

IV. Environmental Impact Analysis

J.3. Public Services – Libraries

1. Introduction

This section of the Draft EIR evaluates whether new or physically altered library facilities would be required to provide library services to the Project, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts. The analysis considers available library capacity and whether it is sufficient to accommodate the population growth generated by the Project. The analysis is based, in part, on library standards and capacity data provided by City of Los Angeles (City) Public Library (LAPL) in correspondence dated August 16, 2019. This correspondence is included in **Appendix I** of this Draft EIR.

2. Environmental Setting

a) Regulatory Framework

There are several plans, policies, and programs regarding Libraries at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. Described below, these include:

- City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework
- Los Angeles Public Library Branch Facilities Plan 2007
- Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015–2020
- Central City Community Plan

(1) Local

(a) *Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element*

The City's General Plan Framework (Framework Element), adopted in December 1996 and readopted in August 2001, provides general guidance regarding land use issues for the entire City and defines Citywide policies regarding land use, including infrastructure and public services. The City's objectives regarding the provision of adequate library services and facilities to meet the needs of the City's residents are set forth in Objectives 9.20 and 9.21. Objective 9.21 proposes to ensure library services for current and future residents and businesses. Under the Framework Implementation Programs, Plans and Policies Chapter, Framework Policy 13, the Department of Libraries is charged with the responsibility of updating the Library Master Plan to provide sufficient capacity to correct existing deficiencies as well as meet the needs of future population. The

implementation plans and policies set forth in the Framework Element were addressed through the 2007 LAPL Branch Facilities Plan (Facilities Plan) (discussed further below).¹

(b) *Los Angeles Public Library Branch Facilities Plan 2007*

The Los Angeles Public Library Branch Facilities Plan was first adopted in 1988 and later revised in 2007 as Appendix VI of the Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2007-2010. The 1988 Branch Facilities Plan became the blueprint for the most significant change in the Los Angeles Public Library infrastructure in its history. Based on the Facilities Plan and the construction funds obtained in the subsequent bond issues, 90% of the library infrastructure was replaced in a fifteen-year period. The Facilities Plan guides the construction of branch libraries and specifies standards for the size and features of branch facilities based on the population served in each community.² Facility needs and population growth projections to the year 2030 are forecasted within the Strategic Plan. The Facilities Plan within the Strategic Plan also outlines guidelines for the expansion of City library facilities based on the location and population served in each community. Under the Facilities Plan, the service population for a branch library is determined by the size of the facility as set forth in **Table IV.J.3-1**.

**Table IV.J.3-1
LAPL Branch Facilities Site Selection Criteria**

Library Type	Population Served	Size of Facility (square feet)
Local Branch	< 45,000	12,500
Local Branch	> 45,000	14,500
Regional Branch	Unspecified	< 20,000
Central Library	System-Wide	Unspecified
Level at which new Branch Library is recommended	90,000	12,500-14,500

Source: Los Angeles Public Library, Building on Success: Strategic Plan, 2007–2010, . Adopted December 11, 1996. As discussed below, the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan is now available. No changes to LAPL building size standards are included in the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

The 2007 Branch Facilities Plan is the basic document driving future development of LAPL facilities. As such, it provides guidance on the preparation of cost estimates for property acquisition, design and construction of proposed library projects, and analyses of options for obtaining funding to build new libraries.

(c) *Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015-2020*

The Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015–2020³ (Strategic Plan) sets forth LAPL’s goals and objectives focused on providing library services within existing library facilities. The goals and objectives discussed in the Strategic Plan focus on community development and

¹ City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework, <https://planning.lacity.org/cwd/framwk/chapters/09/09.htm#libraries>, Objectives 9.20 and 9.21. Accessed September 2019.

² Los Angeles Public Library, Building on Success: Strategic Plan, 2007–2010, https://www.lapl.org/sites/default/files/media/pdf/about/Strategic_Plan.pdf. Accessed September 2020.

³ Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015–2020, June 2015.

program expansion in an effort to increase the number of people who use the library services, increase the number of library card holders, and increase residents' overall engagement with the library. Through Measure L, approved in March 2011, LAPL would also be able to expand its services, collections and technology. The LAPL Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is a five-year plan to detail expanded programs and services, referred to as Key Activities within the Plan, offered by LAPL.⁴

(d) *Central City Community Plan*

The Land Use Element of the City's General Plan includes 35 community plans. Community plans are intended to provide an official guide for future development and propose approximate locations and dimensions for land use. The community plans establish standards and criteria for the development of housing, commercial uses, and industrial uses, as well as circulation and service systems. The community plans implement the City's General Plan Framework at the local level and consist of both text and an accompanying generalized land use map. The community plans' texts express goals, objectives, policies, and programs to address growth in the community, including those that relate to libraries required to support such growth. The community plans' maps depict the desired arrangement of land uses as well as street classifications and the locations and characteristics of public service facilities.

Chapter III of the City's Central City Community Plan (adopted January 8, 2003), Chapter III, Land Use Policies and Programs, Government and Public Facilities, Libraries contains the following library objectives, policies, and programs applicable to the Project:⁵

Objective 8-1: To assist the City Library Department in providing adequate library service which responds to the needs of the community.

Policy 8-1.1 Encourage flexibility in siting libraries in mixed use projects, pedestrian oriented areas, transit oriented districts, and similarly accessible facilities.

Program: The (Community) Plan supports sites for new libraries as dictated by population demands and recommends that this policy be considered when the Library Department and decision-makers review potential sites for new libraries.

b) Existing Conditions

(1) Regional Facilities

The LAPL provides library services throughout the City, which includes the Central Library, eight regional branch libraries, and 64 community branches, as well as through online resources.⁶ During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the LAPL provided library services to approximately 2.1 cardholders during 11.2 million visits across the City's 470-square miles in addition to 15.4 million

⁴ Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015–2020, June 2015.

⁵ City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Central City Community Plan, 2003.

⁶ Los Angeles Public Library, Location & Hours Website, accessed: July 15, 2019.

website visits.⁷ Administratively, the LAPL is divided into six geographic regions, which includes: Central Southern, Northeast, East Valley, West Valley, Western, and Hollywood.⁸ The Project Site is located in the LAPL's Central Southern Area. The LAPL has over 7.1 million books, magazines, DVD, CD materials with 100 online databases, 374,844 e-books, 117,411 audiobooks, and 9,592 videos, and offers resources, services, and programs for high school graduation, health examinations/vaccinations, financial literacy education, homeless transition, test preparation/tutoring, STEAM, job and career development, and veteran assistance.⁹

The LAPL's network of libraries includes expanded and rebuilt facilities, as well as facilities at new locations. All branch libraries provide free access to computer workstations, thereby enabling patrons to access the internet and the LAPL's electronic resources, including an online catalog, subscription databases, word processing, language learning, and a large collection of historic documents and photographs. In addition, specially designed websites are provided for children, teens, and Spanish speakers.

The LAPL is a member of the Southern California Library Cooperative, an association of 39 independent city, county, and special district public libraries located in Los Angeles and Ventura counties that have agreed to cooperate in providing library service to the residents of all participating jurisdictions. The Southern California Library Cooperative provides member libraries with a resource-sharing network and a means to enhance the level and diversity of resources available to library users, while reducing duplication of effort.¹⁰

(2) Local Facilities

According to information provided by the LAPL, the Project Site is located within service area of six library facilities within a two-mile radius, the distance that is generally considered to encompass the service area of a library.¹¹ **Figure IV.J.3-1, Library Location Map**, presents the location of these six libraries serving the Project Site.

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⁷ Los Angeles Public Library, Press Room, *Library Facts (FY 2017-2018)*, Updated October 2, 2018.

⁸ Los Angeles Public Library, *Library Directory and Branch Map*.

⁹ Los Angeles Public Library, *Library Directory and Branch Map*.

¹⁰ Southern California Library Cooperative, *Member Libraries Website*, accessed: July 15, 2019.

