

**Lyons Canyon Ranch  
Draft Environmental Impact Report**

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## **5.18 LIBRARY SERVICES**

Information in this section was derived from the Los Angeles County Development Monitoring System (DMS) and from communication with representatives of the Los Angeles County Public Library.

### **5.18.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

#### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Los Angeles County Public Library operates facilities and services countywide in both unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County.

#### **SANTA CLARITA VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

The Los Angeles County Public Library services the entire Santa Clarita Valley with three libraries and mobile library services. The three libraries include the Valencia Library, the Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library, and the Newhall Library. A description of the three libraries and the mobile book service as of July 2004 follows.<sup>1</sup>

##### **Valencia Library**

The Valencia Library, located at 23743 West Valencia Boulevard in Valencia, serves as the main library within the Santa Clarita Valley and is located approximately 3.4 miles north of the project site. This library is a government publications repository. The library is approximately 23,966 square feet in size and contains 284,928 items including 17,255 audio recordings; 14,698 video recordings; 25,000 government publications; 332 magazine and newspaper subscriptions; other special materials such as telephone directories, microforms, topographic maps, local history information; and parenting information materials in its collection. The library maintains a staff of 13 full-time employees, 40 part-time employees, and 10 volunteers who work 35 hours per week.

##### **Newhall Library**

The Newhall Library, located at 22704 West 9th Street in Newhall, is approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the project site, serves as a branch library to the Valencia Library. This library is approximately 4,482 square feet in size and the current collection totals 81,243 items. This collection is comprised of 71,730 books; 5,227 audio recordings including audio books; 4,247 video recordings and DVDs; 83 magazine and newspaper subscriptions; and a local history collection. The library maintains a staff of four full-time employees, 11 part-time employees, and four volunteers who work 21 hours per week.

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<sup>1</sup> County of Los Angeles Library. *Community Libraries*. County Library Website: <http://www.colapublib.org/libs>. Accessed July 20, 2004.

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### Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library

The Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library, located at 18601 Soledad Canyon Road in Canyon Country, is approximately 7 miles northeast of the project site, also serves as a branch library to the Valencia Library.

The Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library is a 17,000-square foot facility, with the library utilizing approximately 12,864 square feet, while the other 4,136 square feet have been leased to College of the Canyons by the City of Santa Clarita. The library contains a total of 101,439 items, including 87,706 adult and children's books; 102 newspaper and magazine subscriptions, an audiovisual collection with 7,273 audio recordings including books-on-tape; and 6,358 video recordings including DVDs. The library also has telephone books for most geographic areas in California; pamphlets; and a local history collection. The library maintains a staff of five full-time employees, 20 part-time employees, and five volunteers who work 26 hours per week.

### Mobile Library Services

A mobile library service is also provided to the outlying areas of the Valley, such as Castaic, Acton, Agua Dulce, Val Verde and the Friendly Valley Senior Community. This mobile library consists of one vehicle and contains 10,940 books, 1,442 audio recordings, 1,964 video recordings, and nine magazines. The project site is not in an outlying area.

## FUNDING AND LEVEL OF SERVICE

Funding sources for the Public Library consist of, in descending proportions: property taxes, County General Fund allocation, a special tax, and revenue from fines, fees and other miscellaneous sources.<sup>2</sup> The Board of Supervisors has for several years made an allocation from the County General Fund. 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 Board of Supervisors based on total available funding for all County services.

In 1994, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a community facilities district for extended library services and facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County and 12 cities, including the unincorporated area of the Santa Clarita Valley. On June 3, 1997, Proposition L was passed by a two-thirds majority, which assesses a special yearly tax of \$22.00 per parcel for library services.<sup>3</sup> Proposition L affects the unincorporated areas and eleven cities, including the City of Santa Clarita.

On October 27, 1998, the County Board of Supervisors established a permanent library fee of \$569.87 per residential unit, on all new residential development in the Santa Clarita Valley to mitigate impacts to County Library facilities. Currently, the County Library assesses a

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<sup>2</sup> Per information from the *Riverpark Draft Environmental Impact Report*, written correspondence from Michele Mathieu, County of Los Angeles Public Library, Library Headquarters, November 26, 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Per information from the *Riverpark Draft Environmental Impact Report*, telephone interview with Fred Hungerford, Staff Services, Los Angeles County Public Library, July 7, 1997.

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mitigation fee of \$665.00 per residential unit, which is subject to an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment.

