IV. Environmental Impact Analysis

K.5 Public Services—Libraries

1. Introduction

This section of the Draft EIR analyzes the change in demand for library services associated with implementation of the Project. The focus of the analysis is the Pasadena Public Library (PPL) facilities that currently serve the Project Site and the ability of the PPL to provide adequate library services to the Project. The analysis is based in part on information provided by the PPL, which is included in Appendix I of this Draft EIR.

2. Environmental Setting

a. Regulatory Framework

(1) Pasadena General Plan Public Facilities Element

The City's General Plan Public Facilities Element includes policies related to the City's public buildings (including public libraries), structures, and grounds to meet the needs of the community. Updated in 2004, the General Plan Public Facilities Element seeks to ensure the continued provision of a high level of public services which adds to the quality of life in the City and increases its attractiveness.

(2) Central District Specific Plan

As discussed in Section III, Project Description, of this Draft EIR, the Project Site is located within the City's Central District Specific Plan area. The Central District Specific Plan was enacted pursuant to Section 65450 et seq. of the California Government Code and provides support for implementation of the General Plan. The Central District Specific Plan, adopted in 2004, includes the following objective that is relevant to libraries:

 Provide Adequate Services. A coordinated network of public and private institutions and service organizations will support the social, cultural and economic life of Downtown, addressing the needs of a multiplicity of peoples and lifestyles. This objective acknowledges the importance of convenient access to services.

b. Existing Conditions

(1) Regional Facilities

The PPL provides library services to the City of Pasadena through its Central Library and nine branch libraries, as well as through Web-based resources. The PPL has about 140 employees to provide services at the Central Library and branches. The mission of the PPL, a basic municipal service, is to be an information center for the Pasadena community in order to preserve and encourage the free expression of ideas essential to an informed citizenry.

The PPL's network of libraries consists of expanded and rebuilt facilities. There is one auditorium located in the central library and five meeting rooms at the various branches that are available for public use. There are currently no plans to expand PPL facilities. There are over 1.6 million items in the PPL circulation and all branch libraries provide free access to computer workstations, thereby enabling patrons to access the internet and the PPL's electronic resources, including an online catalog, subscription databases, word processing, language learning, and a large collection of historic documents and photographs.¹ In addition, the PPL also has a Technology Learning Center, a Law Room, and programming for both adults and children on a weekly basis.

The PPL is a member of the Southern California Library Cooperative, an association of 38 independent City and special district public libraries located in Los Angeles and Ventura counties that have agreed to cooperate in providing library service to the residents of all participating jurisdictions. The Southern California Library Cooperative provides member libraries with a resource-sharing network and a means for enhancing the level and diversity of resources available to library users, while reducing duplication of effort.²

City of Pasadena, Adopted Operating Budget: Fiscal Year 2014, Library and Information Services, www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/Finance/2014_Operating_Budget/, accessed April 4, 2014.

² Southern California Library Cooperative, "About SCLC," www.socallibraries.org/about#same, accessed April 4, 2014.

(2) Local Facilities

According to the PPL, the Project Site is served by the Central Library, located approximately 0.3 mile east of the Project Site at 285 East Walnut Street. The Central Library is approximately 93,000 square feet in size, with a vast collection of popular and historic documents.³ According to the PPL, based on 2010 Census data, the current service population of the Central Library is 140,000 persons. The PPL Director believes the Central Library and PPL are well positioned to absorb additional library use.⁴ At this time, there are no planned improvements or expansions to add capacity to the library.

The Hill Avenue Branch Library, located at 55 South Hill Avenue, the La Pintoresca Branch Library, located at 1355 North Raymond Avenue, and the Santa Catalina Branch Library, located at 999 East Washington Boulevard are also within a 2-mile radius of the Project Site; the distance that is generally considered to comprise the service area of a library. Therefore, these libraries could also provide library service to the Project Site. Current hours of operation for the Central Library are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., Friday and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., and Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.⁵ The Central Library also has more limited hours for the Technology Learning Center and special hours for children and teens.⁶ However, the PPL's Webbased resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

a. Methodology

The methodology used to evaluate potential library impacts includes the following: (1) identifying the primary library that would serve the Project; (2) projecting the future service population for the library that would serve the Project; and (3) determining whether the Project's contribution to the future service population would cause the library to operate beyond its service capacity.

b. Thresholds of Significance

The Project may have a significant adverse impact with regard to PPL services if it would:

³ Written correspondence from Jennifer Addington, Deputy Director, PPL, November 19, 2013.

⁴ Ibid.

City of Pasadena, Central Library Locations and Hours, http://cityofpasadena.net/library/about_the_ library/central_library/, accessed April 4, 2014.

⁶ Written correspondence from Jennifer Addington, Deputy Director, PPL, November 19, 2013.

Exceed the capacity of the local libraries to adequately serve the community.

c. Regulatory Compliance Measures and Project Design Features

(1) Regulatory Compliance Measures

No Regulatory Compliance Measures are in place with regard to libraries.

