

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

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### **19. PUBLIC SERVICES—LIBRARIES**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzes the Project's potential impacts on County of Los Angeles Public Library (County Library) facilities in the Project vicinity and determines whether such facilities can accommodate the Project. The analysis is based in part on information provided by the County Library, included in **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR, and the 2013–14 Fiscal Year-End Report for the Library Facilities Mitigation Fee Funds and Updated Capital Improvement Plan for Public Library Facilities (All Supervisorial Districts), adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2014.

#### **2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

##### **a. Regulatory Setting**

##### **(1) County of Los Angeles General Plan**

As discussed in greater detail in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, of this Draft EIR, the Los Angeles County (County) General Plan directs future growth and development in the County's unincorporated areas and establishes goals, policies, and objectives that pertain to the entire County. The current General Plan, adopted in 1980, does not include any policies specifically pertaining to libraries, but rather addresses public services in general. Relevant policies focus on the efficient use of existing service systems and expansion of new urban facilities for planned development.

As also discussed further in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, the County released a draft General Plan update, entitled Los Angeles County General Plan 2035 (Draft General Plan), in January 2014 and a Draft EIR addressing the Draft General Plan in June 2014. This Draft General Plan contains a new Public Services and Facilities Element that includes a brief section on Libraries with a stated goal of maintaining a comprehensive public library system.

The General Plan policy consistency analysis provided in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, indicates the Project would be consistent with relevant adopted General Plan policies related to library services.

## (2) Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012

As discussed in greater detail in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, of this Draft EIR, the recently updated Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012 (Area Plan) serves as a long-term guide for development over the next 20 years. The Area Plan ensures consistency between the General Plans of the County and the City of Santa Clarita (City) in order to achieve common goals and encourages the coordination of land use plans with public services and other departments or agencies. The plan also acknowledges the current branches are not meeting County Library service level standards within the Santa Clarita Valley (Valley) and cites library impact fees and tax revenues as funding sources. A relevant policy addresses the need to coordinate with the County Library to assist in expanding library services.

The Area Plan policy consistency analysis provided in **Section 5.11**, Land Use and Planning, indicates the Project would be consistent with applicable Area Plan policy related to library services.

## (3) County Development Monitoring System

The County General Plan includes provisions known as the Development Monitoring System (DMS) to give the County planning agency—the Regional Planning Commission and/or Department of Regional Planning (collectively referred to herein as the County Planning Agency)—information about the existing capacity of available specified public services in the four major Urban Expansion Areas of the General Plan (Antelope Valley, Santa Clarita Valley (which includes the Project Site), Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains, and East San Gabriel Valley).<sup>1</sup> The primary purpose of the DMS is to ensure that new development in Urban Expansion Areas will occur in a manner consistent with stated DMS policies and will pay for the expansion costs that it generates. To accomplish this purpose, the DMS is used to determine the availability of certain public services, including library services, on an individual and cumulative basis; analyze the expansion costs to certain public service providers; and work towards ensuring that the expansion costs of new development are paid for by that development. For further information with regard to the DMS, please see **Section 4.1**, Environmental and Regulatory Setting, of this Draft EIR.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles Relating to Plan Amendment Case No. SP 86-173, adopted on April 21, 1987.*

**(i) Project Subject to DMS**

The Project is located within the Santa Clarita Valley, an Urban Expansion Area within the DMS, and includes a subdivision map application (Vesting Tentative Tract Map (VTTM) 53295). Therefore, the Project is subject to a DMS analysis or its equivalent.

**(ii) DMS Infrastructure/Service Provisions**

The Project's Initial Study, included as **Appendix 1A** of this Draft EIR, provided general information concerning available library capacity and determined that an EIR would be required. Data from the County Library, included in **Appendix 5.19** and summarized herein, provide up-to-date library facility and capacity information.