Currently, the only funding available for the replacement or expansion of library facilities is that generated from the developer fee program. The developer fees collected in the Santa Clarita planning area are currently insufficient for the construction of new facilities.<sup>4</sup>

The County Library has adopted a planning standard of 0.50 gross square feet and 2.0 items (books, periodicals, audio cassettes, videos, etc.) per capita. Currently, Valley-wide library square footage totals 41,672 square feet and 481,965 items. The library facilities and books and other materials in the Santa Clarita Valley area are at 0.23 square feet per capita and 2.47 items per capita, respectively.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, the Santa Clarita Valley area does not meet the County Public Library's desired planning standard for library space, but exceeds the standard for library items.

Other library resources may be available to area residents, including those located at local colleges (e.g., College of the Canyons, Masters College, and California Institute of the Arts), high schools, and junior high schools. These services augment County facilities by providing some residents with alternative sources for library materials. However, public and private educational facilities have rules and regulations concerning availability and general public use of library facilities. Some of these library facilities charge a fee to use their materials, and their use can be restricted.

### 5.18.2 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS

- ◆ Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist form used during preparation of the project Initial Study, which is contained in Appendix A of this EIR. The Initial Study includes questions relating to library services. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if one or more of the following occurs: Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.

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<sup>4</sup> Per information from the *Riverpark Draft Environmental Impact Report*, written correspondence from Michele Mathieu, County of Los Angeles Public Library, Library Headquarters, November 26, 2002.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

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### **5.18.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

- ◆ ***DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD INCREASE DEMAND ON LIBRARY SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY, THEREBY INCREASING THE EXISTING NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND BOOKS.***

***Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation:*** Significant Impact.

***Impact Analysis:*** The proposed project would involve the construction of 190 dwelling units with an estimated population of 585 residents (refer to Section 5.21, Population/Housing/Employment)

The Santa Clarita Valley area is currently under-served with regard to library facilities. Based on current conditions, the level of service provided by existing library facilities in the Santa Clarita Valley is not adequate to meet the increased demand of the proposed project. Specifically, based on Los Angeles County Library planning guidelines of 0.50 square feet of library facilities per capita and 2.0 library books per capita, it is anticipated that the proposed project population of 585 would require a total of 293 gross square feet of library facilities and 1,170 additional materials for the library system's collection.

Funding sources for the County Library consist of property taxes, County General Fund allocation, a special tax, and revenue from fines, fees and other miscellaneous sources collected by the City of Santa Clarita. Residents that would occur due to development of the proposed project would generate new tax revenues. However, per Michele Mathieu, of the County of Los Angeles Public Library, this level of increased funding addresses only library operations and, because of the uncertainty of the level of General Fund contribution, it is not adequate to offset the impact of the proposed project on the County Library's ability to construct new libraries and purchase new items (books, periodicals, audio cassettes, videos, etc.).<sup>6</sup> As such, the revenues collected would not adequately cover all the costs of serving the proposed project, and it would create a significant impact on the library system if library facility construction and items are not provided.

However, it is the opinion of the County Board of Supervisors and the County Public Library that payment of the library mitigation fee of \$665.00 per residential unit, would mitigate new development impacts on the County Public Library to a less than significant level. Based on the current library mitigation fee of \$665.00 per unit, the estimated fees that would be collected from the project to pay for new library construction and item purchases would be \$126,350, if all proposed units are constructed.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

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<sup>6</sup> Written correspondence from Michele Mathieu, County of Los Angeles Public Library, Library Headquarters, November 26, 2002.

<sup>7</sup> This calculation is determined by multiplying \$665.00 by 190 residential units, which totals \$126,350.

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- LIB1      The project applicant shall pay the standard Los Angeles County Library mitigation fee of \$665 per dwelling unit, or other amount determined to be appropriate by the County of Los Angeles Public Library at the time of building permit issuance.

*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Less Than Significant Impact.

#### **5.18.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

- ◆      ***DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND RELATED PROJECTS WOULD INCREASE DEMANDS FOR LIBRARY SERVICES AND MATERIALS IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY.***

*Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation:* Significant Impact.

**Impact Analysis:** The proposed project and related projects would create additional demand for library services, facilities, and materials within the Santa Clarita Valley. Nonetheless, as previously discussed, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors considers payment of fees for new residential development projects adequate mitigation for library service impacts. Based on the amount of residential development proposed as part of the proposed project and related projects, the County would require payment of \$665 per dwelling unit to mitigate library service impacts. Given that the proposed project and related projects would pay requisite library fees to the County, cumulative impacts to library facilities and services would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:** Please Refer to Mitigation Measure LIB1. No additional mitigation is required.

*Level of Significance After Mitigation:* Less than significant.