

## **IV. Environmental Impact Analysis**

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### **H.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 November 22, 2019. This correspondence is included in Appendix R to 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
- Community Plan

##### **(1) Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element**

The City's General Plan Framework, 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 General Plan Framework were addressed through the 2007 LAPL Branch Facilities Plan (Facilities Plan), discussed further below.<sup>1</sup>

## (2) Los Angeles Public Library Branch Facilities Plan

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 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 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. 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.H.3-1 on page IV.H.3-3.

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.

## (3) Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015–2020

The Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015–2020<sup>3</sup> (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 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

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<sup>1</sup> *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 February 1, 2021.*

<sup>2</sup> *Los Angeles Public Library, Building on Success: Strategic Plan, 2007–2010. As discussed below, the 2015–2020 Strategic Plan is now available.*

<sup>3</sup> *Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015–2020, June 2015.*

**Table IV.H.3-1  
LAPL Branch Building Size Standards**

<b>Library Type</b>	<b>Population Served</b>	<b>Size of Facility</b>
Local Branch	< 45,000	12,500 sf
Local Branch	> 45,000	14,500 sf
Regional Branch	Unspecified	≤ 20,200 sf
Central Library	System-Wide	Unspecified
Level at which a new Branch Library is recommended	90,000	12,500–14,500 sf
<hr/> <i>sf = square feet</i> <i>Source: Los Angeles Public Library, Building on Success: Strategic Plan, 2007–2010. 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.</i>		

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.<sup>4</sup>

#### (4) Wilshire 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.

The Project Site is located within the Wilshire Community Plan area. The Wilshire Community Plan, adopted in 2001, includes the following objective and policies that are relevant to libraries:

<sup>4</sup> Los Angeles Public Library, *Strategic Plan 2015–2020*, June 2015, p. 6.

- Objective 7-1: Encourage the City’s Library Department to continue to provide adequate library service to the Wilshire Community Plan Area.
  - Policy 7-1.1: Support construction of new libraries and rehabilitation and expansion of existing libraries.
  - Policy 7-1.2: Encourage flexibility in siting libraries in mixed-use projects, shopping malls, pedestrian-oriented areas, office buildings and similarly accessible facilities.

## **b. Existing Conditions**

### **(1) Los Angeles Public Library Facilities**

The LAPL provides library services to the City through the Richard J. Riordan Central Library (Central Library), eight regional branch libraries, and 72 community branch libraries, as well as through Internet-based resources.<sup>5</sup> Administratively, the LAPL is divided into six geographic regions, which include the Central Southern, Northeast, East Valley, West Valley, Hollywood, and Western regions.<sup>6</sup> The Project Site is located in the LAPL’s Hollywood region. The LAPL offers more than 6.5 million items, including books, magazines, photos, movies, e-books, podcasts, audiobooks, and streaming video; over 1,000 online courses; and more than 18,000 public programs.<sup>7</sup> During the 2017–2018 fiscal year, the LAPL received 11.2 million visits to its libraries, 15.4 million web visits, and loaned 16.1 million items.<sup>8</sup>

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.

Based on information provided by the LAPL, the Project Site is located within the service areas of several library facilities (a 2-mile radius is the distance that is generally considered to encompass a library service area).<sup>9</sup> These libraries include the

<sup>5</sup> *Los Angeles Public Library, Library Directory.*

<sup>6</sup> *Los Angeles Public Library, Library Directory.*

<sup>7</sup> *Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan 2015–2020, June 2015.*

<sup>8</sup> *Los Angeles Public Library, By The Numbers (FY 2017–2018).*

<sup>9</sup> *As set forth in the L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide, Section K.5, p. K.5-2, the service area of a library is a 2-mile radius from the library.*

Fairfax Branch Library and Robertson Branch Library, as shown on Figure IV.H.3-1 on page IV.H.3-6.

