

Technical Report
LAX Master Plan EIS/EIR

16d. Public Services Libraries

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Prepared for:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report provides background information related to libraries in support of the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the LAX Master Plan. This report includes a discussion of the regulations related to libraries and a description of the library facilities within the vicinity of LAX.

2.0 GENERAL APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

To assess potential effects of the proposed Master Plan alternatives on libraries, for the EIS/EIR, 1996 baseline conditions are compared with conditions that would occur with implementation of the No Action/No Project Alternative and three proposed build alternatives. Characterization of the environmental baseline includes a description of existing library facilities, including information on facility size, capacity, and service population. This information was obtained from the library agencies within the study area and published documentation.

The libraries study area for the EIS/EIR has been defined to include service areas of existing library facilities in proximity to the LAX property potentially affected by acquisition, changes in land use, or the increased demand projected for all of the proposed Master Plan alternatives. The study area includes the LAX property, the southern portion of the community of Westchester, and the northern portion of the City of El Segundo. The libraries within the study area are shown in **Figure 1**, Public Library Facilities Within Study Area. Although not within the study area, this background report includes information on library facilities within the vicinity of LAX.

The approach to evaluating impacts, for the EIS/EIR, on libraries is based on whether implementation of the proposed Master Plan build alternatives would contribute to an increase in population and demand for library service or inhibit the use of a library. Los Angeles Public Library planning standards were used to assess future library demand based on service population within the study area as it relates to the size and location of library facilities. These planning standards state that a 12,500 square foot (SF) library is able to serve a population of up to 100,000; a 10,500 SF library a population up to 50,000; and a 9,000 SF library is able to serve a population up to 35,000. Evaluating whether or not the proposed Master Plan build alternatives inhibit the use of a library within the study area is based on assessing the areas proposed for acquisition, construction, and new development. Use of a library would be inhibited if the project caused a reduction in service area population that would result in closure of a library, or the project restricted safe and convenient access to a facility. Demand for library services directly resulting from changes in on-airport employment and passenger activity is evaluated based on the current ratio of passengers and on-airport employees that are expected to visit the local libraries based on consultation with Los Angeles Public Library staff.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

3.1 Regulatory Context

Library facilities are established and governed by the jurisdiction within which they are located. Library services within the study area are operated on a city or county level in accordance with procedures and systems established by the Library of Congress and established library practices.

In an effort to overcome deficits in library space, some jurisdictions impose library impact fees on new developments. The County of Los Angeles is currently charges a fee for new residential development to improve existing libraries or help finance the development of new facilities.

Local Regulations

County Level

Library services within unincorporated Los Angeles County are provided by the County of Los Angeles Public Library (County Library). The County Library also operates branches within 52 incorporated cities located throughout Los Angeles County. The County Library is a member of the South State Cooperative Library System and operates over 80 regional and community libraries within its jurisdiction.

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The County Library has established internal departmental planning standards and goals for the provision of library service within the County of Los Angeles. These standards and goals define minimum library building size, design criteria, and service population. Current library planning standards include 0.35 SF of facility space and two library materials per capita in its service area. The County currently has a library facilities mitigation fee to mitigate impacts from new residential development (Ordinance 98-0068).¹

City Level

Within the City of Los Angeles, library services are provided by the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) which operates a Central Library, seven regional branch libraries, and 56 community branches.

In 1968, the City of Los Angeles adopted the *Public Libraries Plan* (an element of the City's General Plan) in order to establish library service and design standards criteria (i.e., service distances, size of facility, number of parking spaces, etc.) for use by governmental agencies and concerned citizens. In addition, the *Public Libraries Plan* sets forth service objectives which include: (1) to continue superior library service; (2) to develop standards for library service for each type of library; (3) to locate facilities necessary to conveniently serve present and future library users; (4) to eliminate overlapping areas of library services; (5) and to continue library service through the bookmobile system.² At present, the Los Angeles City Planning and Library Department Staff are in the process of updating the 1968 Plan.

The LAPL has established a standard or ratio to determine the appropriate amount of library square footage required to meet demands within each of its seven regions based on a range of population that would occur within a region. According to the *Environmental Impact Report for the Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework* (Framework EIR), the seven regions do not relate to the City's 36 community planning areas, and therefore, use of the LAPL standard is used on a citywide basis. At smaller levels of analysis, the Framework EIR advocates using a State of California Library standard of 0.5 SF of facility space per capita and two library materials per capita.³ **Table 1**, Library Facility Standards, identifies the Los Angeles Public Library recommended facility standards.

Table 1

Library Facility Standards

Estimated Population¹	Size of Facility (SF)	Estimated Ratio²
50,001-100,000	12,500	0.25
35,001- 50,000	10,500	0.29
25,001- 35,000	9,000	0.35
Under 25,000	Special Size	Undetermined

¹ Estimated population within a City Library region.

