DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
ALTADENA MAIN LIBRARY
RENOVATION PROJECT
Altadena, California

State Clearinghouse No. 2024120781

Prepared for:

Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Project Applicant:

Altadena Library District
600 E. Mariposa St.
Altadena, California 91001

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
3151 Airway Avenue, Suite F208
Costa Mesa, California 92626
(949) 261-5414

September 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **1**

CHAPTER 1.0 – INTRODUCTION **1**
1.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT 1
1.2 SCOPE OF THE EIR 2
1.3 DRAFT EIR ORGANIZATION 4
1.4 AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT EIR 5
1.5 AGENCY COMMENTS 5

CHAPTER 2.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING **6**
2.1 PROJECT APPLICANT 6
2.2 PROJECT LOCATION 6
2.3 REGIONAL SETTING 6
2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES 6
2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION 7
2.5.1 Project Construction 9
2.5.2 Project Design Features/Best Management Practices 9
2.6 LAND USE 13
2.6.1 Existing Site Uses 13
2.6.2 Surrounding Land Uses 13
2.7 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS 13
2.7.1 Reviewing Agencies 13
2.8 CUMULATIVE SCENARIO 13

CHAPTER 3.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS **15**
3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ADDRESSED 15
3.2 TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS ANALYSIS 15
3.3 AIR QUALITY 17
3.3.1 Existing Environmental Setting 17
3.3.2 Regulatory Setting 19
3.3.3 Thresholds of Significance 20
3.3.4 Methodology 21
3.3.5 Project Impact Analysis 21
3.3.6 Cumulative Impacts 25
3.3.7 Mitigation Measures 26
3.3.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation 26
3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES 27
3.4.1 Existing Environmental Setting 27
3.4.2 Regulatory Setting 28
3.4.3 Thresholds of Significance 34
3.4.4 Methodology 34

3.4.5 Project Impact Analysis....34
3.4.6 Cumulative Impacts....37
3.4.7 Mitigation Measures....37
3.4.8 Level of Significance Before Mitigation....38
3.4.9 Level of Significance After Mitigation....38
3.5 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS....39
3.5.1 Background Information....39
3.5.2 Greenhouse Gasses....39
3.5.3 Regulatory Setting....40
3.5.4 Methodology....48
3.5.5 Project Impact Analysis....48
3.5.6 Cumulative Impacts....49
3.5.7 Mitigation Measures....50
3.5.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation....50
3.6 NOISE....51
3.6.1 Existing Environmental Setting....51
3.6.2 Regulatory Setting....52
3.6.3 Thresholds of Significance....54
3.6.4 Methodology....54
3.6.5 Project Impact Analysis....54
3.6.6 Cumulative Impacts....56
3.6.7 Mitigation Measures....57
3.6.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation....57
3.7 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES....58
3.7.1 Existing Environmental Setting....58
3.7.2 Regulatory Setting....59
3.7.3 Thresholds of Significance....60
3.7.4 Methodology....60
3.7.5 Project Impact Analysis....60
3.7.6 Cumulative Impacts....62
3.7.7 Mitigation Measures....62
3.7.8 Level of Significance Before Mitigation....63
3.7.9 Level of Significance After Mitigation....64

CHAPTER 4.0 – ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS....65
4.1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW....65
4.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES....66
4.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED....66
4.3.1 ADA Only....66
4.3.2 CWA Renovation and Expansion Design....67
4.4 ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED....67
4.4.1 No Project Alternative....68
4.4.2 ARG Design....71
4.5 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE....75

CHAPTER 5.0 – OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS 76
5.1 EFFECTS NOT FOUND TO BE SIGNIFICANT 76
5.1.1 Aesthetics 76
5.1.2 Agriculture & Forestry Resources 78
5.1.3 Biological Resources 79
5.1.4 Cultural Resources 81
5.1.5 Energy 81
5.1.6 Geology and Soils 82
5.1.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS 84
5.1.8 Hydrology and Water Quality 86
5.1.9 LAND USE AND PLANNING 89
5.1.10 MINERAL RESOURCES 90
5.1.11 POPULATION AND HOUSING 90
5.1.12 Public Services 91
5.1.13 Recreation 92
5.1.14 Transportation 93
5.1.15 Utilities and Service Systems 94
5.1.16 Wildfire 96
5.2 IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES 97
5.3 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS 97
5.3.1 Direct Growth-inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment 98
5.3.2 Indirect Growth-inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment 98
5.4 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 98