The Fairfax Branch Library is located at 161 S. Gardner Street and is approximately 1.37 miles east of the Project Site. The Fairfax Branch Library is approximately 12,500 square feet and carries 50,218 volumes in collection with a staff of 11 full-time employees. The hours of operation of the Fairfax Branch Library are Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., Friday and Saturday from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., and closed on Sunday. According to the LAPL, based on the Los Angeles Times' Mapping LA database and branch library community boundaries, the service population of Fairfax Branch Library is approximately 36,336 persons.<sup>10</sup> As a result, the Fairfax Branch Library currently does meet the recommendations set forth in the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan (i.e., 12,500 square feet for a service population below 45,000 persons). However, at this time, there are no planned improvements or expansions to add capacity to the library or plans for the development of a new library to serve the community.<sup>11</sup>

The Robertson Branch Library is located at 1719 S. Robertson Boulevard and is approximately 1.72 miles southwest of the Project Site. The Robertson Branch Library is approximately 9,035 square feet in size and carries 45,234 volumes in collection with a staff of 10.5 full-time employees. The hours of operation for the Robertson Branch Library are Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., closed on Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. According to LAPL, based on the Los Angeles Times' Mapping LA database and branch library community boundaries, the service population of the Robertson Branch Library is approximately 79,345 persons.<sup>12</sup> As such, the Robertson Branch Library currently does not meet the building size recommendations set forth in the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan (i.e., 14,500 square feet for a service population above 45,000 persons). However, at this time, there are no planned improvements or expansions to add capacity to the library or plans for the development of a new library to serve the community.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> *Written communication from the Los Angeles Public Library, November 22, 2019. See Appendix R to this Draft EIR.*

<sup>11</sup> *Written communication from the Los Angeles Public Library, November 22, 2019. See Appendix R to this Draft EIR.*

<sup>12</sup> *Written communication from the Los Angeles Public Library, November 22, 2019. See Appendix R to this Draft EIR.*

<sup>13</sup> *Written communication from the Los Angeles Public Library, November 22, 2019. See Appendix R to this Draft EIR.*



**Figure IV.H.3-1**  
LAPL Libraries Serving the Project Vicinity

## (2) Beverly Hills Public Library

Although the Project would officially be served by the LAPL, the Project Site is also located within 2 miles of the Beverly Hills Public Library, which is operated by the City of Beverly Hills. Discussion of the Beverly Hills Public Library is provided for informational purposes only. Furthermore, it is noted that use of the Beverly Hills Public Library is not limited to Beverly Hills residents; any California resident can register for a City library card with proper identification. The Beverly Hills Public Library is located approximately 1.25 miles west of the Project Site at 444 N. Rexford Drive in the City of Beverly Hills. The Beverly Hills Public Library includes a collection of books, eBooks, and streaming services.<sup>14</sup> Hours of operation are 9:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday, 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Friday and Saturday, and 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Sunday.

## (3) Los Angeles County Public Library System

Although the Project would officially be served by the LAPL, the Project Site is also located within 2 miles of the West Hollywood Library, which is operated by the Los Angeles County Library System. Discussion of the County Library System is provided for informational purposes only. Furthermore, it is noted that use of the West Hollywood Library is not limited to West Hollywood residents; any California resident can register for a County library card with proper identification. The West Hollywood Library is located approximately 0.7 mile north of the Project Site at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard in the City of West Hollywood. The West Hollywood Library is 33,150 square feet in size and includes a collection of books in English, Spanish, and Russian, downloadable eBooks, and streaming movies, audiobooks, and music.<sup>15</sup> The West Hollywood Library is open 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday, 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Friday and Saturday, and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Sunday.

# 3. Project Impacts

## a. Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, the Project would have a significant impact related to libraries if it would:

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<sup>14</sup> *City of Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills Public Library, [www.beverlyhills.org/departments/communityservices/beverlyhillspubliclibrary/?NFR=1](http://www.beverlyhills.org/departments/communityservices/beverlyhillspubliclibrary/?NFR=1), accessed December 23, 2019.*

<sup>15</sup> *LA County Library, West Hollywood Library, <https://lacountylibrary.org/west-hollywood-library/>, accessed December 23, 2019.*

***Threshold (a): Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities (i.e., libraries), 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 libraries.***

In assessing impacts related to library services in this section, the City used the Appendix G threshold of significance. The following factors and considerations identified below from the City's *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* were used where applicable and relevant to assist in analyzing the Appendix G threshold:

- 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 methodology used to evaluate potential library impacts includes the following: (1) identifying libraries within 2 miles of the Project Site that would serve the Project; (2) projecting the future service population for the library that would serve the Project; (3) comparing the future service population to the service population of the LAPL building size standards as set forth in the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan Criteria for New Libraries; and (4) determining whether the Project's contribution to the future service population would cause the library to operate beyond its service capacity.