(2) Project Design Features

No Project Design Features are proposed with regard to libraries.

d. Analysis of Project Impacts

(1) Construction

Construction of the Project during both Phase 1 and Phase 2 would result in a temporary increase of construction workers on the Project Site. Due to the employment patterns of construction workers in Southern California, and the operation of the market for construction labor, construction workers are not likely to relocate their households as a consequence of Project construction. Therefore, Project-related construction workers would not result in a notable increase in resident population or a corresponding demand for library services in the vicinity of the Project Site.

In addition, it is unlikely that a substantial number of workers on site during construction would utilize Project area libraries on their way to/from work or during their lunch hours. Most construction workers would likely utilize library facilities near their places of residence because lunch break times are typically not long enough (30 to 60 minutes) for construction workers to take advantage of library facilities, eat lunch, and return to work within the allotted time. It is also unlikely that a substantial number of construction workers would utilize library facilities on their way to work as the start of their work day generally occurs before the libraries open for service. Therefore, any increase in the usage of libraries by construction workers is anticipated to be negligible. As such, construction of the Project would not exceed the capacity of local libraries to adequately serve the community. Therefore, impacts on library facilities during both Phase 1 and Phase 2 Project construction would be less than significant.

(2) Operation

The Project would consist of 475 residential dwelling units, which would result in a net increase of approximately 969 residents. As stated above, according to the PPL, the Central Library's current service population is approximately 140,000 persons. The estimated service population will be approximately 141,137 persons in 2016, when Phase I development (which includes all proposed residential units) is proposed to be completed. With the addition of the Project's estimated 969 residents, the 2016 service population would be approximately 142,106 persons. The PPL has not indicated that the Central Library is currently experiencing any service deficiencies and is in fact positioned to absorb additional library use. 8

In addition to the Central Library, three other libraries are located within a 2-mile radius of the Project Site. As described earlier, these libraries could also help to alleviate the Project's demand placed on the Central Library from Project residents. The Project's residential units would also be equipped to receive individual internet service, which provides information and research capabilities that studies have shown reduce demand at physical library locations. Further, the Project would not conflict with or impede implementation of the applicable policies and goals related to libraries in the General Plan Public Facilities Element or Central District Specific Plan.

Based on the analysis presented above, Phase 1 and Phase 2 operations as well as operations at Project buildout would not exceed the capacity of local libraries to adequately serve the community. Therefore, Project impacts on library facilities following the completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 operations as well as at Project buildout would be less than significant.

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Based on an annual growth rate of 0.27 percent. The PPL estimates that the service population of the Central Library will increase at this approximate rate between 2010 and 2020.

Written correspondence from Jennifer Addington, Deputy Director, PPL, November 19, 2013.

[&]quot;To Read or Not to Read," see pg. 10: "Literacy reading declined significantly in a period of rising Internet use," www.nea.gov/research/toread.pdf, accessed April 4, 2014.

[&]quot;How and Why are Libraries Changing?" Denise A. Troll, Distinguished Fellow, Digital Library Federation, http://old.diglib.org/use/whitepaper.htm, accessed April 4, 2014.

[&]quot;Use and Users of electronic Library Resources: An Overview and Analysis of Recent Research Studies," Carol Tenopir, www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub120/reports/pub120/contents.html, accessed April 4, 2014.

4. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts occur when impacts that are significant or less than significant from a proposed project combine with similar impacts from other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects in a similar geographic area. Based on the information presented in Section II, Environmental Setting, of this Draft EIR, there are 55 related projects located within the entire City of Pasadena. These projects fall within the service boundary of the PPL and are estimated to result in an increase of approximately 2,300 residential units; approximately 500,000 square feet of various types of office, retail, restaurant, and medical facilities; and approximately 1,200 hotel rooms. It is forecasted that the population growth from the 55 related projects and other forecasted growth would yield a residential population increase of approximately 12,000 people throughout the City of Pasadena.

As discussed above, the residential population of a library's service area is the primary metric used by the PPL for assessing the adequacy of library services and planning for future growth. As such, the Project's cumulative analysis focuses on residential growth as this constitutes the primary users of PPL facilities.

Implementation of the related projects that include residential development in conjunction with the Project would result in a cumulative increase in the demand for library services from the Central Library. However, the cumulative future increase in the service population (i.e., cumulative growth plus the proposed Project), forecasted to be approximately 13,000 persons, would not warrant the addition of a new branch library as the PPL has indicated it is positioned to accommodate any further growth in the community with its existing library facilities. Consequently, cumulative development would not exceed the capacity of the local libraries to adequately serve the community, and cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

5. Mitigation Measures

No Mitigation Measures are required with regard to libraries.

6. Level of Significance

Project-level and cumulative impacts to library services during both Phase 1 and Phase 2 development, as well as at Project buildout, would be less than significant.

Electronic correspondence from Jennifer Addington, Deputy Director, PPL, December 16, 2013.