
IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
I. PUBLIC SERVICES
5. LIBRARIES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Within the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) System provides library services at the Central Library, eight regional branch libraries, and 63 community branches.¹ Approximately 6.5 million books and other materials comprise the City Library collection. The Central Library houses 2.2 million of these.²

The LAPL Branch Facilities Master Plan was adopted by the Board of Library Commissioners in August 1988, replacing the Public Libraries Plan of 1968 which formerly guided City library policy. The Branch Facilities Master Plan contains the current facilities expansion objectives of the LAPL system and was last revised in 2002 (Res. No. 2002-26 [C-25]). According to the current LAPL Branch Facilities Master Plan, service criteria are based on floor area required to serve varying amounts of residential population. These branch building size standards are presented below in Table IV.I-11.

Table IV.I-11
LAPL Branch Building Size Standards

Population Served	Size of Facility (square feet)
50,001 – 100,000	12,500
35,001 – 50,000	10,500
25,001 – 35,000	9,000
Under 25,000	Special Size

Source: LAPL Branch Facilities Plan, adopted 1988, revised 2002.

In November 1998, the voters in Los Angeles passed a Library Bond Issue for \$178.3 million to improve, renovate, expand, and construct 32 branch libraries throughout the City. In September 2002, the City Council approved the addition of another library project, Harbor Gateway-Harbor City, to the Program's total scope. In June 2004, the City Council approved the addition of three more library projects, Exposition Park-Phase I, North Hollywood Phase III, and Silver Lake Phase I, to the Program's total scope.³ As of January 2006, all original 32 projects have been completed. Of the four newly added projects, one is complete (North Hollywood Phase III), one is under construction ahead of schedule

¹ LAPL, website: <http://www.lapl.org/branches/>, February 7, 2006.

² City of Los Angeles, Draft L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide, May 1998.

³ LAPL, 1998 Library Bond Program, Annual Report, July 2005.

(Harbor Gateway-Harbor City), and two are in design and on schedule (Exposition Park-Phase I and Silver Lake Phase I).⁴

There are four libraries located near the Project site. An evaluation of the City's status in meeting the objectives of the Branch Facilities Master Plan can be made by comparing the population projected in the applicable Community Plan Area (CPA) to the amount of available library space in that area or by making a direct inquiry to a particular library regarding its services. The Project site is located in the Wilmington-Harbor CPA, which has an approximate (service) population of 79,612.⁵ The Wilmington-Harbor City CPA is served by the Wilmington Branch Library, located at 1300 North Avalon Boulevard, approximately 2.8 miles from the Project site, and the Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library, located at 1555 West Sepulveda Boulevard, approximately 3.0 miles from the Project site.⁶ According to the LAPL, the Project site is also served by the San Pedro Regional Branch Library, located at 931 South Gaffey Street, approximately 2.25 miles from the Project site.⁷ In addition, the Project would also be served by the Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library which is currently under construction and is anticipated to commence operations at the end of 2006. This library will be a 14,650-square foot facility located at 24000 South Western Avenue, approximately 2.4 miles from the Project site. According to the LAPL, once the planned Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library opens, the existing Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library will be renamed.⁸ The sizes, number of staff, and service populations for these libraries are included below in Table IV.I-12. The locations of the libraries that would serve the Project are depicted in Figure IV.I-3 in Section IV.I.4 (Parks and Recreation) of this Draft EIR.

Based on the LAPL's building size standards (see Table IV.-11, above), the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA service population of 79,612 should be served by at least 12,500 square feet of library space. The combined square footage of the Wilmington Branch Library and Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library is 17,100 square feet; thus, the existing library facilities in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA exceed the square footage needed to serve the current service population. The library facilities in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA will be further augmented by the planned Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library, which will also serve the Project.

In addition, the San Pedro Regional Branch Library adequately meets the current demand for library services in the San Pedro CPA based on the LAPL's building size standards and based on correspondence from the LAPL.⁹

⁴ LAPL, 1998 Library Bond Program, Quarterly Report, January 2006.

⁵ Combined populations of Wilmington and Harbor City Communities, 2000 Census (source: Los Angeles Almanac, website: <http://www.laalmanac.com>, February 6, 2006).

⁶ City of Los Angeles, Wilmington-Harbor City Community Plan, adopted July 14, 1999, p. III-24.

⁷ LAPL, written correspondence from Rona Berns, Library Facilities Division, February 6, 2006.

⁸ LAPL, email correspondence from Rona Berns, Library Facilities Division, February 2006.

