

## IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

### J. PUBLIC SERVICES

#### 4. LIBRARIES

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##### 1. INTRODUCTION

This section describes existing library facilities and services in the project area, and provides an analysis of potential impacts on these facilities and services that would occur as a result of the proposed project. The analysis addresses available library capacity and whether it is sufficient to accommodate the population growth generated by the proposed project. The analysis is based in part on information provided by City of Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL).

##### 2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

###### a. Regulatory Framework

###### (1) City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework

The City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework, adopted in December 1996 and readopted in August 2001, provides general guidance regarding land use issues for the entire City of Los Angeles and defines Citywide policies regarding land use, including infrastructure and public services. Goals and policies for 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 9.20 proposes to adopt a Citywide library service standard by the year 2000. Policy 9.20.1, which further supports Objective 9.20, proposes the development of library standards dealing with the facilities' net floor area, the appropriate number of permanent collection books per resident, and service radii. Policy 9.20.2 proposes a Citywide policy for locating non-English language permanent collections. Objective 9.21 proposes to ensure library services for current and future residents and businesses. Policy 9.21.3, which supports Objective 9.21, encourages the inclusion of library facilities in mixed-use structures, in community and regional centers, at transit stations, and in mixed-use boulevards. Policy 13 within the General Plan Framework Implementation Programs Chapter holds the City Department of Libraries responsible for updating the Library Master Plan as well as providing sufficient capacity to correct existing deficiencies, identifying improvements to new library facilities, developing strategies to increase the distribution of library services, establishing a new City library service standard based on the needs of the City, and identifying funding sources for facility improvements. The implementation plans and policies set forth in the General Plan Framework have been addressed through the LAPL Branch Facilities Plan and the 1989 and 1998 Library Bond Programs.

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

The Los Angeles Public Library Branch Facilities Plan (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. The Facilities Plan also outlines the required facilities expansion needs of the libraries within the City. The Facilities Plan was revised and recently approved by the Board of Library Commissioners on February 8, 2007. Under the 2007 Facilities Plan, the service population for a branch library is defined according to the size of the facility, as shown in **Table IV.J.4-1, City of Los Angeles Public Library Branch Building Size Standards**, LAPL bases the service population for a branch upon census tracts

Table IV.J.4-1

## City of Los Angeles Public Library Branch Building Size Standards

Population Served	Size of Facility
Below 45,000	12,500 square feet
Above 45,000 <sup>a</sup>	14,500 square feet
Regional Branch	Up to 20,000 square feet

<sup>a</sup> For a community with population above 90,000, consider adding a second branch to serve the area.

Source: Los Angeles Public Library website, [http://www.lapl.org/about/Branch\\_Facilities\\_Criteria.pdf](http://www.lapl.org/about/Branch_Facilities_Criteria.pdf), accessed April 5, 2011.

that are assigned to that branch. The Facilities Plan has been implemented with bond measures within two phases, the 1989 Bond Program and the 1998 Bond Program.

In 1989, City of Los Angeles voters approved Proposition 1, a \$53.4 million Branch Library Facilities Bond, also known as the 1989 Library Bond Issue. Under Proposition 1, the Facilities Plan proposed to obtain new sites for building, renovating, and expanding libraries that were unable to serve the community sufficiently and/or were damaged by the Whittier earthquake. LAPL also successfully obtained additional funds from the Community Development Block Grant Award of federal funds from the California State Library Proposition 85, as well as from Friends of the Library groups, for a total branch construction program of \$108 million. Under the 1989 Bond Program, 29 libraries were built.<sup>1</sup>

On November 3, 1998, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition DD, also known as the 1998 Library Facilities Bond, a \$178.3 million bond for funding the construction, renovation, improvement, or expansion of 32 new branch libraries. As a result of effective project management, four additional projects were added to the scope of the overall facilities program. Of the 36 total projects, 18 existing library facilities were replaced with 18 new library facilities on the existing City-owned sites, nine libraries were constructed on newly acquired sites, five new libraries were constructed on acquired sites in communities that previously did not have library services, and with the four additional projects, existing libraries were renovated and expanded. The entire original Facilities Plan is completed.<sup>2</sup>

### (3) Measure L

On March 8, 2011, Los Angeles voters approved Measure L, the Los Angeles Public Library funding initiative. Measure L changes the city charter, gradually raising the level of guaranteed funding of the library system to .03 percent of assessed property value over a period of four years (up from the current rate of .0175 percent). The LAPL estimates that this increase in funding will allow the LAPL to fully reimburse the general fund for all overhead expenses, restore library service on Mondays at all 73 libraries and on Sundays at nine libraries, and purchase new books.