CHAPTER 6.0 – REFERENCES 99

CHAPTER 7.0 – REPORT PREPARATION 101

CHAPTER 8.0 – ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS 102

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: NOP/Initial Study
APPENDIX B: Air Quality Screening Assessment
APPENDIX C: Historic Resource Impact Assessment
APPENDIX D: Greenhouse Gas Screening Assessment
APPENDIX E: Construction Noise Screening Assessment

LIST OF TABLES

Page

Table ES-1: Summary of Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures 3

Table 1-1: Required EIR Contents 3

Table 3-1: Environmental Issue Areas 15

Table 3-2 – National Air Quality Standards Attainment Status – South Coast Air Basin 20

Table 3-3 – Expected Maximum Daily Construction Emissions 23

Table 3-4: Standards Assessment 35

Table 3-5 – Expected Annual Construction CO_2e Emissions Summary 48

Table 3-6 – Construction Noise Standards 53

Table 3-7 – Construction List and Noise Levels 55

LIST OF FIGURES

Page

Figure 1 The Environmental Review Process 2

Figure 2 – Project Location and Vicinity Map 11

Figure 3 – Site Plan 12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

E.S.1 INTRODUCTION

The Altadena Library District (District) requests discretionary permits (i.e., a conditional use permit and an oak tree permit) from Los Angeles County (County) for the proposed renovation, seismically retrofit, access improvement, and expansion of the existing Altadena Main Library. The District is a small public agency that is considered a California Special District. The District is proposing to renovate, seismically retrofit, improve access, and expand the Altadena Main Library (Project or Proposed Project).

The objective of the renovation is to maximize use of the library space, improve user experience, improve seismic resilience, replace aging infrastructure, and activate outdoor space to increase visibility and engagement.

This document is a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR or DEIR) prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and it provides an overview of the Proposed Project and considered alternatives, identifies the anticipated environmental impacts from the Proposed Project and the alternatives, and identifies mitigation measures designed to reduce the level of significance of any impact.

E.S.2 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The primary purpose of the CEQA process is to inform the public and decision-makers as to the potential impacts of a project and to allow an opportunity for public input to ensure informed decision-making by the Lead Agency. CEQA requires all State and local government agencies to consider the environmental effects of projects over which they have discretionary authority. CEQA also requires each public agency to mitigate or avoid the significant environmental impacts resulting from proposed projects, when feasible, and to identify a range of feasible alternatives to the proposed project that could reduce those environmental effects.

Under CEQA, an EIR analyzes the impacts of an individual activity or specific project and focuses primarily on changes in the environment that would result from that activity or project. The Draft EIR must include the contents required by CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines and examine all phases of the project, including planning, construction, operation, and any reasonably foreseeable future phases.

E.S.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Main Library (“Main”) was designed by Boyd Georgi in 1967, with the landscape designed by Eriksson Peters & Thoms, Landscape Architects. Since its construction, minor alterations have occurred, including replacement of entrance doors at the exterior, and the addition of a lower-level storage area and replacement of carpet and finishes on the interior. However, most of its original landscape and building materials (mature trees and concrete planters, concrete block and stucco walls, fixed metal windows, steel-framed bridge with wood decking, hexagonal tile at the entry and reading court) remain. The existing parking lot has 50 spaces, two of which are handicapped accessible.

E.S.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Components

DRAFT

Project features shown in Figure 3 include the following:

- New Entry/Lobby
- New Community Room Deck
- New Outdoor Reading Court
- New Delivery Loading Zone
- New Entry Wall and Signage
- New Access Ramp
- New Stairs
- Parking lot Re-surfaced and Striped
- Refurbish Existing Bridges

Construction

The Project is planned to occur in a single phase and be completed within 14 months. The planned improvements at the Main include an expansion of the building footprint by approximately 700 square feet, interior space reconfigurations, access improvements, seismic retrofit, and replacement of aged building infrastructure to address mechanical (elevator and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC]), plumbing (including additional and accessible restrooms), and electrical and structural elements of the facility. Infrastructure improvements are expected to include some modernized Audio Visual (AV) spaces with newer technology, updated communications infrastructure, and structured cabling. Upgrades to plantings and irrigation, along with adding outdoor functional spaces are also planned.