¹¹ L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide, Section K.5, p. K.5-2.



1: Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street

2: Pico Union Branch Library, 1030 S. Alvarado Street

3: Little Tokyo Branch Library, 203 S. Los Angeles Street

4: Echo Park Branch Library, 1410 W. Temple Street

5: Filipe de Neve Branch Library, 2820 W. 6th Street

6: Chinatown Branch Library, 639 North Hill Street

 Project Site

Source: GoogleMaps, July 2019.



No Scale

Figure IV.J.3-1
Library Location Map

The closest library to the Project Site is the Richard J. Riordan Central Library (Central Library). The Central Library serves as the headquarters for the LAPL at 630 West 5th Street, approximately 0.9 miles northeast of the Project Site. The Central Library is approximately 538,000 square feet in size with 2.6 million volumes in collection, and an annual circulation of 1.2 million, and a staff of 390 full-time employees. Additionally, library staff answer over two million reference questions and present 2,100 programs that attract nearly 46,000 people each year. Furthermore, nearly 600,000 hours of computer access are provided to Central Library users annually. The Central Library is not only a resource for the local population, it serves the entire City and County of Los Angeles as well. The estimated current service population (based on the 2010 Census data) is approximately 3,792,662 persons within the City and 9,818,605 persons within the County of Los Angeles. The Central Library exceeds the recommended building size standard of up to 20,000 square feet for a Regional Branch as identified in **Table IV.J-3.1**. However, the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan also recommends the addition of a second branch for communities with populations above 90,000 persons.¹² As described below, there are three other branch libraries approximately two-miles or less from the Project Site.

The closest local library branch is the Pico Union Branch Library, located at 1030 South Alvarado Street, approximately 1.2 miles northwest of the Project Site. The Pico Union Branch Library is approximately 12,500 square feet and carries 46,562 volumes in collection with a staff of 10.5 full-time employees. Based on the 2010 Census data, the service population of the Pico Union Branch Library is 34,339 persons.¹³ Therefore, the Pico Union Branch Library currently meets the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan's recommended building size standards (i.e., 12,500 square feet for a service population below 45,000 persons).

The Little Tokyo Branch is located at 203 South Los Angeles Street, approximately 1.4 miles northeast of the Project Site. The Little Tokyo Branch Library is approximately 12,500 square feet, with 66,634 volumes in collection, annual circulation of 143,317, and a staff of 10.0 full-time employees. Based on the 2010 Census data, the service population of the Little Tokyo Branch Library is approximately 45,796 persons.¹⁴ As a result, the Little Tokyo Branch Library currently does not meet the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan's recommended building size standards (14,500 square feet for a service population over 45,000 persons).

The Echo Park Branch Library is located at 1410 West Temple Street and is approximately 1.9 miles northeast of the Project Site. The Echo Park Branch Library is approximately 17,543 square feet, with 43,908 volumes, annual circulation of 111,188, and a staff of 10.5 full-time employees. Based on the 2010 Census data, the service population of the Echo Park Branch Library is 52,842.¹⁵ Therefore, the Echo Park Branch Library currently meets the 2007 Branch Facilities

¹² *Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. Appendix I of this Draft EIR.*

¹³ *Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. Appendix I of this Draft EIR.*

¹⁴ *Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. Appendix I of this Draft EIR.*

¹⁵ *Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. Appendix I of this Draft EIR.*

Plan’s recommended building size standards (i.e., 12,500 square feet for a service population below 45,000 persons).

The Felipe de Neve Branch Library at 2820 West 6th Street and is approximately 2.0 miles northwest of the Project Site. The Felipe de Neve Branch Library is approximately 9,273 square feet and carries 34,538 volumes in collection with a staff of 9 full-time employees. Based on the 2010 Census data, the service population of the Felipe de Neve Branch Library is approximately 85,581 persons.¹⁶ As a result, the Felipe de Neve Branch Library currently does not meet the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan’s recommended building size standards (i.e., 14,500 square feet for a service population over 45,000 persons).