<sup>1</sup> Los Angeles Public Library website, *Summary of Branch Facilities Plan Revision*, available at: [http://www.lapl.org/about/planning\\_overview.html](http://www.lapl.org/about/planning_overview.html) accessed April 11, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

## b. Existing Conditions

The LAPL system provides library services to the City of Los Angeles. LAPL consists of the Central Library and 72 branch libraries, with a multimedia inventory of over six (6) million items and 2,300 computer workstations with access to the internet and electronic databases.<sup>3</sup> All branch libraries provide free access to computer workstations that are connected to the Library's information network. In addition to providing internet access, these workstations enable the public to search LAPL's electronic resources including the online catalog, over 100 subscription databases, word processing, language learning, literacy, and a large collection of historic documents and photographs. In addition, specially designed websites are provided for children, teens, and Spanish speakers.

LAPL is a member of the Southern California Library Cooperative (SCLC), an association of public libraries in the greater Los Angeles area that shares resources to improve library service to the residents of all participating jurisdictions. Participation in this program enables individuals to use their library cards in multiple jurisdictions, and allows for member libraries to receive compensation for such use.

LAPL service populations are based on the number of people residing in census tracts that are assigned to a specific library. Currently, there are no community branch libraries for the Century City area. However, LAPL has identified four LAPL libraries that would serve the proposed project: the West Los Angeles Branch Library, the Westwood Branch Library, the Robertson Branch Library, and the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library. **Figure IV.J.4-1, *Libraries Located in the Vicinity of the Project Site***, identifies the location of these library facilities in relation to the project site. **Table IV.J.4-2, *Library Facilities Located in the Vicinity of the Project Site***, provides information regarding these libraries including their distance from the project site, size, population served, and hours of operation.

The West Los Angeles Branch Library at 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard is located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the project site. This 13,740-square-foot branch serves a population of 39,147 people according to the LAPL. The library currently employs 8.5 full-time staff positions. The library includes a total of 47,123 volumes and has an annual circulation of 123,274 people. As a regional branch, this library supplements the services provided by the local branch libraries.

The Westwood Branch Library at 1246 Glendon Avenue is located approximately 2.8 miles west of the project site. This 12,500-square foot branch, which opened in May 2005, serves a population of 76,725 people according to the LAPL. The library currently employs 7.5 full-time staff positions. The library includes a total of 62,779 volumes and has an annual circulation of 249,767.<sup>4</sup>

The Robertson Branch Library at 1719 South Roberson Boulevard is located approximately 2.9 miles southeast of the project site. This 9,035-square-foot branch library serves a population of 51,559 people according to the LAPL. The library currently employs 7.5 full-time staff positions. The library includes a total of 40,324 volumes and has an annual circulation of 204,040.

<sup>3</sup> LAPL. *About the Library, News Room. Los Angeles Public Library Facts 2010 (for fiscal year 2008-09)*, available at: [http://www.lapl.org/newsroom/2010\\_facts.html](http://www.lapl.org/newsroom/2010_facts.html) Accessed April 5, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> *Written correspondence from Joseph Molles, LAPL Library Facilities Division, April 26, 2011.*

