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INTRODUCTION

This section of the Draft EIR discusses public library resources within the project area. Resources within the project area include Los Angeles Public Library branches in addition to facilities found at local public schools and public institutions such as UCLA. This section analyzes the proposed project's impact on the local public library branch.

LIBRARIES

Environmental Setting

Existing Facilities

The Los Angeles Public Library operates library facilities and services throughout the entire City of Los Angeles. The branch that serves the project area is the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library. This library is located at 11820 San Vicente Boulevard in Brentwood, and approximately two miles south of the project site. This library is under the jurisdiction of the Western Area Office of the Los Angeles Public Library. The Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library is approximately 10,500 square feet in size and contains approximately 58,000 volumes (books, periodicals, cassettes, videos, etc.) in its collection. The library also has access to the internet via nine computer stations. The library is open Mondays and Saturdays 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., Tuesdays and Thursdays Noon to 8:00 P.M., Wednesdays and Fridays, Noon to 5:30 P.M., and closed on Sundays. The library maintains a staff of five full-time employees and seven part-time employees. In addition, volunteers from the Brentwood-Pacific Palisades community periodically offer assistance to library staff.

The Palisades branch of the Los Angeles Public Library is located at 861 Alma Real Drive, approximately, five miles southwest of the project site. Although the Palisades branch library is located farther away from the project site as compared to the Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch, it may also serve the proposed project. According to the Western Area Office of the Los Angeles Public Library, this branch is part of the 1998 bond measure passed for capital improvement of branch libraries.¹ Based on that bond, a new branch would be built within the next three years starting construction in May of 2001. If completed, the new branch will be an 11,500 square-foot library with

¹ Suzanne N. Johnson, Western Area Manager, Los Angeles Public Libraries, NOP correspondence with the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, April 17, 2000.

parking when it re-opens. Currently, the collection size at the existing library is 51,836, and the new building would have a greater book capacity with increased number of additional Internet stations, as well as adequate parking.

Applicable Policy Plans

City of Los Angeles library standards and guidelines are provided by the Master Plan of Public Libraries (PLP), an Element of the City's *General Plan*, which is intended to guide government agencies and interested citizens on the construction, maintenance, and operation of public library facilities in the City. The original Plan was adopted in 1963 and revised in 1968 and does not account for recent library additions, or even a current needs assessment. It is anticipated that an update or total revision of the PLP will be initiated within the next few years. Such an update is anticipated to address these issues and set more appropriate standards for establishing library facilities.

Funding and General Level of Service

The PLP does not provide for any development impact fees. The Administrative Offices of the Los Angeles Public Library have also indicated that there are no development impact fees or other specific requirements relating to the impact of development projects on its library services.² However, developers have donated, and are encouraged to donate, property, funds, furniture and equipment to the Library Foundation of Los Angeles through development agreements.

The Los Angeles Board of Library Commissioners has established criteria for the size of new branch facilities, based on population. A library facility which is 10,500 square feet in size is required for populations of up to 50,000; for populations greater than 50,000, a library facility of 12,500 square feet is required. As previously stated, the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library is approximately 10,500 square feet and is a fairly new facility that opened in 1994. Current library attendance has averaged approximately 1,200 persons per day with a recorded high attendance of approximately 2,000 persons in one day, since it opened.³ Although the library does not experience any overcrowding and/or capacity problems, the facility does experience problems with parking. Currently, the existing parking lot provides for only 18 on-site parking spaces. Additional parking must be found on nearby roadways and/or off-site public parking lots. Recent improvements include

² Fontayne Holmes, Director of Branches, Los Angeles Public Library, Telephone Conversation with Impact Sciences, February 17, 2000.

³ Drew Mees, Young Adult Librarian, Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library, Telephone conversation with Impact Sciences Personnel, February 17, 2000.

expansion of technology capabilities in the library with installation of a computer network, along with the addition of multiple computer terminals totaling nine, and two word processors.⁴

Environmental Impact Analysis

Threshold of Significance

The L.A. CEQA *Thresholds Guide* indicates that determination of a significant impact to libraries shall be made on a case-by-case basis, considering:

- 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 Los Angeles Public Library system).⁵

Project Impacts

The proposed project would involve the development of 29 dwelling units with an estimated population of 82 residents.⁶ Depending on the availability of facilities, any population increase could potentially increase the demand for library services in the project area.

Using Los Angeles Public Library standards, the 10,500 square-foot Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library has a design capacity to serve approximately 50,000 people. As noted above, there are no overcrowding problems at the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library, as the demand for library service in the project area is adequately provided. At the worst case, all 82 additional residents would demand library services provided by the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library. The 82 persons that the proposed project would add to the population would constitute less than 0.2 percent of the 50,000-person capacity of this branch library. In general terms, a 0.2 percent increase in demand for library services would not constitute a significant impact.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ L.A. CEQA *Thresholds Guide*, City of Los Angeles, Environmental Affairs Department, May 14, 1998, p. J.5-2

⁶ United States Census Bureau indicates The City of Los Angeles has an average person per household figure of 2.83

The Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood branch has some operation problems associated with parking. As previously noted, only 18 parking spaces are provided on-site, and overflow parking may be available along nearby roadways, or on off-site parking lots. The Library Services Department believes that a slight increase in the current demand could potentially compound the parking situation.⁷ In general, people commonly use libraries located near their workplace or schools. Further, people may travel to larger facilities or non-local facilities if they anticipate those facilities to offer a greater selection in their area of interest. In addition, other library resources are available to residents. These libraries include the West L.A. Branch Library, Cruz Pacific Palisades Branch Library, City of Santa Monica's Montana Branch Public Library, and those located at colleges (UCLA, Mount St. Mary's and Santa Monica College), high schools and junior high schools. While some of these libraries charge a fee to use their materials and their use may be restricted, they could be expected to provide residents with alternative sources for library materials. As a result, the slight increase (0.2 percent of the total library capacity) due to project implementation would not significantly impact the Brentwood Branch Library. It should also be noted that the proposed new Palisades branch library is expected to provide adequate parking for the population that would utilize the library. Based on the above, project impacts to library services is considered to be less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project, in conjunction with cumulative development, would increase the demand for library services in the area. While there are no overcrowding or capacity problems at the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood branch library, this facility does experience parking problems. Construction of the proposed project could effect this facility if all future residents were to visit the facility simultaneously. In reality, it is unlikely for all persons generated by the related projects in the area to patronize one library. Moreover, the parking condition that presently exists would not be greatly influenced by construction of the proposed project, as there are several other libraries located in the general area that could provide alternative sources of library materials and resources. Finally, the proposed new Palisades branch would provide ample parking for the expected population of more than 50,000. Given the above, impacts to public library resources would neither be cumulatively considerable nor significant.

⁷ Fontayne Holmes, Director of Branches, Los Angeles Public Library, Telephone Conversation with Impact Sciences Personnel, February 17, 2000.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

Adverse Impacts

No adverse impacts to library services are anticipated as a result of the development of the proposed project as well as from the related project.