**(iii) DMS Access Provisions**

As stated above, the DMS includes analysis of the access factors associated with a development project in an Urban Expansion Area. Under the DMS, where applicable, a project must be located within reasonable proximity to commercial development and job opportunities (generally within 5 miles) and served by an acceptable level of road service (including associated public transit). If it is determined that the project is not located in proximity to commercial and employment facilities, mitigation measures set forth in the DMS must be considered and applied prior to any approval of the project.

As applied, the Project satisfies the DMS access requirements because the Project Site is located nearly adjacent to Six Flags Magic Mountain Theme Park, within 0.25 mile from Castaic Junction and Valencia Commerce Center, and approximately 0.25 mile from Valencia Industrial Park. All of these existing development areas are served by County or other public services and provide substantial commercial services and job opportunities.

**(iv) DMS Data and Criteria**

The DMS scenario would entail buildout of the near-term subdivision projects listed in the DMS plus the Project. However, for purposes of this analysis, this Draft EIR evaluates data for the libraries that would serve the Project Site as well as for the Santa Clarita Valley as a whole. These data are used as the equivalent of a DMS buildout scenario because:

- (1) The data are provided by the County Library, which is the "service provider" for library services in much of the Project vicinity and provides the County with library facility and capacity data as referenced in the DMS;
- (2) The data are considered current and the best available information from the County Library;

- (3) The data provide library facility and capacity information, and County staff considers the information to be equivalent to the data called for in the DMS as it relates to library services; and
- (4) The data are based in part on projected population data for the geographic area served by the County Library.

As it relates to library services, the DMS criteria provide that the County Planning Agency must determine if a project will be provided with an acceptable level of library facilities and must base its determination upon the following data:

- (1) The size of the library building and the number of books (volumes) it contains; and
- (2) The estimated expansion costs of future construction.

#### **(4) Los Angeles County Code**

Pursuant to Section 22.72 of the Los Angeles County Code (County Code), the County imposes a Library Facilities Mitigation Fee on applicants proposing residential development within unincorporated areas based on seven geographic planning areas.<sup>2</sup> The Library Facilities Mitigation Fee program provides revenue for the County Library to meet the needs of a growing population in the County's unincorporated areas by planning and constructing new library facilities and enhancing existing library facilities.<sup>3</sup> Specifically, County Code Section 22.72.030 states: "[t]he library facilities mitigation fee...[is] based on the estimated cost of providing the projected library facility needs in each library planning area." The Project Site is located in Planning Area 1: Santa Clarita Valley Area.<sup>4</sup> Currently, the fee in Planning Area 1 is \$866.00 per residential unit; however the fee obligation for the Project Applicant may vary based on the fee in effect at the time building permits are issued. Per County Code Section 22.72.010, payment of the fee "mitigate[s] any significant adverse impacts of increased residential development upon public library facilities as required by" CEQA.

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<sup>2</sup> *Los Angeles County Code, Section 22.72.030.*

<sup>3</sup> *County of Los Angeles Public Library's 2013-14 Fiscal Year-End Report for the Library Facilities Mitigation Fee Funds and Updated Capital Improvement Plan for Public Library Facilities (All Supervisorial Districts), adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2014.*

<sup>4</sup> *Written communication, Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Public Library, September 16, 2013; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.*

## (5) County of Los Angeles Public Library Service Standards

The County Library has adopted service level guidelines of 0.50 gross square foot of library facilities per capita, 2.75 library material items per capita for a collection, and one public computer per 1,000 residents served in an existing library.<sup>5</sup>

## (6) Previously Adopted Plans and Mitigation

### (a) Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP and EIS/EIR

The Project Site is included in the project area for the Applicant's Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan (RMDP/SCP), shown in **Figure 3-5**, RMDP/SCP Project Area, in **Section 3.0**, Project Description, of this Draft EIR, which covers certain aspects of resource management for the Project and other nearby developments. As discussed in greater detail in **Section 4.1**, Environmental and Regulatory Setting, the RMDP component of the Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP project is a conservation, mitigation, and permitting plan for the long-term management of sensitive biological resources and development-related infrastructure in the River and tributary drainages within the 11,999-acre Specific Plan area and along the extension of Magic Mountain Parkway through the Project Site. The SCP component of the Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP project is a conservation and management plan to permanently protect and manage a system of preserves designed to maximize the long-term persistence of the San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* ssp. *Fernandina*) (spineflower), a federal candidate and state-listed endangered plant species. The SCP encompasses the Specific Plan area, the Valencia Commerce Center planning area, and the Project Site, in order to conduct conservation planning and preserve design on the Project Applicant's land holdings in Los Angeles County that contain known spineflower populations.

The Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP project was the subject of a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) (SCH No. 2000011025) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).<sup>6,7</sup> At the time CDFW certified the EIR portion of the EIS/EIR in December 2010, it also adopted the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for the RMDP/SCP

<sup>5</sup> Written communication, Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Public Library, September 16, 2013; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

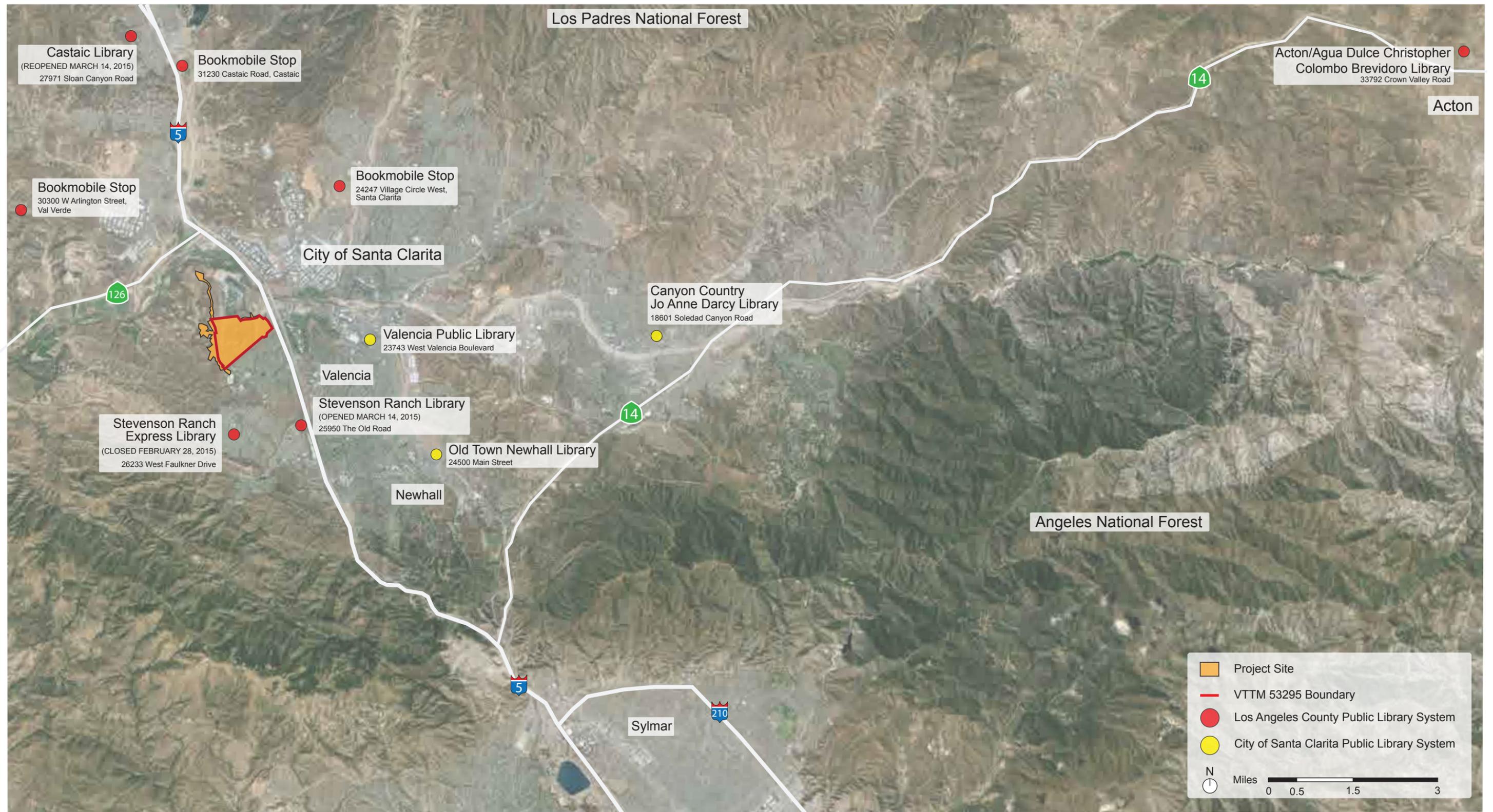
<sup>6</sup> Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan, Final Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report, June 2010.