⁹ LAPL, written correspondence from Rona Berns, *op. cit.*

**Table IV.I-12
Libraries that Serve the Project Site**

Library	Location	Distance from Project Site (mi)¹	Size (sf)²	Staff Positions²	CPA(s) Served	CPA Service Population³
Wilmington Branch Library	1300 N. Avalon Blvd.	2.8	10,800	10	Wilmington-Harbor City	79,612
Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library	1555 W. Sepulveda Blvd.	3.0	6,300	9	Wilmington-Harbor City, Harbor Gateway	119,472 ⁴
San Pedro Regional Branch Library	931 S. Gaffey St.	2.25	20,000	19	San Pedro	72,146
Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library (under construction)	24000 S. Western Ave.	2.4	14,650	N/A	Wilmington-Harbor City, Harbor Gateway	119,472 ⁴

¹ Linear approximate measurement from the closest project site boundary to the library.
² LAPL, written and email correspondence from Rona Berns, Library Facilities Division, February 6, 2006 and February 21, 2006.
³ Corresponding CPA population, 2000 Census (source: Los Angeles Almanac, website: <http://www.laalmanac.com>, February 6, 2006).
⁴ Combined Harbor Gateway and Wilmington-Harbor City CPA populations.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a significant impact would occur if the Project would:

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

Project Impacts

Development of the Project would increase demand for library services by increasing the permanent residential population in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA by approximately 4,313 (see Section IV.H [Population and Housing] of this Draft EIR).¹⁰ Based on a current population of approximately 79,612, the resulting population of the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA would be 83,925. As shown above in Table IV.I-11, a 12,500-square foot library would adequately serve a population of 50,001 to 100,000. Upon buildout of the Project in 2012, the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA will be served by the Wilmington Branch Library (10,800 square feet), the existing Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library (6,300

¹⁰ In general, employees of retail sites are not likely to patronize libraries near their workplaces during working hours. Instead, they are more likely to use libraries near their homes during non-work hours.

square feet), and the planned Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library (14,650 square feet), totaling 31,750 square feet of library space. This is over 2.5 times the required library space for the anticipated Wilmington-Harbor City CPA, per LAPL building size standards. Therefore, library facilities in the Project's CPA would adequately serve the anticipated service population upon buildout of the Project according to Branch Facilities Master Plan objectives. Furthermore, library services from the San Pedro Regional Branch Library would also be available to Project residents, further reducing demands for library service in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA.

Library facilities exist or are under construction that will meet the service ratios stated in the Branch Facilities Master Plan taking the additional population added by the Project into account. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the Project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities, or need for new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives for library services, and impacts to library service would be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Because the Project would have a less-than-significant impact on library service, mitigation measures are not required pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Of the 174 related projects listed in Table III-2 in Section III (Environmental Setting) of this Draft EIR, 48 projects are located within the City of Los Angeles, nine are located in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, ten are located in the City of Rolling Hills Estates, 14 are located in the City of Carson, five are located in the City of Long Beach, 47 are located in the City of Torrance, 34 are located in the City of Lomita, and seven are located in the County of Los Angeles. Library service for the County of Los Angeles and the Cities of Carson and Lomita is provided by the Los Angeles County Public Library. Library service for the Cities of Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates is provided by the Palos Verdes Library District. Library service in the City of Long Beach is provided by the Long Beach Public Library. Library service in the City of Torrance is provided by the Torrance Public Library. Therefore, 126 of the related projects (i.e., those that are not located in the City of Los Angeles) would not have the potential to combine with the Project and cumulatively impact library service provided by the LAPL.

The Project is located in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA. Of the 48 related projects located in the City of Los Angeles, 16 projects are located in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA (related projects 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 16, 20, 32, 33, 34, 35, 42, 43, 44, 47, and 48), 23 projects are located in the San Pedro CPA (related projects 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 45), and nine projects are located in the Harbor Gateway CPA (related projects 9, 13, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 46). Related Project 48 is the planned Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library discussed above. Eight of the 16 related projects in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA (related projects 11, 33, 34, 35, 42, 43, 44,

and 47) are residential projects that would affect the cumulative demand for library service in the Project's CPA.¹¹ As discussed in Section IV.H (Population and Housing) of this Draft EIR, related projects 11, 33, 34, 35, 42, 43, 44, and 47 would generate 924 residents. In conjunction with the Project, which, as discussed above, would generate approximately 4,313 residents, the resulting cumulative increase to the LAPL service population in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA would be 5,237. Upon buildout of the Project in 2012, the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA will be served by the Wilmington Branch Library (10,800 square feet), the existing Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library (6,300 square feet), and the planned Harbor Gateway-Harbor City Branch Library (14,650 square feet), totaling 31,750 square feet of library space. This is over 2.5 times the required library space for the anticipated cumulative Wilmington-Harbor City CPA, per LAPL building size standards (see Table IV.-11, above). Therefore, library facilities in the Project's CPA would adequately serve the anticipated service population upon cumulative development of the Project and the related projects. Furthermore, library services from the San Pedro Regional Branch Library would also be available to Project residents and related project residents, further reducing demands for library service in the Wilmington-Harbor City CPA. Therefore, it is not anticipated that development of the Project, in conjunction with the related projects, would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities, or need for new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives for library services, and cumulative impacts to library service would be less than significant.

Notwithstanding the Project's less-than-significant impact on library services, it should also be noted that the Project would contribute to funding library services in the area, as it would generate \$8.3 million (in 2005 dollars) in annual revenue from property taxes that would be deposited into the City's General Fund and could potentially be used to fund the construction of future library facilities (see Appendix IV.F-1 to this Draft EIR).

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Project-specific impacts to libraries would be less than significant.

¹¹ *In general, employees of commercial/retail sites are not likely to patronize libraries near their workplaces during working hours. Instead, they are more likely to use libraries near their homes during non-work hours. Likewise, related projects 16 and 20 are schools, which are not anticipated to substantially contribute to the cumulative demand for library service in the Project Area since campus libraries would likely be provided for the use of the students.*