Table IV.J.4-2

## Library Facilities Located in the Vicinity of the Project Site

Library	Distance from Project Site	Size	Service Population	Hours of Operation
West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Blvd.	2.5 miles	13,740 sf	39,147	12:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Tue & Thur. 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Wed & Fri. 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Sat.
Westwood Branch Library 1246 Glendon Ave.	2.8 miles	12,500 sf	76,725	12:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Tue & Thur 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Wed & Fri 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Sat
Robertson Branch Library 1719 S. Robertson Blvd.	2.9 miles	9,035 sf	51,559	12:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Tue & Thur 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Wed & Fri 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Sun
Palms–Rancho Park Branch Library 2920 Overland Ave.	3.0 miles	10,500 sf	75,149	12:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Tue & Thur 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Wed & Fri 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Sat
Beverly Hills Main Public Library 444 N. Rexford Dr.	1.2 miles	91,000 sf <sup>a</sup>	34,210 <sup>b</sup>	10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Mon–Wed 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Thur–Sat 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Sun

<sup>a</sup> City of Beverly Hills General Plan Update, Technical Background Report, October 2005.

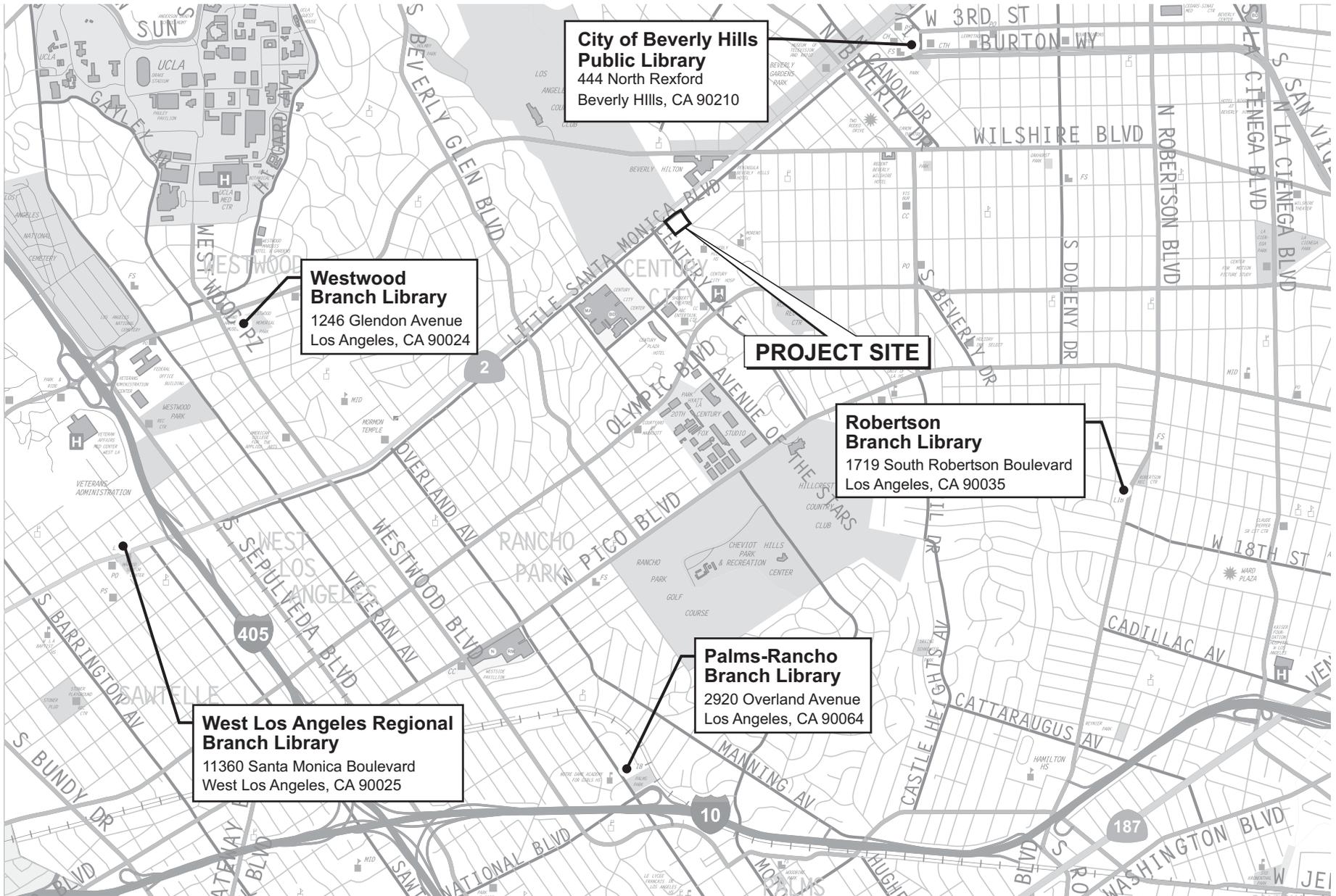
<sup>b</sup> California Department of Finance. Table E-5: Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2010-2011. Available at: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2011-20/view.php>. Accessed April 29, 2011.