<sup>7</sup> The California Department of Fish and Game was officially renamed the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as of January 1, 2013.

project. This regulatory plan, required under CEQA, describes the mitigation measures, monitoring, and/or reporting plan for the Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP project (including the Entrada South Project Site). The Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR determined that library impacts would be less than significant. Thus, no mitigation measures were required.

### **b. Existing Conditions**

As illustrated in **Figure 5.19-1**, Libraries Within the Project Area, on page 5.19-7, the County Library currently provides library services to the Santa Clarita Valley area through three libraries and one bookmobile, while the City of Santa Clarita Public Library System (City Library) consists of three branches. The County Library, which would serve the Project, and the City Library are discussed below.



Note: The County Library also operates the Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile Service, which serves outlying areas of the Santa Clarita Valley.

## (1) Los Angeles County Public Library System

The County Library operates facilities and services in both unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County. As previously discussed, the Project Site is located within the County Library's Planning Area 1: Santa Clarita Valley. More specifically, until recently, the Project Site was located within the defined service area of the Stevenson Ranch Express Library, which closed on February 28, 2015. A new Stevenson Ranch Library, which replaces the express library and will serve the Project, opened in March 2015.<sup>8,9</sup> The other facilities in Planning Area 1 include the Castaic Library, the Acton/Agua Dulce Christopher Colombo Brevidoro Library, and the Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile mobile book service. However, the Acton/Agua Dulce Christopher Colombo Brevidoro Library is located over 20 miles from the Project Site, and future Project residents may not be inclined to use that facility.<sup>10</sup> Each of the nearby facilities is described further below.

### (a) Castaic Library

The Castaic Library, located at 27971 Sloan Canyon Road in Castaic, is approximately 4.3 miles northwest of the Project Site. This library is approximately 6,985 square feet in size, contains a total of approximately 44,000 items in its collection, and has 22 public use computers available.<sup>11</sup> Based on the Castaic Library's service area population of 22,243, the Castaic Library does not currently meet the service level guidelines for facility size, books, and other library materials.<sup>12</sup> The library is currently undergoing expansion to 12,250 square feet, following which it will be able to serve 24,500 people based on the County Library's service level guidelines with respect to facility size. The library closed on June 21, 2013 but fully reopened in March 2015.<sup>13</sup> While the

<sup>8</sup> In telephone communication with Mosie Blow, Administrative Assistant III, Los Angeles County Public Library System, on October 23, 2013, it was reported that the Castaic Library would serve the Project. Discussion of the new Stevenson Ranch Library, which will now serve the Project, was updated via electronic communication, Elsa Munoz, Head Support Services, Los Angeles County Public Library, February 27, 2015; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

<sup>9</sup> County of Los Angeles Public Library, Stevenson Ranch Express Library, [www.colapublib.org/libs/stevensonranch/](http://www.colapublib.org/libs/stevensonranch/), accessed March 24, 2015.

<sup>10</sup> Electronic communication, Los Angeles County Public Library, February 27, 2015; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

<sup>11</sup> Data current as of March 3, 2015. Source: Written communication, Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Public Library System, September 16, 2013; electronic communication, Elsa Munoz, Head Support Services, Los Angeles County Public Library, March 3, 2015; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

<sup>12</sup> Based on 2000 U.S. Census data. Source: Written communication, Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Public Library, September 16, 2013; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

<sup>13</sup> County of Los Angeles Public Library, Castaic Library, [www.colapublib.org/libs/castaic/index.php](http://www.colapublib.org/libs/castaic/index.php), accessed March 24, 2015.