The Chinatown Branch Library is located at 639 North Hill Street and is approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the Project Site. The Chinatown Branch Library is approximately 14,500 square feet in size, with 74,709 volumes in collection, annual circulation of 238,872, and a staff of 13.5 full-time employees. Based on the 2010 Census data, the service population of the Chinatown Branch Library is approximately 11,225 persons.¹⁷ The Chinatown Branch Library currently meets the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan’s recommended building size standards (i.e., 12,500 square feet for a service population below 45,000 persons). However, it should be noted that the circulation of 238,872 is due to nearby school locations which greatly increase its use well beyond the 11,225 population of the community that it serves.¹⁸

All six of the libraries offer special facilities and services that include free public wireless internet, wireless and mobile printing, and computer reservations. The hours of operation for the Central Library are: 10 am – 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays and 1 pm – 5 pm on Sundays. The hours of operation for all five local branch libraries are: 10 am - 8 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays; 12 pm - 8 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 9:30 am – 5:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. The branches are closed on Sundays. The LAPL’s web-based resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At this time, there are no planned improvements to add capacity through expansion or develop new libraries in the Project area.¹⁹

3. Project Impacts

a) Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with the State *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G (Appendix G), the Project would have a significant impact related to library service if it would:

¹⁶ Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. **Appendix I** of this Draft EIR.

¹⁷ Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. **Appendix I** of this Draft EIR.

¹⁸ Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. **Appendix I** of this Draft EIR.

¹⁹ Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. **Appendix I** of this Draft EIR.

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

For this analysis, the Appendix G Thresholds are relied upon. The analysis utilizes factors and considerations identified in the Thresholds Guide as appropriate, to assist in answering the Appendix G Threshold questions:

- *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).*

b) Methodology

The environmental impacts of a project with respect to libraries are determined based on the population of the serving libraries service area and ability for existing libraries to serve the project vicinity based on the number of patrons and residents that a project would generate upon project buildout. Based on these projections, it is determined whether a project would exceed the capacity of any existing or proposed libraries such that a new or expanded library or libraries would be needed.

c) Project Design Features

No project design features are proposed with regards to libraries.

d) Analysis of Project Impacts

Threshold a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for libraries?*

(1) Impact Analysis

(a) Construction

Construction of the Project would result in a temporary increase of construction workers on the Project Site. Due to the employment patterns of construction workers in Southern California and the operation of the market for construction labor, construction workers are not likely to relocate their households as a consequence of Project construction. Therefore, Project-related construction workers would not result in a notable increase in the resident population within the service area of the Central Library, the Pico Union, Little Tokyo, Echo Park, Filipe de Neve, or Chinatown Branch Libraries, or an overall corresponding demand for library services in the vicinity of the Project Site.

In addition, it is unlikely that construction workers would visit Project area libraries on their way to/from work or during their lunch hours. Construction workers would be unlikely to utilize library facilities during the workday because lunch break times are typically not long enough (30 to 60 minutes) for construction workers to take advantage of library facilities, eat lunch, and return to work within the allotted time. It is also unlikely that construction workers would utilize library facilities on their way to work as the start of their work day generally occurs before the libraries open for service. Further, it is unlikely that construction workers would utilize library facilities at the end of the work day, and would instead likely use library facilities local to their place of residence. Therefore, any increase in usage of the libraries by construction workers is anticipated to be negligible. As such, construction of the Project would not exceed the capacity of local libraries to adequately serve the existing residential population based on target service populations or as defined by the LAPL, which would result in the need for new or altered facilities, or substantially increase the demand for library services for which current demand exceeds the ability of the facility to adequately serve the population. **Therefore, Project construction would not result in the need for new or physically altered libraries, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts and construction-related impacts on library facilities would be less than significant.**

(b) Operation

As described above, based on information provided by the LAPL, the Project Site is located within the service areas of the Central Library and the Pico Union, Little Tokyo, Echo Park, Filipe de Neve, and Chinatown Branch Libraries.²⁰ These six libraries are located within an approximately two-mile radius of the Project Site, the distance that is generally considered to comprise the service area of a library.²¹ Therefore, these libraries could also provide library service to the Project Site.