Demolition

Some demolition and grading are required to complete the Main renovation and expansion. The site is approximately 1.72 acres, with 0.28 acres being disturbed for improvements. Demolition includes removal of concrete, pavement, and existing turf, planters, and shrubs. Grading is designed to slope walking paths, landscapes, and other surfaces away from buildings toward on-site drainage features. Areas of pavement and concrete removal include the area for the new entry/lobby along the south side of the Main and walkways leading to the bridge on the north side of the facility. Clearing and grubbing would occur at the new outdoor reading court, the new entry/lobby, near the path to the bridge on the north side, and the new Community Room Deck. In the interior there would be some demolition of non-structural walls, doors, and stairways.

Operations

Operations would be similar to existing conditions.

E.S.5 TABLE OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Table ES-1 (Summary of Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures) on the following pages summarizes potential significant adverse impacts of the Proposed Project. Each resource area is summarized in Chapter 3.0. Impacts found to be significant are listed with proposed mitigation measures. The resulting impact after each mitigation is indicated, and cumulative impacts, if any, will be identified as required under CEQA. Table ES-2 (Summary of Project Design Features) on the following pages summarize components incorporated into the Proposed Project.

DRAFT

Table ES-1: Summary of Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Significance Threshold	Project Related Impact	Level of Significance before Mitigation	Mitigation	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Biological Resources				
Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinance protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Tree removal	Potentially Significant Impact	**MM BIO-1: Tree Replacement**. The District shall retain a certified arborist to conduct a tree survey and complete a report on the trees subject to removal. The report shall contain the type, size, and condition of the trees proposed for removal. The Tree report shall be submitted to the County to determine the replacement requirements for the trees to comply with County ordinances.	Less than Significant
Cultural Resources				
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	Renovating the Altadena Main Library	Potentially Significant Impact	**MM CUL-1: Historic American Buildings Survey-like Documentation:** Prior to commencement of demolition, the building should be recorded through a documentation report based on Historic American Buildings Survey (HABs)-standards. The report will be completed by an architectural historian or historic architect who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards and will be based on the National Park Service (NPS) HABS Level III format and content requirements. An archival copy of the HABS report will be filled with the Altadena Library and non-archival copies may be deposited in the collections of the Long Beach Public Library and Long Beach Heritage Museum, if requested, and in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC). **MM CUL-2: Salvage and Use of Salvaged Materials:** Prior to the commencement of demolition, the Altadena Library District should coordinate with an architectural historian or historic architect who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, the Project architect, and the demolition contractor to develop a list of materials	Significant and Unavoidable

DRAFT

Table ES-1: Summary of Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures

			that would be salvaged during demolition and a salvage plan which may include architectural history monitoring during demolition.	
Tribal Resources				

DRAFT

	Renovating the Altadena Main Library	Potentially Significant Impact	TCR-1: Retain a Native American Monitor Prior to Commencement of Ground-Disturbing Activities A. The project applicant/lead agency shall retain a Native American Monitor from or approved by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation. The monitor shall be retained prior to the commencement of any "ground-disturbing activity" for the subject project at all project locations (i.e., both on-site and any off-site locations that are included in the project description/definition and/or required in connection with the project, such as public improvement work). "Ground-disturbing activity" shall include, but is not limited to, demolition, pavement removal, potholing, auguring, grubbing, tree removal, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching. B. A copy of the executed monitoring agreement shall be submitted to the lead agency prior to the earlier of the commencement of any ground-disturbing activity, or the issuance of any permit necessary to commence a ground-disturbing activity. C. The monitor will complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities, the type of construction activities performed, locations of ground-disturbing activities, soil types, cultural-related materials, and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to the Tribe. Monitor logs will identify and describe any discovered TCRs, including but not limited to, Native American cultural and historical artifacts, remains, places of significance, etc., (collectively, tribal cultural resources, or "TCR"), as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitor logs will be provided to the project applicant/lead agency upon written request to the Tribe.	Less than Significant

DRAFT

			D. On-site tribal monitoring shall conclude upon the latter of the following (1) written confirmation to the Kizh from a designated point of contact for the project applicant/lead agency that all ground-disturbing activities and phases that may involve ground-disturbing activities on the project site or in connection with the project are complete; or (2) a determination and written notification by the Kizh to the project applicant/lead agency that no future, planned construction activity and/or development/construction phase at the project site possesses the potential to impact Kizh TCRs. TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resource Objects (Non-Funerary/Non-Ceremonial) Upon discovery of any TCRs, all construction activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease (i.e., not less than the surrounding 50 feet) and shall not resume until the discovered TCR has been fully assessed by the Kizh monitor and/or Kizh archaeologist. The Kizh will recover and retain all discovered TCRs in the form and/or manner the Tribe deems appropriate, in the Tribe's sole discretion, and for any purpose the Tribe deems appropriate, including for educational, cultural and/or historic purposes. TCR-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains and Associated Funerary or Ceremonial Objects A. Native American human remains are defined in PRC 5097.98 (d)(1) as an inhumation or cremation, and in any state of decomposition or skeletal completeness. Funerary objects, called associated grave goods in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, are also to be treated according to this statute.	