## **c. Project Design Features**

No specific project design features are proposed with regard 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 government facilities (i.e., libraries), 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 libraries?***

(1) Impact Analysis

*(a) Construction*

Construction of the Project would result in a temporary increase of construction workers on the Project Site. However, 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 material increase in the residential population within the service areas for the Fairfax Branch Library and Robertson Branch Library. In addition, Project-related construction workers would not result in a material increase in an overall corresponding demand for library services in the vicinity of the Project Site because it is unlikely that construction workers would visit libraries in the vicinity of the Project Site on their way to/from work or during their lunch hours. Instead, construction workers would likely use library facilities near their places of residence 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. Similarly, it is unlikely that construction workers would utilize library facilities at the end of the workday and would likely use library facilities near their places of residence. Therefore, any increase in usage of the libraries by construction workers is anticipated to be negligible.

Based on the above, Project construction would not 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 governmental facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts. As such, the Project's impact on library facilities during construction would be less than significant.**

*(b) Operation*

As described above, based on the information provided by the LAPL, the Project Site is located within the service areas for the Fairfax Branch Library and Robertson Branch Library. These two libraries are located within a 2-mile radius of the Project Site, the distance that is generally considered to comprise the service area of a library.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide, Section K.5, p. K.5-2.

As described in Section II, Project Description, to this Draft EIR, there are currently one- and two-story buildings and a surface parking lot on the Project Site. As such, under existing conditions, the Project Site does not include a residential population. The Project includes 153 residential apartment units and altered/new church facilities. According to American Community Survey data, the estimated household size for the City of Los Angeles is 2.41 persons per multi-family unit.<sup>17</sup> As such, the Project's residential uses would generate up to 369 residents and would increase the Project Site's demand for library services, as compared to existing conditions. The Project does not increase the number of church employees, so that the Project has no impact with regard to the use of library facilities by church employees.

Under existing conditions, the Robertson Branch Library does not meet the recommended building size standard of 14,500 square feet for a service population greater than 45,000 persons. With the addition of the Project's estimated 369 residents, the service population for the 9,035-square-foot Robertson Branch Library would increase from 79,345 to 79,714 persons. Therefore, with or without the Project, the Robertson Branch Library would continue its operations without meeting the recommended building size standards.

The Fairfax Branch Library currently meets the recommended building size standard of 12,500 square feet for a service population below 45,000 persons. With the addition of the Project's estimated 369 residents, the service population for the 12,500-square-foot Pico Union Branch Library would increase from 36,336 to 36,705 persons. As such, the Fairfax Branch Library would continue to meet the recommended building size standards with the addition of the Project.

With regard to anticipated library service at Project buildout, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) projects population growth for the City of Los Angeles Subregion. According to the 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016–2040 RTP/SCS), the City population is projected to grow by a rate of approximately 3.38 percent between 2019 (the Project's baseline year) and 2024 (the Project's buildout year).<sup>18</sup> In applying this growth rate to the identified libraries, the

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<sup>17</sup> *The Initial Study prepared for the Project and included as Appendix A to this Draft EIR used a rate of 2.6 persons per unit based on a single year estimate from the American Community Survey. The Department of City Planning subsequently confirmed the 2.41 average was the factor to be used. This rate of 2.41 persons per multi-family unit is based on the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Average Estimates per correspondence with Jack Tsao, Data Analyst II, Los Angeles Department of City Planning, June 12, 2020.*

<sup>18</sup> *According to SCAG's 2016–2040 RTP/SCS, the forecasted populations for the City of Los Angeles are approximately: 4,036,475 persons in 2019 and 4,172,886 persons in 2024. By interpolation, the 2019 value is calculated using SCAG's 2012 and 2040 values to find the average increase between years and then applying that annual increase to 2012:  $(((4,609,400 - 3,845,500) \div 28) \times 7) + 3,845,500 =$*   
(Footnote continued on next page)

estimated service populations in 2024 would be approximately 37,565 persons for the Fairfax Branch Library and 82,027 persons for the Robertson Branch Library.