Source: Los Angeles Public Library website, City of Beverly Hills website, and written correspondence from Joseph Molles, LAPL Library Facilities Division, April 26, 2011. Service populations are based on the most recent year (2010) of data availability.

The Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library at 2920 Overland Avenue is located approximately 3.0 miles south of the project site. This 10,500 square foot branch, which opened in November 2002, serves a current population of 75,149 people according to the LAPL. The library currently employs 10 full-time staff positions. The library includes 53,387 volumes and has an annual circulation of 252,557. With the exception of the West Los Angeles Branch Library, the LAPL facilities serving the project site do not meet the branch building size standards set forth in the 2007 Facilities Plan.

The City of Beverly Hills Public Library (BHPL) Main Library is also located near the project. The Main Library is located at 444 North Rexford Drive, approximately 1.2 miles northeast of the project site (refer to Figure IV.J-4). The City of Beverly Hills is served by two public libraries; the Beverly Hills Public Library, Main Library and the Roxbury Senior Library. The Main Library is a 91,000 square-foot facility. Given Beverly Hill's current (2011) population of 34,210 residents, the Main Library provides approximately 2.66 square feet of library space per resident.

Both the LAPL and BHPL are members of the Southern California Library Cooperative (SCLC). The SCLC is an association of 46 independent city and special district public libraries located in Los Angeles, Orange, and



**Libraries Located in the Vicinity of the Project Site**

10000 Santa Monica Boulevard  
Source: PCR Services Corp., 2011

FIGURE

**IV.J.4-1**

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Ventura counties which have agreed to cooperate in providing library service to the residents of all participating jurisdictions. SCLC members extend, on an equal basis, loan privileges to residents of other member libraries. Additionally, an array of technical, arts, and general libraries are located on the UCLA campus approximately less than two miles from the project site.

### 3. PROJECT IMPACTS

#### a. Methodology

Potential project impacts on library services and facilities are determined based on identifying the primary service library or libraries that serve the project site, forecasting the number of residents generated by the project, identifying the population within the library's service area at the time of project buildout, combining the project's resident population with the forecasted service area population, and comparing the combined population to the service population for the library as determined by LAPL.

#### b. Significance Thresholds

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines provides a screening question that addresses impacts with regard to library protection service. This question is as follows:

*Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*

- Other public facilities (including libraries)?

In the context of this question from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the *City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide*, states that the determination of significance shall be made on a case-by-case basis, considering the following factors:

- 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 LAPL).

Based on these factors, the project would have a significant impact on library services if the project would generate a demand for library facilities or services, or would cause an increase in community population that would:

**LIB-1** Cause the demand for library services to require new or physically altered library facilities to meet the needs of the proposed project.

### c. Analysis of Project Impacts

According to 2010 census data, the residential population and the number of housing units in Century City represents a household size of approximately 1.34 persons per household.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, the proposed project's 283 dwelling units would generate approximately 379 new residents. As there is no community branch library for the Century City area, LAPL has identified the West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library, the Westwood Branch Library, the Robertson Branch Library, and the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library as the libraries that would serve the project site. LAPL bases the anticipated service population for a branch on census tracts that are assigned to that branch. Based upon the City Planning Department's estimates, the annual growth factor for populations served by these libraries is approximately 0.7 percent.

