to the Board of Library Commissioners. As a result of public input, a number of changes have been made to the March 2006 Draft Revision to the Branch Facilities Plan. The Criteria for New Libraries was developed and proposes building larger libraries. The new recommended sizes for development of library branches in the LAPL System are 12,500 square feet for communities

⁸ Los Angeles Public Library Website, Summary of Branch Facilities Plan Revision, http://www.lapl.org/about/planning_overview.html. Accessed April 30, 2012.

with less than 45,000 population and 14,500 square feet facilities for communities with more than 45,000 population. It also recommends that when a community reaches a population of 90,000, an additional branch library should be considered for that area.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

a. Methodology

Analysis of library services is concerned with availability of facilities and accessibility of services. The LAPL has established standards to serve its population. The LAPL was contacted for their review and input on the proposed Project.

b. Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with Appendix G to the State CEQA Guidelines, the Project would have significant impact on aesthetics if it would cause any of the following conditions to occur:⁹

- a.) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for library services.

Furthermore, as set forth in the City of Los Angeles L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide, the determination of significance shall be made on a case-by-case basis, considering the following:

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

c. Project Impacts

(1) Library Services

The Project will include the development of a 200-unit senior housing condominium complex within six proposed buildings. Development of the Project is expected to increase the area population by 340 residents.

⁹ State of California, *California Environmental Quality Act: Guidelines*, http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines (May 2008).

The nearest library that would serve the residents of the Project is the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library. According to standards set forth by the LAPL, the Studio City Library branch is currently undersized for the amount of residents that it serves within its jurisdictional boundary.

Development of the Project would increase the population of the area served by the Studio City Branch Library. As such, the increase in population would demand an increase in services from the branch, potentially resulting in a significant impact. However, the increase would be nominal compared to the overall population. Although the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library is undersized, the LAPL indicates that this library branch adequately serves the population within its jurisdictional boundary.¹⁰ As such, the nominal increase in population from the Project would not cause the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library to be overused or require construction of a new library. Additionally, two other LAPL branches (the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch Library and the North Hollywood Regional Branch Library) are within three miles of the Project Site and would also be able to serve its residents adequately, as is the case currently.

Because the three library branches nearest to the Project Site would collectively and adequately serve the nominal increase in population due to the Project, the SCSLC Project is not anticipated to cause a substantial impact on library services or to the LAPL System; therefore, impacts would be less-than-significant.

However, regardless of the adequacy of the three nearest libraries to provide service to the existing and new Project population, the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library is still considered to be undersized for the community and the population served, per the LAPL Branch Facilities Plan. As such, there is a possibility that the Project may have an unexpected impact on the undersized library, and therefore, the Mitigation Measure below shall be required. It should be noted that many senior housing facilities provide some form of library service to residents as part of the provided community services. The proposed Project may provide a small library for Project residents, and if so, may be exempt from the Mitigation Measure.

(2) Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies

Due to the fact that the proposed Project residents would have less-than-significant impacts on the library services in the area and that the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library would be able to absorb the new Project residents and continue to adequately serve the needs of the community in combination with the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch and North Hollywood Regional Branch Libraries, development of the proposed Project would be consistent with the Plans and policies addressing the service requirements and siting of library services. No new libraries would have to be constructed to accommodate the Project.

d. Cumulative Impacts

The Project, along with the ten Related Projects (seven of which have residential or school components), would be served by the LAPL system for library services. The library branches in the LAPL system that would serve the Related Projects with residential and school components include: The Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood

¹⁰ Karen Pickard-Four, Acting Senior Librarian, Studio City Library, personal communication, 10 July 2012.

Branch Library, and the North Hollywood Regional Branch Library. The Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library would continue to be undersized due to the population increase of the proposed Project and Related Projects; however, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch Library and North Hollywood Regional Branch Library, which would absorb much of the patronage from the Related Projects, would be adequate to handle the new population. Each Related Project would be required to provide Mitigation Measures, if necessary, and as determined by the City of Los Angeles Public Library, to reduce any possible significant impacts on library services at the respective LAPL library branches that would provide service.

As indicated above, the proposed Project would cause a nominal increase in library service demand from the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library. As such, the Project would have a less-than-significant impact on library services and would not contribute to cumulative impacts. In combination with the Related Projects, it is anticipated that overall cumulative impacts would not be considerable.

4. COMPLIANCE MEASURES, PDFS, AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

a. Compliance Measures

Based on the analysis above, the Project's impacts to libraries would be less-than-significant. There are no Compliance Measures required or warranted for the Project.

b. Project Design Features (PDFs)

There are no PDFs included with respect to library service impacts.

c. Mitigation Measures

Because the population increase from the Project would not reduce the level of library service at the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Branch Library, or the North Hollywood Regional Branch Library, and would not require construction of a new library, all impacts would be less-than-significant. However, due to the fact that the Studio City Neighborhood Branch Library, the nearest library to the Project, is considered undersized for the community by the LAPL Branch Facilities Plan, the following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented:

MM PSL-1: The Project Applicant shall pay a mitigation fee of \$200 per capita based upon the Project population of the development to be used for books, computers, and other library materials. However, if a small library, adequate to serve the needs of the Project population, is provided as part of the Project, the \$200 per capita mitigation fee shall be waived.

5. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

The Project is anticipated to have a less-than-significant service impact on the three nearest libraries to the Project Site. However, due to the fact that the nearest library, the Studio City

Neighborhood Branch Library, is considered to be undersized for the community, there is the possibility that the Project will have an unexpected impact on this branch due to the increase in population resulting from the Project. However, implementation of the Mitigation Measures will ensure that any unexpected Project impacts are reduced to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, the Project will have a less-than-significant impact on library services.