The Project does not propose the construction of a new library facility. However, the Project would add to the demand for library services by providing added population within the Downtown area.

²⁰ Correspondence with Aerial Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. **Appendix I** of this Draft EIR.

²¹ L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide, Section K.5, pg. K.5-2.

As detailed in **Section IV.I, Population and Housing**, of this Draft EIR, development of up to 136 units at the Project Site would result in a population increase of approximately 328 residents. A small number of Project employees may also visit local libraries; however, their contribution to demand would be negligible and would not affect library service levels.

LAPL has identified the six LAPL libraries shown in Figure IV.J.3-1 and detailed above as serving the Project Site. The Central Library, Pico Union Branch Library, and Little Tokyo Branch Library are the closest of these libraries, located approximately 0.9, 1.2, and 1.4 miles from the Project Site, respectively, and would, accordingly, be the primary facilities serving the Project. The other three LAPL branch libraries (i.e., Echo Park, Felipe de Neve, and Chinatown Branch Libraries) might also serve the Project, although it is expected that such service would be at a lesser degree given their greater distances from the Project Site; approximately 1.9, 2.0, and 2.0 miles, respectively.

The Central Library serves the entire LAPL service area and provides resources that go beyond those provided through the regional and local branch libraries. As detailed above, the Central Library's current service population is approximately 3,792,662 persons. Because the Central Library is not only a resource for the local population, but it is also a destination for regional, domestic, and international patrons and serves the entire City and County, the LAPL Branch Facilities Plan does not identify population served or facility size criteria for this facility. While the LAPL Branch Facilities Plan does not identify a design capacity criterion (e.g., a maximum service population) for the Central Library, the Project's estimated 328 residents would represent only approximately 0.01 percent of the existing service population of the Central Library.

Currently, the 12,500-square-foot Pico Union Branch Library, which serves a population of 41,457 people, is operating under capacity according to the recommended building size standard of 12,500 square feet for a service population of less than 45,000 persons. Assuming that all of the Project's 328 residents were to choose to use the Pico Union Branch Library rather than being distributed among the six libraries that LAPL has indicated would serve the Project Site, the service population of the Pico Union Branch Library would only increase to 41,785 people. As this population would be below the design capacity criterion for this facility, the Project would not result in a substantial increase in demand for service from the Pico Union Branch Library and would not trigger the need for a new library facility.

The 12,500-square-foot Little Tokyo Branch Library, which currently serves a population of 45,796 people, is currently operating at just slightly above capacity according to the recommended building size standards of 14,500 square feet for a service population of more than 45,000 persons. Assuming that all of the Project's estimated 328 residents were to choose to use the Little Tokyo Branch Library rather than being distributed among the six libraries that LAPL has indicated would serve the Project Site, the service population of the Little Tokyo Branch Library would increase to 46,124 people. While this scenario would mean that this library would continue to be slightly above the design capacity criterion for its facility, it would not trigger the LAPL Branch Facilities Plan threshold (e.g., a service population of 90,000) for requiring a new branch library.

Further, LAPL has stated that there are no planned improvements to add capacity to this library through expansion and no plans to develop a new library in this area.²²

Given the greater distances of the other branch libraries from the Project Site than the Central Library and the Little Tokyo and Pico Union Branch Libraries (the three libraries that would primarily serve the Project), it is unrealistic to consider a scenario where all of the Project's 328 residents would focus their demand on any one of these other facilities. Furthermore, due to the distance and lack of convenient access to the other branch libraries, contributions of Project residents to library demand at any one of these libraries would be negligible. Employees of the Project would likely use library facilities closer to their homes; therefore, it is unlikely that employees would increase demand on library facilities.

