
IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
J. PUBLIC SERVICES
4. LIBRARIES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

City of Los Angeles Public Library

Within the City, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) System provides library services at the Central Library, seven regional branch libraries, 56 community branches and two bookmobile units, consisting of a total of five individual bookmobiles. Approximately 6.5 million books and other materials comprise the City Library collection.

City library standards and guidelines are set forth in the Master Plan of Public Libraries (PLP), an Element of the City's General Plan. The PLP is intended to guide government agencies and interested citizens regarding the construction, maintenance and operation of public library facilities in the City. The original PLP was adopted in 1963 and revised in 1968, and does not account for recent library additions or include a current needs assessment.

In November 1998, voters approved Proposition DD, which provides funds to replace, renovate or expand 28 branch libraries throughout the City and build new branch libraries in the City. Regular funding for the operation of the City Library system comes from the General Fund. The amount received by the City Library fluctuates according to the priorities of the City.¹

Residents in the project locale typically use the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library, located at 7771 Foothill Boulevard in Tujunga (see Figure IV.J-4). The Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library is located approximately 3.6 miles north of the project site.²

Adequacy of library facilities can be analyzed by comparing the population projected in the applicable Community Plan area to the amount of available library space in that area or by making a direct inquiry to a particular library regarding its services. The proposed Development Areas are located in the Sunland-Tujunga Community Plan area. The library identified in this area is the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library, a 10,500-square foot facility. A library of this size should serve a population of 35,001 to 50,000 people.³ In 2000, the population in the Sunland-Tujunga Community Plan area was

¹ *Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft Environmental Impact Report, 1996, page 2.12-12.*

² *Approximate measurement along existing roadways from the Interstate 210/La Tuna Canyon Road intersection.*

³ *Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft Environmental Impact Report, 1995, Table L-1, page 2.13-2.*

estimated to be approximately 58,228 persons.⁴ The Sunland-Tujunga Community Plan states that the library area needed to serve the current needs of local residents should be approximately 26,000 square feet.⁵ However, the LAPL has stated that the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library is currently meeting the service needs of the community, and the LAPL does not have any plans to expand the existing library or build a new library in the area.⁶

The Sun Valley Branch Library is also available to new residents in the project vicinity. The Sun Valley Branch Library is located at 7935 Vineland Avenue in Sun Valley (see Figure IV.J-4), approximately six miles southwest of the project site. The existing 5,230 square foot Sun Valley Branch Library is currently being replaced with a new 12,500 square foot facility. The new Sun Valley Branch Library will be completed in October 2003.⁷

County of Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles County Public Library (LACPL) system currently serves 51 of the 88 cities and most unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County (County). There are 84 regional and community libraries, four bookmobiles, and seven special reference/resource centers serving a population of over three million people over 3,000 square miles. The LACPL has a book collection of 7.7 million volumes in addition to magazines, newspapers, and other media. Each community library has a catalog that gives patrons access to the total collection. The LACPL is financed by a dedicated share of property tax from the service area in addition to a general fund contribution, parcel tax, grants, and fees.

The LAPL and the LACPL both operate a universal borrowing program which allows residents of both the City and unincorporated County to obtain cards and lending privileges from both systems. Therefore, even though the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library would be the primary library serving the residents of the project site, they could also use the County's La Crescenta Library located at 4521 La Crescenta Avenue in La Crescenta (see Figure IV.J-4). The La Crescenta Library is located approximately 3.7 miles from the project site.⁸ The La Crescenta Library is a 4,300-square foot facility with a collection of 72,250 items which includes books, audio recordings, compact discs, videorecordings, magazines, and newspapers.

⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Los Angeles Department of City Planning, Demographic Unit, May 2002.

⁵ Sunland-Tujunga-Lake View Terrace-Shadow Hills-East La Tuna Canyon Community Plan, 1997.

⁶ Written correspondence from the City of Los Angeles Public Library, Fontayne Holmes, Assistant City Librarian, March 26, 2003.

⁷ Los Angeles Public Library, 1998 Library Bond Program July 2003 Progress Report, www.lapl.org/bond/BondUpdate.pdf.

⁸ Approximate measurement along existing roadways from the Interstate 210/La Tuna Canyon Road intersection.

Figure IV.J-4 Library and School Locations

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

In accordance with Appendix G to the CEQA Guidelines, impacts on library services would be significant if the proposed project would result in a substantial adverse physical impact associated with the provision or need of new or physically altered libraries, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives of the LAPL and/or the LACPL.

Project Impacts

Construction of the proposed project would increase demand for library services at the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library by increasing the permanent residential population in the area. As previously stated, the proposed project would increase the local permanent residential population by approximately 831 persons.⁹ Although the LAPL has indicated that the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library currently meets the service needs of the community, it has stated that the additional residents generated by the proposed project would adversely affect its ability to maintain its current levels of service. The project's demand for library facilities was calculated using the State of California standards, which are 0.5 square feet of facility space per resident and two volumes of permanent collection per resident. This was the standard used in the City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework EIR. Based on these standards, the project would generate an additional library need of approximately 415.5 square feet of space and 1,662 volumes of permanent collection. The 415.5 square feet of additional space is the approximate equivalent of a 20' x 20' room, the construction of which would not be expected to result in any significant environmental impacts.

It is anticipated that the proposed project's demand for library services would be partially met by the La Crescenta Library and/or the almost completed 12,500-square foot Sun Valley Branch Library, which are both located less than four miles from the project site.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The proposed project's impacts on libraries would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are recommended.

⁹ Source: Sunland-Tujunga-Lake View Terrace-Shadow Hills-East La Tuna Canyon Community Plan, Plan Population and Dwelling Unit Capacity, Persons Per Dwelling Unit (2010), Low Residential Land Use Category = 2.97 persons per unit x 280 units = 831 persons.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed project, in combination with the 13 related projects shown in Figure II-1 in Section II.C (Related Projects), would further increase demand for the library services at the Sunland-Tujunga Library by increasing the number of employees, customers and residents in the project vicinity. The related projects would generate approximately 259 employees and approximately 401 residents.¹⁰ If all of the employees generated by the related projects were to become new residents in the Sunland-Tujunga Community Plan area, those employees and the new residents would generate a need for 330 square feet of additional library space. Overall, the proposed project and related projects would therefore generate a need for 745.5 square feet of additional library space. However, some of the related projects are located beyond the area served by the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library, and therefore would be served by other nearby libraries, such as the La Crescenta Library or the Sun Valley Branch Library. In particular, Related Project No. 9, a 125-unit residential project, would be served by the La Crescenta Library. Considering the relatively small amount of library space that would be required (i.e., 745.5 square feet) and that other libraries (i.e., the Sun Valley Branch Library and La Crescenta Library) would be available to serve the population associated with the related projects, the proposed project in combination with the related projects would not warrant the construction of new or physically altered existing libraries or, to the extent that any new facilities were required, the construction of those facilities would not be expected to result in any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

The proposed project's impacts on libraries would be less than significant.

¹⁰ Sources: (For Employees) LAUSD School Facilities Fee Plan March 2000; (For Residents) Sunland-Tujunga-Lake View Terrace-Shadow Hills-East La Tuna Canyon Community Plan, Plan Population and Dwelling Unit Capacity, Persons Per Dwelling Unit (2010), Low Residential Land Use Category = 2.97 persons per unit x 135 units = 401 persons.