With the addition of the Project's estimated 369 residents, the estimated service populations in 2024 would be 37,934 persons for the 12,500-square-foot Fairfax Branch Library. Therefore, the Fairfax Branch Library would continue to meet the recommended building size standard of 12,500 square feet for a service population below 45,000 persons. Moreover, the addition of 369 residents to the service population in 2024 is not substantial, particularly in relation to the baseline service population of 37,565 in 2024.

As for the Robertson Branch Library, recommended building size standards would continue to be unmet under future conditions. Specifically, with the addition of the Project's estimated 369 residents, the 9,035-square-foot Robertson Branch Library would have an estimated service population of 82,396 persons. As detailed above, the Robertson Branch Library does not meet the recommended building size standards under existing conditions. Therefore, with or without the Project under future conditions, the library would continue operating without meeting the recommended building size standard of 14,500 square feet for a service population greater than 45,000 persons. However, the addition of 369 residents to the service population in 2024 is not substantial, particularly in relation to the baseline service population of 82,027 in 2024.

It is emphasized that the estimates provided herein are very conservative in that all of the Project's estimated residential population is allocated to each branch library serving the Project Site. However, only a portion of the Project's residential population would actually make use of library services given the availability of internet-based research and library services, including those offered by the LAPL. In addition, a portion of the Project's residential population that would visit library facilities would likely be dispersed among the various branch libraries serving the Project Site, including the Beverly Hills Public Library and the West Hollywood Library. Furthermore, all of the Project's residents would not regularly visit both the Fairfax Branch Library and the Robertson Branch Library. As discussed further below, the Project would also generate revenues to the City's General Fund, a portion of which the City could apply to library facilities.

As discussed above, the *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide* considers 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

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4,036,475. The 2024 value is calculated using SCAG's 2012 and 2040 values to find the average increase between years and then applying that annual increase to 2024:  $((4,609,400 - 3,845,500) \div 28) \times 12) + 3,845,500 = 4,172,886$ . Therefore, the rate of population change was calculated to be approximately 3.38 percent.

information and research capabilities that studies have shown to reduce demand at physical library locations.<sup>19,20</sup> Furthermore, the Project would generate revenues to the City's General Fund (in the form of property taxes, sales tax, and 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 Site and vicinity, as deemed appropriate.<sup>21</sup> The Project's revenue to the General Fund would help offset the Project-related increase in demand for library services.

**Therefore, based on the above, the Project would not be anticipated to result in a substantial increase in demand that would necessitate new or physically altered facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts. As such, the Project's impact on library facilities during operation of the Project would be less than significant.**

## (2) Mitigation Measures

Project-level impacts with regard to library facilities would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

## (3) Level of Significance After Mitigation

Project-level impacts related to library facilities 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

## (1) Impact Analysis

As identified in Section III, Environmental Setting, to this Draft EIR, there are 44 related projects located in the vicinity of the Project Site, 17 of which are located in the City of Los Angeles and served by the LAPL. The projected growth reflected by Related Project Nos. 1 through 17 is a conservative assumption, as some of the related projects may not be built out by 2024 (i.e., the Project buildout year), may never be approved or built, or may be approved and built at reduced densities. In addition, much of this growth is

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<sup>19</sup> Troll, Denise A., *How and Why Libraries are Changing: What We Know and What We Need to Know*, Carnegie Mellon University, 2002.

<sup>20</sup> Tenopir, Carol, *Use and Users of Electronic Library Resources: An Overview and Analysis of Recent Research Studies*, 2003.

<sup>21</sup> City of Los Angeles, *Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019–2020*.

anticipated by the City and will be incorporated into the next Wilshire Community Plan update. This estimate is further conservative because it does not account for the removal of existing uses and their associated existing residential populations resulting from the development of the related projects. To provide a conservative forecast, the future baseline forecast assumes that Related Project Nos. 1 through 17 are fully built out by 2024, unless otherwise noted.