Additional factors to consider are whether a project includes features that would reduce the demand for library services. The Project's residential units would be equipped to receive individual internet service, which provides information and research capabilities that studies have shown to reduce demand at physical library locations.^{23, 24} Furthermore, the Project would generate revenues to the City's General Fund (in the form of property taxes, sales tax, business tax, etc.) that could be applied toward the provision of new library facilities and related staffing for any one of the libraries serving the Project area, as deemed appropriate.²⁵ The Project's revenue to the General Fund would help offset the Project-related increase in demand for library services. As such, the Project would not conflict with or impede implementation of the applicable policies and goals related to libraries in the Framework Element or the Central City Community Plan.

Based on the above factors, Project operation would not result in the need for new or physically altered libraries, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts and impacts would be less than significant.

(2) Mitigation Measures

Impacts regarding library services would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

²² Correspondence with Aural Granger, Management Assistant, Los Angeles Public Library, August 16, 2019. x I of this Draft EIR.

²³ Denise A. Troll, *How and Why Libraries are Changing: What We Know and What We Need to Know*, Carnegie Mellon University, 2002.

²⁴ Carol Tenopir, "Use and Users of Electronic Library Resources: An Overview and Analysis of Recent Research Studies," 2003.

²⁵ City of Los Angeles, *Budget for the Fiscal Year 2017–18*, pp. 313, 497. As detailed therein, the General Fund may be "expended for functions of general government, protection of persons and property, public works, health and sanitation, transportation, cultural and recreational services, community development, capital outlay, and debt service" (p. 14).

(3) Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts regarding library services were determined to be less than significant without mitigation. Therefore, no mitigation measures were required or included, and the impact level remains less than significant.

e) Cumulative Impacts

Section III, Environmental Setting, of this Draft EIR lists 172 Related Projects that the City has identified as potential development within the Project Site vicinity. For the purposes of this cumulative impacts analysis, the geographic scope of this cumulative analysis encompasses only the 170 Related Projects²⁶ that are located within the 2-mile service radii around the six libraries that would serve the Project (i.e., the Central Library and the Pico Union, Little Tokyo, Echo Park, Filipe de Neve, or Chinatown Branch Libraries). Although the Related Projects may be served by other libraries, beyond the six evaluated in this Draft EIR, such libraries would be beyond the service area of the Project and therefore, the Project would not have a cumulatively considerable impact on such libraries.

(1) Impact Analysis

As discussed above, the residential population of a library's service area is the primary metric used by the LAPL for assessing the adequacy of library services and planning for future growth. The LAPL has not established any facilities criteria based on employment levels in a library's service area. Based on distance to the six identified libraries, it is anticipated that employees generated by many of the non-residential Related Projects would be more likely to use library facilities near employees' homes during non-work hours, as opposed to patronizing the six identified libraries on their way to or from work or during their lunch hours. Additionally, students generated by the Related Projects that contain educational components, such as Related Project Nos. 32 and 51, would be more likely to utilize library services on campus. As such, the non-residential Related Projects would not be expected to substantially contribute to the Project's cumulative demand for library services. Therefore, of the 172 Related Projects that the City has identified, only 133 include residential uses that would have the potential to cumulatively impact the Central Library and the Pico Union, Little Tokyo, Echo Park, Filipe de Neve, or Chinatown Branch Libraries when considered in conjunction with the Project.²⁷ These Related Projects would generate an estimated 103,479 residents; 103,807 cumulative residents when combined with the Project's population estimate.

Based on the library sizing standards recommended in the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan, the projected cumulative future service population could warrant the addition of a new branch library and/or improvements or expansions to add capacity to some of the local libraries depending on

²⁶ *Related Project 133 (1302 W. Washington Boulevard) and Related Project 135 (2716 S. Severance Street) are located outside of the 2-mile service radius for the six libraries that would serve the Project.*

