

A. INTRODUCTION

This section of the draft EIR discusses public library resources within the project area. The primary resource within the project area is the City of Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL). This section analyzes the proposed project’s impact on the local public library and its associated branch libraries.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The LAPL system provides public library services in the City of Los Angeles. The Library Division administers the library system, which includes the Central Library, 7 regional branch libraries, 56 community branches, and 2 bookmobile units consisting of 5 individual bookmobiles.

Libraries in the City of Los Angeles have a service area of 2 miles. There are currently six libraries operating within a 2-mile radius of the project site. Residents of the project area can utilize the branch libraries listed in **Table IV.J.5-1, City of Los Angeles Branch Libraries within 2 miles of the Wilshire and LA Brea Project Site**. The location of these facilities in relation to the project site is shown in **Figure IV.J.5-1, City of Los Angeles Branch Libraries Serving the Project Site**.

**Table IV.J.5-1
City of Los Angeles Branch Libraries
Within 2 miles of the Wilshire and La Brea Project Site**

Name	Address	Distance from Project Site
Memorial Branch Library	4625 W. Olympic Boulevard	0.70 mile
Fairfax Branch Library	161 S. Gardner Street	0.90 mile
Washington Irving Branch Library	4117 W. Washington Boulevard	1.65 miles
John C. Fremont Branch Library	6121 Melrose Avenue	1.65 miles
Pio Pico – Koreatown Branch Library	694 S. Oxford Avenue	2.0 miles
Wilshire Branch Library	149 N. Saint Andrews Place	2.0 miles

Source: Impact Sciences, 2007.

According to the LAPL system, the Wilshire Branch Library would serve the project site. Information for this branch is provided in **Table IV.J.5-2, Wilshire Branch Library**.

**Table IV.J.5-2
Wilshire Branch Library**

Location	Floor Area (square feet)	Collection Size	Staff Positions	Public Computers	Service Population	Hours of Operation
149 N. St. Andrews Place	6,258	35,500	4	15	56,000 people	Mon. & Wed. 10:00 AM–8:00 PM Tue. & Thu. 12:00 PM–8:00 PM Sat. 10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Source: Written correspondence with the City of Los Angeles Public Library, Elizabeth Hoage, Branch Library Services Director, March 22, 2007.

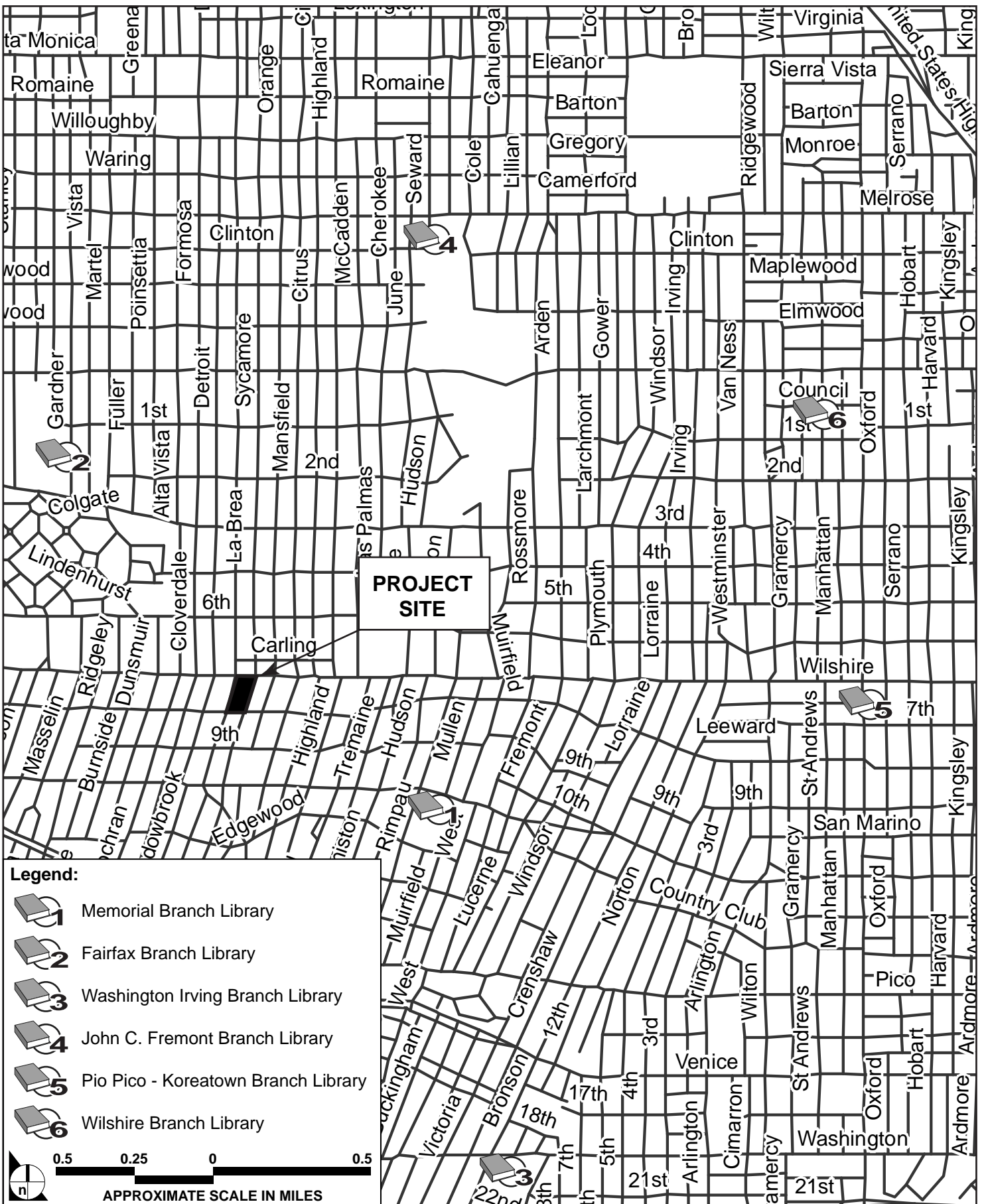
The Wilshire Branch has a full range of materials, 35,500 items/volumes, and four librarians to help serve the public. The Wilshire Branch provides 6,258 square feet of library space and has 15 computers for public use. There are no plans for renovation or to build any new libraries to help meet the library needs of the residents of the Wilshire Community Plan Area.