DRAFT

			B. If Native American human remains and/or grave goods are discovered or recognized on the project site, then Public Resource Code 5097.9 as well as Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 shall be followed. C. Human remains and grave/burial goods shall be treated alike per California Public Resources Code section 5097.98(d)(1) and (2). D. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) is the preferred manner of treatment for discovered human remains and/or burial goods. E. Any discovery of human remains/burial goods shall be kept confidential to prevent further disturbance.	

Table ES-2: Summary of Project Design Features

Project Design Feature (PDF)	Description
PDF-1	If Project clearing and construction must occur during the avian nesting season (February to September), a survey for active nests must be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 2 weeks prior to the activities to determine the presence/absence, location, and status of any active nests on or adjacent to the Project site. If no active nests are discovered or identified, no further mitigation is required. In the event that active nests are discovered on-site, a suitable buffer determined by the qualified biologist (e.g., 30 to 50 feet for passerines) will be established around such active nests. No ground-disturbing activities will occur within this buffer until the biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed, and the young have fledged the nest. Limits of construction to avoid a nest site will be established in the field by a qualified biologist with flagging and stakes or construction fencing. Construction personnel will be instructed regarding the ecological sensitivity of the fenced area. The results of the survey will be documented and filed with the District within five days after the survey.
PDF-2	The Project will implement Low Impact Development (LID) standards, as required by Section 12.84.440 of County Code, that would result in a net reduction in impervious surface on the site compared to existing conditions.

DRAFT

ES.6 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives for the Draft EIR were identified and evaluated:

- No Project Alternative – no changes in existing conditions.
- ARG[1] Alternative

The following alternatives were considered but ultimately rejected for study in the Draft EIR:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Only Alternative
- CWA[2] Alternative

Chapter 4.0 discusses these alternatives and includes an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with each.

DRAFT

[1] ARG (Architectural Resources Group) a private architectural firm who was commissioned by the Altadena Library District to complete a historical resources assessment of the Altadena Main Library.
[2] CWA is a private architectural firm who was commissioned by Altadena Library District to provide a Renovation and Expansion design for Altadena Main Library.

CHAPTER 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

The Altadena Main Library ("Main") is proposed to undergo renovation to maximize use of the library space, improve user experience, improve seismic resilience, replace aging infrastructure, and activate outdoor space to increase visibility and engagement.

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will discuss the purpose of the Draft EIR, scope, content, and environmental review process. The Proposed Project is described in further detail in Chapter 2.0, Project Description.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Proposed Project requires discretionary approval of the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning and is subject to environmental review requirements in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). All "projects" within the State of California are required to undergo environmental review to determine any potential environmental impacts associated with project implementation (Section 15021).

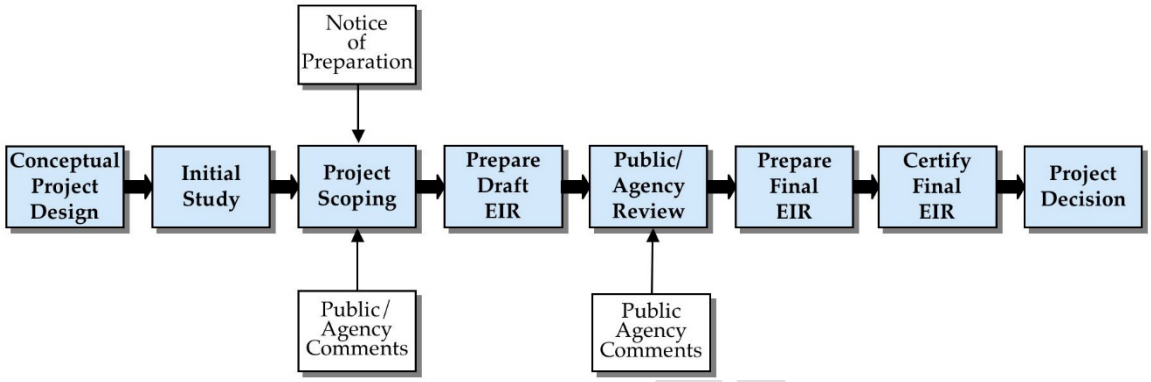
CEQA was enacted in 1970 by the California Legislature to disclose to decision-makers and the public the significant environmental effects of a proposed project and to identify possible ways to avoid or minimize significant environmental effects of a project by requiring implementation of mitigation measures or recommending feasible alternatives. CEQA applies to all California agencies at all levels, including local, regional, and State governments, as well as boards, commissions, and special districts. The Los Angeles County (County), the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project, is required to conduct an environmental review to analyze any potential environmental effects associated with project implementation.