Castaic Library was closed, temporary library service was available at 27955 Sloan Canyon Road.<sup>14</sup>

**(b) Stevenson Ranch Library**

Until recently, the 480-square-foot Stevenson Ranch Express Library was located at 26233 West Faulkner Drive in Stevenson Ranch, approximately 1.75 miles south of the Project Site. The express library closed on February 28, 2015.<sup>15</sup> As described above, a new Stevenson Ranch Library opened in March 2015 and will serve the Project. The new library is located at 25950 The Old Road in Stevenson Ranch and is approximately 12,000 square feet in size, with a collection of approximately 47,000 library materials and 34 public access computers.<sup>16</sup> The new library replaces the Stevenson Ranch Express Library. Based on the Stevenson Ranch Library's current service area population of 10,970 residents, the new library meets the service level guidelines for facility size, books, and other materials.

**(c) Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile Mobile Library Service**

A bookmobile service is provided to outlying areas of the Santa Clarita Valley, such as Val Verde, parts of Castaic, Gorman, and Lebec. This bookmobile consists of one vehicle and contains 10,666 items in its collection.<sup>17</sup>

**(d) Library Funding**

Funding sources for the County Library consist of, in descending proportions, property taxes, County General Fund allocation, a special tax, and revenues from fines, fees, and other miscellaneous sources.<sup>18</sup> For several years, the Board of Supervisors has made an allocation from the County General Fund for library services. However, there is no guarantee of ongoing funding from the County General Fund as a specific budget allocation. Decisions on funding for the public library are made on an annual basis by the

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<sup>14</sup> County of Los Angeles Public Library, Castaic Library, [www.colapublib.org/libs/castaic/index.php](http://www.colapublib.org/libs/castaic/index.php), accessed September 20, 2013 (temporary library location no longer listed as of February 24, 2015).

<sup>15</sup> County of Los Angeles Public Library, Stevenson Ranch Express Library, [www.colapublib.org/libs/stevensonranch/](http://www.colapublib.org/libs/stevensonranch/), accessed February 24, 2015.

<sup>16</sup> Electronic communication, Elsa Munoz, Head Support Services, Los Angeles County Public Library, February 27, 2015; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

<sup>17</sup> Written communication, Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Public Library, September 16, 2013; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

<sup>18</sup> Written communication, Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Public Library, September 16, 2013; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

Board of Supervisors based on total available funding for all County services. The funding in the County Library's operating budget does not provide for the general replacement or expansion of library facilities. Currently, the only funding available for the replacement or expansion of library facilities is that generated from the County's Library Facilities Mitigation Fee.

As previously discussed, the County Board of Supervisors has established a permanent Library Facilities Mitigation Fee to mitigate impacts to County Library services. Currently, the applicable fee is \$866.00 per new residential unit; however, the County is currently in the process of updating this fee, and the fee obligation for the Project Applicant may vary based on the fee in effect at the time building permits are issued.

The County Board of Supervisors also has adopted a community facilities district for extended library services and facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County and 11 cities, including the Santa Clarita Valley, which assesses an annual special tax for library services. For the 2014–2015 fiscal year, the special tax is \$29.31 per parcel.<sup>19</sup>

## (2) City of Santa Clarita Public Library System

The City of Santa Clarita is no longer a part of the County Public Library System, effective July 1, 2011.<sup>20</sup> As the Project Site would be officially served by the County Library system, discussion of the City Library System is provided herein for informational and cumulative impact purposes only. Further, it is noted that use of the City's three branches (described below) is not limited to City residents; any California resident can register for a City library card with proper identification.<sup>21</sup>

As shown in **Figure 5.19-1**, Libraries Within the Project Area, the Valencia Library is located at 23743 West Valencia Boulevard in Valencia, approximately 1.7 miles east of the Project Site. The Old Town Newhall Library is located at 24500 Main Street in Santa Clarita, approximately 4 miles southeast of the Project Site. The Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library is located at 18601 Soledad Canyon Road in Canyon Country,

<sup>19</sup> Written communication, Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Public Library System, September 16, 2013; electronic communication, Elsa Munoz, Head Support Services, Los Angeles County Public Library, February 27, 2015; see **Appendix 5.19** of this Draft EIR.