Of the 17 related projects within the LAPL service area, 13 are residential in nature or have residential components. 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 in a library's service area. Notwithstanding, it is noted that employees generated by the non-residential related projects could already be living within the service boundaries of the libraries serving the Project Site and already generating a demand for such services. Other employees not residing within the service boundaries of the libraries serving the Project Site would be more likely to use library facilities near their homes during non-work hours. As such, the non-residential related projects would not substantially contribute to the cumulative demand for library services.

In addition, Related Project Nos. BH1 through BH10 are located in the City of Beverly Hills and Related Project Nos. WH1 through WH17 are located in the City of West Hollywood. Hence, additional library resources (in terms of facility space, material items, and public computers) would be needed in both the City of Beverly Hills and County of Los Angeles in accordance with their respective service guidelines in order to accommodate future population increases in those jurisdictions.

As shown in Table IV.H.3-2 on page IV.H.3-14, implementation of the 17 applicable related projects in the City of Los Angeles would result in the development of 1,163 new residential units. Based on an average household size of 2.41 persons per household,<sup>22</sup> the new residential units associated with the related projects would generate a service population of approximately 2,812 residents. Therefore, the applicable related projects and the Project's 369 residents would add a total of approximately 3,181 residents to the service populations of the libraries identified by the LAPL. However, this estimate is overstated as it does not consider that much of the growth associated with the Project and

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<sup>22</sup> *The Initial Study prepared for the Project and included as Appendix A to this Draft EIR used a rate of 2.6 persons per unit based on a single year estimate from the American Community Survey. The Department of City Planning subsequently confirmed the 2.41 average was the factor to be used. This rate of 2.41 persons per multi-family unit is based on the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Average Estimates per correspondence with Jack Tsao, Data Analyst II, Los Angeles Department of City Planning, June 12, 2020.*

**Table IV.H.3-2  
Related Projects with Cumulative Library Impacts—City of Los Angeles**

<b>No.<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Estimated Service Population<sup>b</sup></b>
1	Four Seasons Residences 300 S. Wetherly Dr.	Condominium	140 du	338
2	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Project West Tower 8723 W. Alden Dr.	Hospital	100 beds	
3	S. La Cienega Boulevard Eldercare Facility 1022 S. La Cienega Blvd.	Assisted Living	183 beds	
		Skilled Nursing	22 du	54
4	6535 Wilshire Boulevard Mixed-Use Project 6535 Wilshire Blvd.	Office	62,000 gsf	
		Apartments	22 du	54
		Retail	5,603 gsf	
5	Beverly & Fairfax Mixed-Use Project 7901 W. Beverly Blvd.	Apartments	71 du	172
		Retail	11,454 gsf	
6	333 La Cienega Boulevard Project 333 S. La Cienega Blvd.	Apartments	145 du	350
		Supermarket	27,685 gsf	
		Restaurant (3,370 gsf)	225 seats	
7	6399 W. Wilshire Boulevard Mixed- Use Hotel 6399 W. Wilshire Blvd.	Hotel	176 rm	
		Restaurant (871 gsf)	58 seats	
		Lounge	860 gsf	
8	Unified Elder Care Facility/Mixed-Use 8052 W. Beverly Blvd.	Synagogue	208 gsf	
		Apartments	102 du	246
		Medical Office	15,000 gsf	
		Retail	1,000 gsf	
9	8000 W. Beverly Boulevard Mixed- Use Project 8000 W. Beverly Blvd	Apartments	48 du	116
		Retail	7,400 gsf	
10	Edin Park 8001 W. Beverly Blvd.	Restaurant (22,600 gsf)	1,507 seats	
		Office	11,358 gsf	
11	488 S. San Vicente Boulevard Mixed- Use Project 488 S. San Vicente Blvd.	Apartments	53 du	128
		Retail	6,585 gsf	
12	Solstice 431 N. La Cienega Blvd.	Apartments	72 du	174
13	Third Street Mixed-Use Project 8000 W. 3rd St.	Apartments	45 du	109
		Affordable Housing	5 du	13
		Retail	7,251 gsf	

