

INTRODUCTION

This section of the EIR addresses potential impacts to library services as a result of the implementation of the proposed project. Information for this section was obtained from the City of Oxnard Public Library and the fiscal impact study prepared for the RiverPark Specific Plan by Urban Futures, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Oxnard Public Library Facilities

The Oxnard Public Library operates three facilities and provides library services to the residents of the City. The Main Library, located in the Oxnard Civic Center on A Street between Second and Third Streets, is approximately 72,000 square feet in size and was completed at a cost of \$12,800,000 in 1992.¹ The Colonial mini-branch is the closest library facility to the RiverPark Project site. Located on 1500 Camino del Sol, this library serves as a satellite to the main library. The Oxnard Public Library System contains nearly 400,000 volumes (books, periodicals, cassettes, videos, etc.) in its collection. The library serves over 78,000 registered borrowers and has an attendance of over 500,000.² The library's operating hours is as follows: Sundays - closed; Mon-Thurs 10:30 AM to 8:00 PM, Sat 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. With a staff of 30 full-time equivalent permanent employees, the library's operating budget for 1999-2000 is \$2.4 million. The library operates under the management of a director with a five-member advisory Library Board, active Friends of the Library group, and a newly formed library foundation.³

In April of 2001 the Oxnard Public Library created a Strategic Plan of Service as a catalyst for focusing attention on future issues of the Library System. Highlighted in the Strategic Plan of Service are six Strategic Issues that provide the context for establishing the goals of the Library Strategic Plan. These six issues are:

1. Maintain a community focus as the community undergoes rapid social and economic change;
2. Enhance and support technology-based services and electronic information resources;
3. Provide services, resources and programs that celebrate the diversity of the community;

¹ Oxnard Public Library. (<http://www.oxnard.org/info.html>) February 2001.

² City of Oxnard. (<http://www.ci.oxnard.ca.us/libservices.html>) February 2001.

³ Oxnard Public Library. (<http://www.oxnard.org/rfp.html>) July 2001.

4. Make the Library a teaching and learning organization capable of responding to new service demands;
5. Evaluation the Library environment and the need for additional hours and facilities;and
6. Develop a marketing strategy to create an awareness of Library resources and events.

Since 1995 there has been a steady increase growth of 24 percent in customers and an 18 percent increase in checked out items. There has been a steady increase in the usage of Library facilities as the population of Oxnard increases.

Other library resources are available to area residents and include libraries in nearby cities (e.g., Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula), Ventura County libraries; libraries located at local colleges (e.g., Oxnard College, Ventura College), high schools and junior high schools. This library services augment City facilities by providing some residents alternative sources for library materials. However, many of the library facilities listed above may charge a fee or restrict use of their materials by nonresidents or non-students. The closest such facility is the Albert H. Soliz Library of the Ventura County Library System. This library is located at 2820 Jourdan Street, which is 0.4 miles from the project site.

Funding

Funding sources for the Oxnard Library System primarily consists of City General Fund allocation and revenue from fines, fees, and other miscellaneous sources. Allocations of the General Fund for the Public Library System are made on an annual basis by the City Council based on total available funding for all City services.

PROJECT IMPACTS

Thresholds of Significance

Based on the goals contained in the Public Facilities Element of General Plan, the City of Oxnard considers the impact of a project on library services to be significant if:

- the City's library system does not have the capacity to serve the project.

Impact Analysis

Development of the proposed would result in a total of 2,805 dwelling units on the project site. According to the fiscal impact study conducted for the proposed Specific Plan, approximately 7,220 new residents would be generated by build-out of the RiverPark Specific Plan. This increase in residents would result in an increase in the demand for library materials and space. The City's Public Library system currently contains adequate capacity to serve the City.

District D of the proposed Specific Plan permits the development of a storefront library facility to serve the residents in the Specific Plan Area, as well as residents throughout the City. The storefront library facility would serve a similar purpose as the existing branch libraries. While the Main Library serves as main hub for information and library services, the branch libraries provide services for the needs of the local neighborhood. The storefront branch library permitted in District D in the Specific Plan Area would serve local library service needs of the Specific Plan Area and the surrounding El Rio West neighborhood. As such, no impact related to library facilities would be expected.

Funding for the operation of library facilities is provided by allocations from the City's General Fund. At the current service level, the cost of providing library services to the City is \$18.53 per resident. Based on the fiscal impact study prepared by the City, revenues accrued to the City's General Fund from sales taxes, property taxes, etc., would meet the capital outlay for library service as well as fully funding all other necessary urban services required by the Specific Plan.⁴ Therefore, the increased demand for library services could be met through the allocation of revenue from the City's General Fund. Given that total project generated revenue to the City would exceed total projected City costs for the provision of all governmental services, the fiscal impact of the project is considered somewhat beneficial. As such, no significant impacts are expected as the cost to operate and maintain library services to the site would be covered by established funding sources.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Development of the projects on the related project list and all other land uses allowed by the 2020 General Plan would result in an increase in residents and an associated increase in demand for library services. The population increase associated with this growth would increase the demand for library services throughout the City. The General Plan indicates that the City plans to meet this increased demand by establishing additional mini-branch libraries in other areas of the City. Additional mini-branch libraries

⁴ Urban Futures, Inc.: *RiverPark Specific Plan Proposal Fiscal Impact Analysis*. November 2000.

are identified in the Northwest Community and Northeast Community Specific Plan areas. No significant cumulative impacts on library services are anticipated given the current level of planning for the expansion of the City's library services.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required as no significant impacts have been identified.

UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS

No unavoidable significant impacts to library services are anticipated as a result of the RiverPark Project.