<sup>20</sup> County of Los Angeles Public Library, Santa Clarita Libraries Transition Information, [www.colapublib.org/sctransition/index.html](http://www.colapublib.org/sctransition/index.html), accessed February 24, 2015.

<sup>21</sup> City of Santa Clarita Public Library, Borrowing Info, [www.santaclaritalibrary.com/borrowing-information/#card](http://www.santaclaritalibrary.com/borrowing-information/#card), accessed February 24, 2015.

approximately 7 miles east of the Project Site.<sup>22</sup> In addition, the City has plans to purchase a site for a new public library in Downtown Newhall.<sup>23</sup>

### (3) County Development Monitoring System

The summary of existing conditions provided above, which includes existing facility and capacity data at the libraries serving the Project Site and in the surrounding area, responds to DMS criteria regarding library service.

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

### a. Methodology

The following methodology was used to evaluate potential library impacts: (1) identify the primary library that would serve the Project; (2) project the future population associated with the Project; and (3) determine the extent to which the Project's contribution to the service population would impact the library's service capacity.

### b. Project Design Elements/Project Design Features

As discussed in **Section 5.14**, Population, Housing, and Employment, of this Draft EIR, the proposed 339 single-family units and 1,235 multi-family units would generate an estimated residential population of 5,288 persons. In compliance with County Code, the Project Applicant would pay the applicable Library Facilities Mitigation Fee in effect at the time residential building permits are issued to offset demand for library services generated by this population. Additionally, properties within the Project Site would be subject to the special parcel tax levied in the community facilities district, which funds extended library services and facilities in the County's unincorporated areas. Beyond these aspects of the Project, no specific Project Design Features (PDFs) are proposed with respect to library services.

### c. Significance Thresholds

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and other relevant criteria, the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning has determined that a project would have a potentially significant impact related to library services based on the following criteria:

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<sup>22</sup> *City of Santa Clarita Public Library, Hours & Locations, [www.santaclaritalibrary.com/contact-us/hours-locations/](http://www.santaclaritalibrary.com/contact-us/hours-locations/), accessed February 24, 2015.*

<sup>23</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012, Chapter 2: Land Use Element, p. 44.*

**Threshold 5.19-1:** Would the Project create or exacerbate a failure to meet acceptable service ratios or established performance objectives, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives for libraries?

#### d. Project Impacts

**Threshold 5.19-1:** Would the Project create or exacerbate a failure to meet acceptable service ratios or established performance objectives, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives for libraries?

Occupancy of the Project's residential units would increase the demand for library services at the Stevenson Ranch Library and potentially other nearby libraries, thereby increasing the need for additional library facility space, library items, and computers. Specifically, as discussed in **Section 5.14**, Population, Housing, and Employment, of this Draft EIR, the proposed 339 single-family units and 1,235 multi-family units would generate an estimated residential population of 5,288 persons.<sup>24</sup> Based on the County Library's adopted service level guidelines, it is anticipated that the Project's estimated residential population would require a total of 2,644 square feet of library facility space, 14,542 library material items, and 5 public computers.

Following completion of the new Stevenson Ranch Library, the branch would be able to serve 24,000 people, which meets current service needs. The Project's residential population of 5,288 persons in combination with the current service area population of 10,970, for a total population of 16,258 persons, would likewise fall within the planned service population size.<sup>25</sup> Additionally, with a collection of approximately 47,000 library materials and 34 public access computers, the new Stevenson Ranch Library would meet the relevant service level guidelines for materials and computers, including for the Project.<sup>26</sup> Moreover, as previously discussed, the Project Applicant would pay the

<sup>24</sup> Based on 2010 U.S. Census data, the average household size within the Stevenson Ranch community (Census Tract 9203.38) located south of the Project Site is 3.36 persons per household. Based on this average, the Project's proposed 1,574 housing units are estimated to generate a residential population of approximately 5,288 persons.

