

5.13.4 LIBRARY SERVICES

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) evaluates the potential for the proposed Section 31 Specific Plan Project (“Section 31 Specific Plan” or “Project”) to impact library services and facilities within the City of Rancho Mirage (City), specifically the Rancho Mirage Public Library (Library), and within the region. Please see **Section 9.0** for a glossary of terms, definitions, and acronyms used in this Draft EIR.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1. Existing Conditions

There are 38 library branches within the Riverside County Library System (RCLS) and two bookmobiles that serve a population of nearly 2.5 million residents within the County of Riverside.¹ Additionally, College of the Desert also has an on-campus library that is open to the public and affiliated with the RCLA. However, none of these branches is in the vicinity of the Project; therefore, the Project is not anticipated to increase demand or otherwise impact the RCLS.

In 1991, the City withdrew from the RCLS to make plans for its own library. The Rancho Mirage Public Library was first located in a vacant building located at Bob Hope Drive and Highway 111, then moved to its current address at 71-100 Highway 111 in 2006.² The Library is approximately 3.6 miles southwest of the Project Site; the Library’s current location in relation to the Project Site is shown on **Figure 5.13.1-1: Public Services Within Proximity to Project Site.**

At approximately 45,000 square feet, the Library includes outdoor program areas, an audiovisual services area, a 350-seat auditorium, and an observatory. The Library currently has an inventory of approximately 90,000 books as well as thousands of e-Books, e-Audiobooks, newspapers, magazines, and DVDs available for checkout by the public, as well as other items available for public access such as a collection of rocks and minerals.³ To date, the Library has had over 9 million books checked out of its facility since its opening, with an estimated circulation of nearly 370,000 books over the 2017-2018 fiscal year.⁴

The Library also hosts an array of events and programs for all age groups, ranging from children’s storytelling, family nights, films, and musical performances to adult book discussions and lectures.⁵ The

1 Riverside County Library System, “About Us,” accessed April 2019, <http://rivlib.info/website/about-us-685>.

2 City of Rancho Mirage, *General Plan 2017 Update*, Chapter 9: Public Services and Facilities, adopted November 2017.

3 Aaron Espinosa, Library Director, Rancho Mirage Public Library, email correspondence, April 29, 2019.

4 Aaron Espinosa, Library Director, Rancho Mirage Public Library, email correspondence, April 29, 2019.

5 Rancho Mirage Public Library, “Events Calendar,” accessed April 2019, <http://ranchomiragelibrary.evanced.info/signup/List?df=list&nd=30&et=11%2c12>.

Library received nearly 240,000 visitors over 2017-2018, with nearly 40,000 attendees of Library-offered programs, averaging 928 patrons per day across approximately 300 operational days.⁶

2. Regulatory Setting

The City has adopted a development impact fee to address impacts caused by new development on library facilities and services. This Project will comply with these provisions, as applicable, to maintain library services within the area.

Regional and Local

Rancho Mirage General Plan

The Public Services and Facilities Element of the City's General Plan includes policies pertaining to library services that serve the City.⁷ It identifies the formulation of the City's library system and its future plans to accommodate the City's changing demographics, increasing population, and shift of land uses. The Element establishes the goal and policy of ensuring that the City maintains adequate services and convenient access for all members of the community.

Rancho Mirage Municipal Code

New construction within the City of Rancho Mirage is subject to Title 3, Chapter 28 and Chapter 29, Section 145 of the Rancho Mirage Municipal Code, which set policy for the requirement of an imposed tax on new construction to support the increased demand for public services and infrastructure improvements, such as library services.⁸ Lastly, Title 3, Chapter 29 of the *Rancho Mirage Municipal Code* sets forth the City's policy for the requirement of payment of license tax and development impact fees upon new construction as a measure to fund local library improvements and facilities. Specifically, Section 145 of Title 3, Chapter 28 identifies that development impact fees shall be paid to a separate fund to be used only for the acquiring land to construct new library facilities and acquiring additional library collection materials, including new books, periodicals, and audio and video materials within the City.

6 Aaron Espinosa, Library Director, Rancho Mirage Public Library, email correspondence, April 29, 2019.

7 City of Rancho Mirage, *General Plan 2017 Update, Chapter 9: Public Services and Facilities*, adopted November 2017.

8 City of Rancho Mirage, Municipal Code, accessed at <http://www.qcode.us/codes/ranchomirage/>.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Thresholds of Significance

In order to assist in determining whether a project would have a significant effect on the environment, the City finds a project may be deemed to have significant impacts on public services, including library services, if it would:

Threshold 5.13.4-1 **Result in capacity or service level problems, or result in substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, or other performance objectives for library services.**

2. Methodology

Typically, the need for library services depends on the number of people a library is serving and the number of volumes within the library. Information was gathered from publicly available information and personal communication with staff from the Library in order to provide level of service analysis.

3. Project Design Features

The Project does not include any features specifically related to libraries.

4. Project Impacts

Threshold 5.13.4-1: Would the project result in capacity or service level problems, or result in substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, or other performance objectives for library services?

There are no specific requirements for quantifying the community's needs for public library services. The Library's services are assessed on an on-demand basis as a function of demographics measured against existing library resources. Implementation of the Project would add up to 3,913 new residents⁹ who would have access to the Library. This increase in residents would result in an increased demand on the Library for services provided within their facilities.

⁹ As of January 2018, City of Rancho Mirage contains 2.025 persons per household. 1,932 dwelling units x 2.025 persons per dwelling unit = 3,913 residents.

The Library indicates the additional demand for library services generated by residents of the Project can be accommodated by existing library facilities.¹⁰ A substantial portion of the Library's inventory consists of an "E-Content"-based system, meaning more space is available for other uses, such as lounging, computer rooms, and common areas for the observatory, recreational activities, events, and lectures.

The Library relies on its budget from private fund sources and taxed-based revenue from the City (development impact fees). Therefore, Mitigation Measure **MM 5.13.4-1** will require payment of applicable development impact fees for library services in order to maintain library services in the area. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

5. Cumulative Impacts

Since future residents and visitors at the Section 31 Specific Plan Area will be utilizing library services from the Library, implementation of the Project in combination with related projects within the City's Sphere of Influence, in accordance with the build-out of the City's General Plan, could contribute to potentially significant cumulative impacts on library facilities and services. Related projects developed within the City would be required to pay development impact fees as required by the City Municipal Code Section 3.29.145. Cumulative impacts to the library system would be mitigated through the license tax and development impact fees that are imposed upon new construction within the City. Therefore, to the extent that library facilities are expanded to serve cumulative development, no significant impacts to library services and facilities are anticipated to occur. Accordingly, cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

C. MITIGATION MEASURES

The following Mitigation Measure would reduce impacts to library services:

MM 5.13.4-1: Prior to the issuance of building permits, individual project proponents shall pay applicable development impact fees to the City.

D. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

With incorporation of Mitigation Measure **MM 5.13.4-1**, along with implementation of the existing regulations previously mentioned, potential impacts on library facilities and services would be less than significant. Cumulative impacts would also result in less than significant impacts on library services.

¹⁰ Aaron Espinosa, Library Director, Rancho Mirage Public Library, email correspondence, April 29, 2019.