² Estimated ratio is determined by dividing the size of the facility by the smallest population permitted (i.e., square foot per population).

Source: Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft Environmental Impact Report, January 19, 1995.

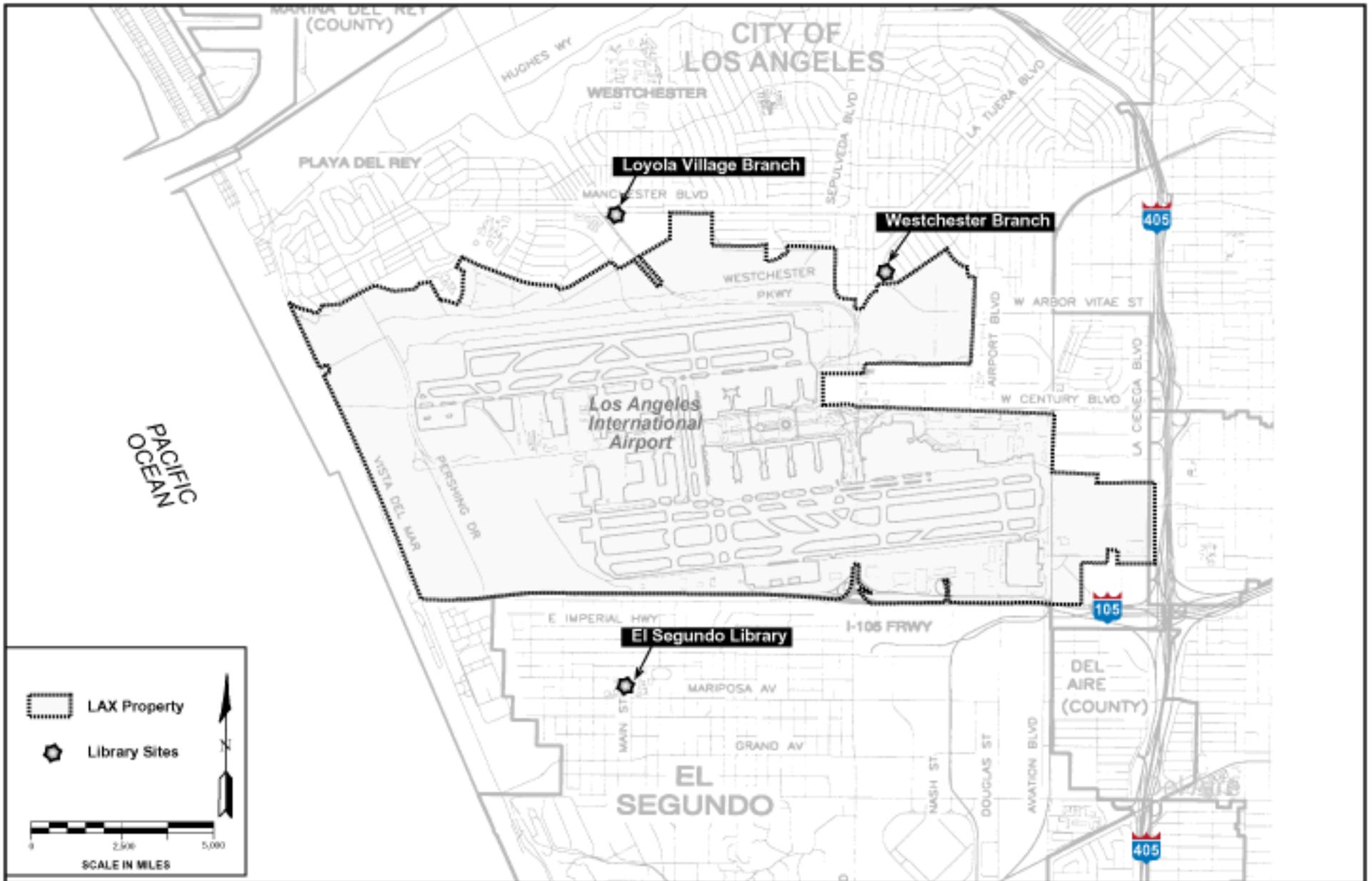
The other cities with libraries within the study area generally do not have goals or policies specific to library planning. However, the adopted General Plans, for a number of these jurisdictions, include policies relating to provision of adequate public services, including those provided by libraries. The City of Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework includes library-related policies to encourage:

- ◆ The expansion of non-traditional library services, such as book mobiles and other book sharing strategies.
- ◆ The inclusion of library facilities in mixed-use areas, such as regional centers and in transit stations.

¹ Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 22.72.030.

² City of Los Angeles Public Libraries Plan, 1968, an Element of the Master Plan of the City of Los Angeles.

³ Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework Draft Environmental Impact Report, January 19, 1995.



**Los Angeles International Airport
Master Plan**

**Public Library Facilities
Within Study Area**

**Figure
1**

- ◆ The development of a citywide policy for locating non-English language permanent collections; and the development of library standards dealing with facility floor area, collection per resident, and service radius.⁴

3.2 Existing Conditions

County of Los Angeles

Within the vicinity of LAX, four Los Angeles County libraries serving both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County have been identified. Some of these libraries are located within unincorporated areas of the county, while others are located within incorporated cities and are maintained by the County.

- ◆ The Hawthorne Library is located within the City of Hawthorne, southeast of LAX. This 16,949 SF facility serves a population of 76,590, of which 44,333 are registered borrowers, and has a capacity of 76,590. The facility maintains a 153,399-volume collection and a staff of 14.4 full-time equivalent employees.
- ◆ The Lennox Library is located east of LAX in unincorporated Los Angeles County. This 4,657 SF facility serves a population of 24,098, of which 17,656 are registered borrowers. The facility's capacity is 24,098, and plans provide for the facility to be expanded to a total of 10,000 SF. The facility includes a 42,406-volume collection and a staff of 4.7 full-time equivalent employees.
- ◆ The Wiseburn Library is located within the City of Hawthorne, south of the easternmost portion of LAX. This 5,000 SF facility serves a population of 15,300, of which 6,301 are registered borrowers. The facility's capacity is 18,775. The facility includes a 41,296-volume collection and a staff of 4.63 full-time equivalent employees.
- ◆ The Woodcrest Library is located near the intersection of Normandie and Century Boulevard, east of LAX. This 7,254 SF facility serves a population of 42,677, of which 14,717 are registered borrowers, and a capacity of 42,677. The facility includes a 50,004-volume collection and a staff of 8.09 full-time equivalent employees.

City of Los Angeles

Two City of Los Angeles libraries - the Loyola Village Branch Library (7114 West Manchester Avenue) and the Westchester Branch Library (8946 Sepulveda Eastway) - are located within the study area. The Loyola Village Branch Library is a 4,369 SF facility with a maximum capacity to serve approximately 17,000 persons. The library currently serves an estimated 34,541 persons, thereby exceeding its service capacity by approximately 17,541 persons. The Westchester Branch Library is a 5,918 SF facility with a maximum capacity to serve approximately 23,027 persons. Approximately 3,454, or 10 percent, of the Loyola Village Branch Library patrons are estimated to be on-airport employees or passengers.⁵ The library currently serves an estimated 26,078 persons, exceeding its service capacity by 3,051 persons. Los Angeles Public Library currently has plans and committed funds to replace the Loyola Village and Westchester branches with a single 12,500 SF library,⁶ which would serve up to 100,000 persons. Once constructed, this larger consolidated library would eliminate the existing service capacity deficiency in the area and would provide excess capacity to serve future demand.

City of El Segundo

The City of El Segundo has a single main branch library, the El Segundo Main Library, within the study area that is located on Mariposa Avenue, south of LAX. With a capacity to serve up to 60,000 people, the El Segundo Main Library is operating well within its limits.⁷ Its 28,000 SF building has a collection of 135,619 volumes and serves an estimated 15,650 persons, including 12,000 registered borrowers. The El Segundo Main Library has a staff equal to 20 full-time employees.

⁴ City of Los Angeles, Citywide General Plan Framework, an Element of the City of Los Angeles General Plan, approved December 11, 1996.

⁵ Hopf, Mary, Acting Senior Librarian, Loyola Village Branch Library, Personal Communication, June 5, 2000.

⁶ Los Angeles Public Library, Bureau of Engineering, 1998 Library Bond Program December 1999 Progress Report, December 1999.

⁷ Condon, Erika, Senior Librarian, El Segundo Library, Personal Communication, January 1998.

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City of Inglewood

The City of Inglewood has three library facilities within its jurisdiction: the Inglewood Main Library, and the Crenshaw-Imperial and Morningside Park branches.

- ◆ The Main Branch, located on Manchester Boulevard east of LAX is housed within a 100,000 SF facility. The library maintains a collection of 340,000 volumes and serves a population of 81,000. Existing library facilities would allow a maximum capacity of 113,400 persons to be served.
- ◆ The Crenshaw-Imperial Branch is located near the intersection of Crenshaw Avenue and Imperial Highway. This 7,600 SF facility serves 18,000 persons and has the capacity to serve up to 25,200. This library maintains a collection of 35,000 volumes.
- ◆ The Morningside Park Branch is located near the intersection of Hawthorne and Lennox Boulevards, directly east of LAX. This branch serves approximately 15,000 people and maintains a collection of 24,000 volumes in its 2,250 SF facility.