<sup>25</sup> Based on the following calculation: (10,970 persons [the Stevenson Ranch Library's current service area population] + 5,288 persons [the Project's residential population]) \* 0.5 gross square foot per capita = 8,129 square feet. Thus, upon buildout of the Project, the new Stevenson Ranch Library's size of 12,000 square feet would meet the County Library's service level guidelines with respect to facility size.

<sup>26</sup> Based on the following calculations: 16,258 persons [the Stevenson Ranch Library's current service area population + the Project's residential population] \* 2.75 library materials per capita = 44,710 library (Footnote continued on next page)

applicable Library Facilities Mitigation Fee, the purpose of which is “to mitigate any significant adverse impacts of increased residential development upon public library facilities as required by” CEQA.

In addition, as also discussed in **Section 5.14**, Population, Housing, and Employment, of this Draft EIR, approximately 2,700 jobs are anticipated to be created by the Project. Given the retail nature of much of this employment, it is unlikely that a substantial portion of Project employees would relocate to the Project area to live closer to their job. Additionally, a nominal number of Project employees may utilize library services in the area. However, these employees would be more likely to use library facilities near their homes during non-work hours. As such, any direct or indirect demand for library services generated by Project employees would be negligible.

Aside from the new Stevenson Ranch Library, Project residents and employees would have the option to utilize the nearby Castaic Library, the Santa Clarita Valley Bookmobile, and the Acton/Agua Dulce Christopher Colombo Brevidoro Library, all located in the Santa Clarita Valley, as well as other County libraries. In addition, the Project’s residential units would be equipped to receive individual internet service, which provides information and research capabilities that studies have shown reduce demand at physical library locations.<sup>27,28,29</sup>

With respect to funding, should the County use the Library Facilities Mitigation Fee paid by the Project Applicant to fund library improvements in the Project area, additional library capacity would be created which could serve the Project. Properties within the Project Site also would be subject to the special parcel tax levied in the community facilities district, which funds extended library services and facilities in the County’s unincorporated areas. Moreover, the need for additional library resources in the area may be addressed through the County’s General Fund allocation process. In addition, the Project would not

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*materials (rounded up). Also, 16,258 persons [the Stevenson Ranch Library’s current service area population + the Project’s residential population] \* 1 computer per 1,000 capita = 17 computers (rounded up). Thus, upon buildout of the Project, the new Stevenson Ranch Library’s collection of approximately 47,000 library materials and 34 public computers would meet the County Library’s service level guidelines with respect to library materials and computers.*

<sup>27</sup> “To Read or Not to Read,” see p. 10: “Literacy reading declined significantly in a period of rising Internet use,” [www.nea.gov/research/toread.pdf](http://www.nea.gov/research/toread.pdf), accessed February 24, 2015.

<sup>28</sup> “How and Why are Libraries Changing?” Denise A. Troll, Distinguished Fellow, Digital Library Federation, <http://old.diglib.org/use/whitepaper.htm>, accessed February 24, 2015.

<sup>29</sup> “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](http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub120/reports/pub120/contents.html), accessed February 24, 2015.

conflict with or impede implementation of the applicable goals and policies related to libraries set forth in the Los Angeles County General Plan and the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan.

Based on the preceding analysis and with payment of the applicable Library Facilities Mitigation Fee, impacts with respect to library services would be less than significant.

It is also noted that a future public library must be developed within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area, located just west of the Project Site. In accordance with Mitigation Measure (MM) SP 4.19-1 set forth in the MMRP for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan provided in **Appendix 2G** of this Draft EIR, The Newhall Land and Farming Company (i.e., the Project Applicant) will dedicate a library site within Mission Village and provide funding for the library site, construction, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and materials to the County Librarian.<sup>30</sup> Given its proximity to the Project Site, this facility may help meet any additional demand for library services generated by the Project.