²⁷ *Related Project Nos. 1, 2, 17, 21, 24, 31, 32, 33, 35, 38, 39, 51, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 80, 81, 82, 83, 95, 98, 102, 108, 110, 120, 121, 128, 129, 139, 151, 164, 165, and 168 do not include residential components.*

actual population growth and future library usage.²⁸ However, as shown in **Figure III-5 in Section III, Environmental Setting**, of this Draft EIR, the Related Projects are spread throughout the Downtown area and beyond. The population generated by the Related Projects would likely use facilities with easiest accessibility (typically nearest to home). Accordingly, the total demand for the cumulative residential development would be spread across the six service libraries, limiting the cumulative demand at any one library, notably at the libraries that are more distant from the Project Site. In addition, implementation of the LAPL Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is aimed at applying technological solutions to the growing demand for library services, and this may avoid or at least delay future decisions to construct new library facilities. With the shift in technology from books to computers, the demand for library facilities is changing. As discussed above, members of LAPL have access to thousands of podcasts, audiobooks, media publications, and instructional content online and via smartphone applications made available to library patrons. The availability of such resources reduces the demand for physical library space. Recognizing these facts, the LAPL Strategic Plan 2015-2020 places emphasis on the employment of new technology for meeting future needs and includes objectives for increasing its digital collections, e-mail circulation and use of mobile apps.²⁹ This has the result of allowing the LAPL to meet increased population demand aside from the provision of new physical facilities.

Furthermore, similar to the Project, each Related Project and other future development in the Community Plan area would generate revenues to the City's General Fund (in the form of property taxes, sales tax, business tax, etc.) that could be applied toward the provision of new library facilities and related staffing for any one of the libraries serving the Project area, as deemed appropriate.³⁰ These revenues to the General Fund would help offset the increase in demand for library services as a result of the Project and the Related Projects.

LAPL will continue to monitor population growth and land development in the City and identify additional resource needs, including staffing, materials equipment, and possibly facility expansions or new facility construction needs that may become necessary to achieve the required service standards.

Through the City's regular budgeting efforts, LAPL's resource needs will be identified and allocated according to the priorities at the time. At this time, LAPL has not identified any new library construction in the area impacted by this Project either because of this Project or other projects in the service area. If a new library were determined to be warranted by LAPL, the Downtown area is highly developed, and therefore presumably, any potential future infill site for

²⁸ *The Pew Research Center has found that library usage is declining: "The findings indicate a downward drift in the number of those who use physical library facilities in any given year. In our first survey on this in November 2012, 53% of adults had visited a library or bookmobile in the past 12 months. Over the same period, the use of library websites has leveled off. In 2013, 30% of adults had used a library website over the past 12 months, while the new finding is that 31% have done so in the past year. Additionally, we found that 9% of adults had used a library-related app in the past 12 months—a first time reading for this question."* Source: Pew Research Center, *Internet and Technology, Libraries and Learning Report*, April 78, 2016.

²⁹ *Los Angeles Public Library, Building on Success: Strategic Plan, 2007–2010: notably Objectives 2-1, 5-2, 5-4, 6-2 and 6-3.*

³⁰ *City of Los Angeles, Budget for the Fiscal Year 2017–18.*

a library would foreseeably be an infill lot less than an acre in size. The development of such a library is unlikely to result in significant impacts. However, if LAPL determines that new facilities are necessary at some point in the future, such facilities (1) would occur where allowed under the designated land use, (2) would be expected to be located on parcels that are infill opportunities on lots that are typically between approximately 0.5 to 2 acres in size, and (3) would likely qualify for a Categorical Exemption under State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 or 15332, Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration and would not be expected to result in significant impacts. Accordingly, the potential need for additional library services is not an environmental impact that the Project would be required to mitigate.

Since the increase in residential population has been largely accounted for in regional planning documents and LAPL will continue to monitor such growth to plan for additional library facilities as needed, and since the Project and all Related Projects would generate revenue that could be applied to the provision of new or expanded library facilities, the Project would not contribute to a cumulatively significant impact on library services. **Based on the above analysis, the Project's contribution to cumulative impacts related to library services would not be cumulatively considerable, and cumulative impacts on library services would be less than significant.**

(2) Mitigation Measures

Cumulative impacts regarding libraries would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

(3) Level of Significance After Mitigation

Cumulative impacts regarding libraries were determined to be less than significant without mitigation. Therefore, no mitigation measures were required or included, and the impact level remains less than significant.