On February 8, 2007, the Board of Library Commissioners approved the revised Branch Facilities Plan. This revised plan dictates the appropriate measures of library branches in the LAPL system to conform to the library needs of the general public. The revision recommends a building of 14,500 square feet for communities with a population above 45,000 residents. Currently, the Wilshire Branch Library serves a population of 56,000 residents in the Wilshire Community Plan Area and is 6,258 square feet in size. According to the revised Branch Facilities Plan, the Wilshire Branch Library does not meet the building size requirements to appropriately serve the residents of the Wilshire Community Plan Area.¹

The total volume of all library facilities is approximately 6,500,000 with approximately 0.5 percent of these volumes contained in the Wilshire Branch.² Based on the estimates of the California State Department of Finance, the population for the City of Los Angeles at the start of 2006 was 3,976,071 residents; this translates into a volume-to-resident ratio in the City of 1.63 books per resident.

¹ Written correspondence with Betsey Hoage, Los Angeles Public Library, Branch Library Services, March 22, 2007.

² Telephone communication with the Los Angeles Public Library, InfoNow Unit of the Central Library, May 16, 2007.



SOURCE: Impact Sciences - August 2007

FIGURE IV.J.5-1

City of Los Angeles Branch Libraries Serving the Project Site

All of the branch libraries provide free access to computer workstations, which are connected to the Library's information network. In addition to providing Internet access, the workstations enable the public to search LAPL's many electronic resources, including the online catalog, over 100 subscription databases, word processing, language learning, literacy and a large historic document photograph collection. Specially designed websites are provided for children, teens, and Spanish speakers.

The City does not limit library use to residents of the City. However, while any person may use the City's libraries, the target population or service area is based on residents. The number of registered borrowers in 2006 was 1.3 million.³ In 2006, it was recorded that 15,539,485 items were checked out of the Los Angeles Public Library System.⁴

C. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

As stated in the City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework, library services are provided by the LAPL. The LAPL standard for determining the preferred library facility square footage is based upon ranges of population within a designated area.

There are goals and policies set forth by the City of Los Angeles in the general plan Central City Community Element that relates to library services. A description of applicable goals and policies is provided in **Section IV.G, Land Use**.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

1. Significance Criteria

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 following:

- 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 system).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

2. Project Impacts

- *Impacts related to libraries are considered significant based on the net population increase resulting from the proposed project.*

As stated in **Section IV.I, Population and Housing**, implementation of the proposed project would introduce 1,220 new residents into the Wilshire Community Plan Area through the development of 562 new residential units. Additionally, the proposed retail and restaurant uses will employ approximately 135 individuals.

- *Impacts related to libraries are considered significant based on the demand for library services anticipated at the time of project build out, 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.*
- *Impacts related to libraries are considered significant based on 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).*

As stated in **Section IV.I**, implementation of the proposed project would introduce 1,220 residents to the area served by the Wilshire Branch Library. In this instance, we are assuming the worst-case scenario in that the 1,220 residents are new residents from out of the City limits and are not relocated residents within the Los Angeles City limits. The proposed project would not include any features that would reduce the demand for library services.

As the Wilshire Branch Library does not currently meet LAPL service standards, the addition of project-generated residents to the service area would result in a potentially significant impact. However, as discussed above, five other branch libraries are also located within 2 miles of the project site. Of these branches, the Fairfax Branch and the Pio Pico Branch are currently operating above LAPL standards.⁵ As such, future residents of the project would have access to additional library facilities, but within a larger service area. Therefore, the impact of the project on library services would be less than significant.

3. Cumulative Impacts

As discussed in **Section IV.I**, the proposed project and list of related projects identified in **Section III, General Description of Environmental Setting**, would result in the addition of 9,045 residents.

⁵ The Fairfax Branch serves a population of approximately 72,700 residents and is 12,500 square feet in size; The Pio Pico Branch serves a population of about 90,700 and is 20,000 square feet in size. Written correspondence with Betsey Hoage, Los Angeles Public Library, Branch Library Services, October 2, 2007.

The addition of approximately 9,045 residents to the area served by the Wilshire Branch Library and other library branches throughout the area would increase demand for library services in this portion of the City. We are assuming the worst-case scenario in that the 9,045 residents are new residents from out of the City limits and are not relocated residents within the Los Angeles City limits. This could result in a potentially significant cumulative impact to library services.

However, as the related projects are scattered in a radius of approximately 2 miles around the project site, they may also be served by other libraries, including the Wilshire Library Branch and five other branches within 2 miles of the project site. Of these branches, the Fairfax Branch and the Pio Pico Branch are currently operating above LAPL standards. Together these resources would be sufficient to serve related projects in combination with the proposed project and, therefore, potentially significant cumulative impacts to library services would be less than significant.

4. Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required because the proposed project would not result in any significant impacts to the LAPL system.

5. Adverse Impacts

No significant impacts to libraries would result from the proposed project; therefore, no adverse effects to the LAPL system would be anticipated upon project implementation.