The West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library is the City of Los Angeles library nearest the project site. As such, it is anticipated that project residents would utilize this library over other LAPL libraries due to convenience. As identified in Table IV.J.4-2, the West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library is currently adequately sized to accommodate the population residing in its service area. Specifically, at 13,740 square feet, the library is designed to accommodate a service population of at least 45,000 persons. With a current service area population of 39,147 persons, the current design could accommodate an additional 5,853 residents. As a result, the project's 379 net new residents would only comprise 6.5 percent of the additional resident population that could be accommodated by the West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library. This represents a nominal increase in the demand at the West Los Angeles Branch Library and the library's existing service level would be able to be maintained without an additional library or alterations to the existing library.

However, all project residents would not necessarily use the nearest library. Given the project's central location to the West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library, and the Westwood, Robertson, and Palms-Rancho Park Branch Libraries, the project's population could be expected to distribute their demand, thus lowering demand at any one location. According to the LAPL, the populations being served by these other facilities exceed the standards set forth in the 2007 Branch Facilities. Nonetheless, the use of these facilities by project residents is anticipated to be minimal as they would likely utilize the LAPL library nearest the project site, and use of other libraries would be distributed. Further, the 2007 Branch Facilities Plan states that an additional library facility should be considered only when the population served by a branch library exceeds 90,000 persons. Even on the remote chance that the entirety of the project's estimated 379 residents were to use the Westwood, Robertson, or Palms-Rancho Park Branch Libraries, the service populations of these facilities would not approach 90,000 residents. Furthermore, project residents would be eligible to use the array of technical, arts, and general libraries on the UCLA campus, which is located less than two miles from the project site. As a result, the proposed project would not exceed the population level required for new facilities.

The Beverly Hills Main Library, located approximately 1.2 miles from the project site, would also be available to serve residents of the proposed project. Given the proximity of the library to the project site, some project residents may also use this library. However, given the availability of other Los Angeles and regional libraries, e.g. the library facilities of UCLA the number of such library visitors would be negligible. Even if all project residents were to use the Beverly Hills Main Branch Library under the SCLC, the project's proposed

<sup>5</sup> Century City makes up the entirety Census Tract 2679.01. According to the 2010 Census data, there were 2,428 residents and 1,812 housing units in Century City, for an average 1.34 persons per household.

residents would result in only a negligible decrease in the floor-area-to-resident ratio at the library (e.g., 2.63 square feet per resident vs. 2.66 square feet per resident). Beverly Hills has not established capacity standards similar to those of Los Angeles. However, it may be noted that the 2.63 square feet of library space per person in Beverly Hills is substantially greater than the ratios associated with Los Angeles' capacity standards presented in Table IV.J-4.1, above. When considering a service area population up to 44,999 people, the Los Angeles service level equates to approximately 0.28 square feet per person (12,500 square foot library for up to 44,999 people). When considering a service population of between 45,000 and 90,000 people, the service level ranges from 0.32 square foot per person (14,500 square foot library for 45,000 people) to 0.16 square foot per person (14,500 square foot library for 90,000 people). In any case, Beverly Hills, like the City of Los Angeles is a member of the SCLC association of public libraries in the greater Los Angeles area that shares resources to improve library service to the residents of all participating jurisdictions. Participation in this program enables individuals to use their library cards in multiple jurisdictions, and allows for member libraries to receive compensation for such use.

It should also be noted that the project would generate revenue to the City's general fund that could be used for the provision of public services such as library facilities. Also, Los Angeles voters, recognizing the need to provide adequate library services, recently approved Measure L. Measure L increases library funding gradually to 0.03 percent to keep libraries open longer and to improve library services; thereby providing LAPL a mechanism to address the needs of additional population.

Thus, the project would result in a nominal increase in the demand at library facilities serving the site and the project would not increase demand at library facilities serving the project site to the extent that a new library facility or alterations to an existing facilities would be required to maintain existing service levels. Thus, since the increased demand generated by the project would be nominal, impacts on these library facilities would be less than significant.

#### 4. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Section III., General Description of Environmental Setting, of this Draft EIR identifies 40 related projects that are anticipated to be developed within the vicinity of the project site. However, for purposes of this cumulative impact analysis on libraries, only those related projects that propose residential uses are considered as residential uses would generate users of library facilities. Residential related project are listed in **Table IV.J.4-3, *Estimated Cumulative Impacts to Libraries***. Of the 40 related projects, 20 are residential projects generating a population of approximately 3,759 people. With the addition of the project's estimated population of 379 residents, the total new residents would be 4,138 residents.