### **(1) County Development Monitoring System**

The analysis above responds to DMS criteria regarding library service. Specifically, although the estimated cost of further library expansion is currently unknown, such costs could be covered, at least in part, by the Library Facilities Mitigation Fee to be paid by the Project Applicant. Per County Code Section 22.72.010, the purpose of the fee is “to mitigate any significant adverse impacts of increased residential development upon public library facilities....” Accordingly, payment of the fee is intended to help provide an acceptable level of library service, thereby meeting DMS criteria. As such, the Project is consistent with DMS policies as they relate to library service.

## **4. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The geographic context for the cumulative impact analysis of libraries is the Santa Clarita Valley. Anticipated growth within the Valley would cumulatively increase the demand for library services. More specifically and as discussed in more detail in **Section 4.2**, Cumulative Impact Analysis Methodology, of this Draft EIR, cumulative growth through 2024 (i.e., the anticipated Project buildout year) includes growth forecasted in the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan as well as any related projects not already accounted for within the growth forecasts. **Table 4.2-1**, Related Projects, and **Figure 4.2-1**, Related

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<sup>30</sup> *MM SP 4.19-1 calls for up to two public libraries within the Specific Plan area; however, based on ongoing negotiations with the County, one larger facility is currently planned.*

Projects Map, in **Section 4.2**, Cumulative Impact Analysis Methodology, identify 67 related projects proposed or already approved within the Project vicinity.

While much of this growth would occur within the unincorporated areas serviced by the County Library system, a portion would occur within the City of Santa Clarita and would be serviced by the City Library. Hence, additional library resources (in terms of facility space, material items, and public computers) would be needed in both the County and the City in accordance with their respective service guidelines in order to accommodate future populations.

The Area Plan acknowledges the need to expand library resources in the Valley to accommodate future growth and development, as follows: “[a]s population increases based on growth anticipated by the Area Plan, it will be necessary to increase funding to support library development. In order to meet the library needs of new development in the Valley, both the City and County assess a development impact fee for library construction. Other funding sources include property taxes, bond measures, and voter-approved special taxes.”<sup>31</sup> Payment of the County’s Library Facilities Mitigation Fee, which funds library construction and enhancements in order to mitigate the impact of residential development upon public library facilities, by the Project Applicant would mitigate the Project’s contribution to cumulative impacts. Like the Project Applicant, applicants for all future development projects in the County or City would be expected to pay the appropriate fee as well. With payment of such fees, the Project’s contribution to cumulative impacts related to library services would be less than significant.

It is further noted that new libraries planned in the Valley also would help to meet future demands. In particular, the Mission Village library will be designed to meet the library needs of future populations associated with the Specific Plan communities, as determined in consultation with the County.

#### **a. County Development Monitoring System**

The analysis above is consistent with DMS criteria related to library service. Specifically, based on payment of the appropriate Library Facilities Mitigation Fees by applicants of new developments, an adequate level of service would be provided to the Project in addition to future demands in the area. Accordingly, the Project would be consistent with DMS policies as they relate to library service.

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<sup>31</sup> *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan: One Valley One Vision 2012, Chapter 2: Land Use Element, p. 44.*

## **5. MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **a. Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP Mitigation Measures**

The Newhall Ranch RMDP/SCP EIS/EIR determined that library impacts would be less than significant. Thus, no mitigation measures were required.

### **b. Entrada South Project-Level Mitigation Measures**

With payment of the applicable Library Facilities Mitigation Fee, Project-level impacts with regard to library services would be less than significant. Therefore, no Project-specific mitigation measures would be required. Additionally, no cumulative mitigation measures would be required.

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

With payment of the applicable Library Facilities Mitigation Fee, Project-level impacts to library services would be less than significant. In addition, cumulative library services impacts would be less than significant.