**Table IV.H.3-2 (Continued)**  
**Related Projects with Cumulative Library Impacts—City of Los Angeles**

<b>No.<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Estimated Service Population<sup>b</sup></b>
14	7951 W. Beverly Boulevard Mixed-Use Project 7951 W. Beverly Blvd.	Apartments	51 du	123
		Affordable Housing	6 du	15
		Retail	1,142 gsf	
		Restaurant (6,294 gsf)	420 seats	
15	316 N. La Cienega Boulevard Mixed-Use Project 316 N. La Cienega Blvd.	Apartments	44 du	107
		Affordable Housing	6 du	15
		Retail	4,096 gsf	
16	3rd and Fairfax 300-370 S. Fairfax Ave., 6300-6370 W. 3rd St., and 347 S. Ogden Dr.	Apartments	331 du	798
		Retail	13,412 sf	
		Restaurant	7,500 sf	
		Supermarket	63,082 sf	
17	656 S. San Vicente Medical Office 650-676 S. San Vicente Blvd.	Medical Office	140,305 sf	
		Retail	5,000 sf	
<b>Related Projects Service Population</b>			<b>1,163 du</b>	<b>2,812</b>
<b>Project Service Population</b>			<b>153 du</b>	<b>369</b>
<b>Total Service Population for Related Projects and Project</b>			<b>1,316 du</b>	<b>3,181</b>
<hr/> <p><i>du = dwelling units</i>  <i>gsf = gross square feet</i>  <i>sf = square feet</i>  <i>rm = rooms</i></p> <p><i>Totals calculated have been rounded to the nearest whole number and may not sum due to rounding.</i></p> <p><sup>a</sup> <i>This analysis of cumulative impacts to library services only includes the related projects that are residential in nature or have residential components.</i></p> <p><sup>b</sup> <i>Based on a rate of 2.41 persons per multi-family units based on the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Average Estimates per correspondence with Jack Tsao, Data Analyst II, Los Angeles Department of City Planning, June 12, 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Source: Eyestone Environmental, 2020.</i></p>				

related projects is already accounted for in the service population projections made by the LAPL based on SCAG projections.

Residents from 10 of the related projects would reside closer to the Fairfax Branch Library,<sup>23</sup> and residents from three of the related projects would reside closer to the Robertson Branch Library.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, these residents would be more likely to utilize libraries closer in proximity to their residence as their primary library(ies).

Furthermore, similar to the Project, each related project would generate revenues to the City's General Fund (in the form of property taxes, sales tax, business tax, transient occupancy tax, etc.) that could be applied toward the provision of enhancing library services in the Community Plan area, as deemed appropriate.<sup>25</sup> These revenues to the City's General Fund would help offset the increase in demand for library services as a result of the Project and the related projects.

Nonetheless, based on the library sizing standards recommended in the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan, the projected cumulative future service population could warrant improvements or expansions to add capacity to the Robertson Branch Library, which is currently operating without meeting the recommended building size standard based on actual population growth and future library usage.<sup>26</sup> Accordingly, the 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. 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 located on parcels that are infill opportunities on lots that are between 0.5 and one acre in size; and (3) would very likely qualify for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 or 15332 and, if not, a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration, and, therefore, would not be expected to result in significant impacts.

<sup>23</sup> *Related Project Nos. 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.*

<sup>24</sup> *Related Project Nos. 1, 3, and 6.*

<sup>25</sup> *City of Los Angeles, Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019–20.*

<sup>26</sup> *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 percent 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 percent of adults had used a library website over the past 12 months, while the new finding is that 31 percent have done so in the past year. Additionally, we found that 9 percent of adults had used a library-related app in the past 12 months—a first time reading for this question." Source: Rainie, Lee, "Libraries and Learning." Pew Research Center, April 2016, available at [www.pewinternet.org/2016/04/07/libraries-and-learning/](http://www.pewinternet.org/2016/04/07/libraries-and-learning/), accessed September 6, 2019.*

**Based on the above, the Project's on library demand and the associated need to construct new library facilities that would cause significant environmental impacts would not be cumulatively considerable, and cumulative impacts would be less than significant.**

Notwithstanding this conclusion, the LAPL recommends a per capita fee of \$200 be used for staff, books, computers, and other library materials. Fees would be paid by the Applicant, as applicable, as a condition of Project approval, but this fee is not required as an environmental mitigation measure.

## (2) Mitigation Measures

Cumulative impacts to library facilities would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

## (3) Level of Significance After Mitigation

Cumulative impacts related to library facilities 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.