To the extent that these residents would utilize only one of the area's library's, the cumulative residential growth would not be sufficient enough to result in the need for a new branch library at any of the libraries (i.e., the service area population would not exceed 90,000 residents at any of the area facilities). It is also important to note that residents would likely visit the library most convenient to them (including libraries available at the UCLA campus) and use would be spread across these various libraries so no one facility would be significantly impacted. In addition, this number may be overstated as it does not consider that much of the growth associated with the project and the related projects is already accounted for in the service population projections made by LAPL. Similar to the proposed project, related projects would generate revenue to the City's general fund that could be used to fund LAPL expenditures as necessary to

Table IV.J.4-3

## Estimated Cumulative Impacts to Libraries

Map No. <sup>a</sup>	Project	Location	Residential Population <sup>b, c, d</sup>
<b>City of Los Angeles</b>			
3	Mixed-Use Development	10955 Wilshire Blvd	20
4	Mixed-Use Development	10857 Santa Monica Blvd	95
7	Mixed-Use Development	1130 Gayle Ave	97
8	Mixed-Use Development	1777 Westwood Blvd	91
9	Condominium	10777 Wilshire Blvd	121
12	Condominium	1929 Beloit Ave	127
14	Century City Westfield Expansion	10250 Santa Monica Blvd	351 <sup>e</sup>
15	Mixed-Use Development	11122 Pico Blvd	1087
16	Mixed-Use Development	2025 Avenue of the Stars	279 <sup>e</sup>
17	Condominium	10331 Bellwood Ave	319
<b>City of Beverly Hills</b>			
20	9900 Wilshire Blvd	9900 Wilshire Boulevard	524
22	The Beverly Hilton	9876 Wilshire Boulevard	250
23	Condominiums	9936 Durant Drive	27
26	Condominiums	450-460 North Palm Drive	73
27	Condominiums	432 N Oakhurst Drive	71
30	Condominiums	140-144 South Oakhurst Drive	23
32	Mixed-Use Development	9200 Wilshire Boulevard	112
35	Condominiums	225 S Hamilton Drive	27
36	Condominiums	156-168 North La Peer Drive	21
38	Mixed-Use Development	8600 Wilshire Boulevard	44
<b>Related Projects Total</b>			<b>3,759</b>
<b>Proposed Project Total</b>			<b>379</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>4,138</b>

<sup>a</sup> Corresponds with Map Nos. on Figure III-1 of this Draft EIR.

<sup>b</sup> Based on the most recent (2009) data in the West Los Angeles Community Plan, the Community Plan area has 76,933 persons residing in 38,155 dwelling units, averaging approximately 2.02 persons per household. City of Los Angeles Planning Department Statistical Information, <http://cityplanning.lacity.org>, accessed April 5, 2011.

<sup>c</sup> Based on the most recent (2011) California Department of Finance Data, the City of Beverly Hills has a residential population of 34,132 persons residing in 16,393 dwelling units, averaging 2.08 persons per household. California Department of Finance. Table E-5: Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change – January 1 2010 and 2011, <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2011-20/view.php>, accessed April 29, 2011.

<sup>d</sup> Totals are rounded to the nearest whole number.

<sup>e</sup> Based on the 2010 Census data, Century City (Census Tract 2679.01) has 2,428 residents residing in 1,812 housing units, an averaging 1.34 persons per household. <http://factfinder2.census.gov>, accessed April 29, 2011.

Source: Fehr and Peers (related projects), and PCR Services Corporation (population calculations), July 2011.

offset the cumulative incremental impact on library services. Therefore, cumulative growth anticipated in the community, including the proposed project, would not cause a future population that would exceed the expected service population of libraries serving the project site.

## **5. MITIGATION MEASURES**

Potential impacts to libraries would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

## **6. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

Potential impacts to library services and facilities as a result of implementation of the proposed project would be less than significant and no mitigation measures would be required. The proposed project, in conjunction with related projects, would not result in a significant cumulative impact to library services and facilities; therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