A Project EIR has been prepared to evaluate impacts of the Proposed Project. Section 15161 of the CEQA Guidelines states that a Project EIR, "… *examines the environmental impacts of a specific development project. This type of EIR should focus primarily on the changes in the environment that would result from the development project. The EIR shall examine all phases of the project including planning, construction, and operation.".*

The Draft EIR is then circulated to the public and affected agencies for review and comment. One of the primary objectives of CEQA is to enhance public participation in the planning process; public involvement is an essential feature of this process. Community members are encouraged to participate in the environmental review process, request to be notified, monitor newspapers for formal announcements, and submit substantive comments at every possible opportunity afforded by the lead agency. The environmental review process provides ample opportunity for the public to participate through scoping, public notice, and public review of CEQA documents. A diagram illustrating the CEQA process is shown in Figure 1 below. Additionally, a Lead Agency is required to respond to public comments in Final EIRs and consider comments from the scoping process in the preparation of the Draft EIR.

DRAFT

Figure 1
The Environmental Review Process



1.2 SCOPE OF THE EIR

This section provides a summary of the issues addressed in the Draft EIR. This Draft EIR was prepared following input from the public, responsible agencies, and affected agencies through the EIR scoping process, which included the following:

- In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study (IS) were prepared and distributed to responsible agencies, affected agencies, and other interested parties.
- The NOP was posted with the Los Angeles County Clerk and was made available for a 30-day public comment period, from December 9, 2024 to January 21, 2025. The NOP was submitted to the State Clearinghouse to officially solicit participation in determining the scope of the Draft EIR.
- Information requested, and input provided during the NOP 30-day public review period, regarding the contents of the NOP/IS and the scope of the EIR, were incorporated in this Draft EIR.

Table 1-1 below summarizes the comments received and corresponding sections of the EIR.

Table 1-1 Summary of Written Comments Received in Response to the Notice of Preparation

Commenting Party (Date of Letter/Email)	Issue of Concern	Addressed in Section(s) of the Draft EIR
Brent Lewis (1/06/2025)	Cultural Resources; inquiry on sale of mid-century elements at public auction	

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) (1/20/25)	Transportation; inquiry on number of parking spaces provided and ADA spaces provided; comment on coordinating with Caltrans on use of oversized transport vehicles	Section 2.5 Project Description; Section 5.1.14 Transportation
John Crabb (2/04/25)	Concerns regarding lighting, aesthetics, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, and wildfire	Sections 5.1.1 Aesthetics, 5.1.6 Geology and Soils, 5.1.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials, 5.1.9 Land Use and Planning, 5.1.16 Wildfire
Mark Mariscal (12/18/24)	Commenter expresses support for the Proposed Project	N/A
Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (12/31/24)	Description of AB 52 and SB 18; additional recommendations for cultural resources assessments	Section 3.7 Tribal Cultural Resources, Section 5.1.4 Cultural Resources
Tim Moore (1/13/25)	Inquiry regarding greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies	Section 3.3 Air Quality

Under the CEQA Guidelines, the analysis in the Draft EIR is centered on the following issues and other resource areas analyzed in Chapter 5.0 Other CEQA Considerations:

1. Air Quality
2. Cultural Resources
3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
4. Noise
5. Tribal Cultural Resources

Mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less than significant level are proposed whenever feasible. Table 1-2 contains this list of sections required under CEQA Guidelines, along with reference to the chapter where these items can be found.

Table 1-2: Required EIR Contents

Chapter Title (CEQA Guidelines)	Location
Table of Contents (Section 15122)	Table of Contents
Summary (Section 15123)	Executive Summary
Introduction (Section 15122)	Chapter 1
Project Description (Section 15124) and Environmental Setting	Chapter 2
Significant Environmental Impacts (Section 15126.2)	Chapter 3A-3C
Unavoidable Significant Environmental Impacts (Section 15126.2)	Chapter 5
Mitigation Measures (Section 15126.4)	Chapter 3A-3C
Cumulative Impacts (Section 15130)	Chapter 3A-3C

Alternatives to the Proposed Project (Section 15126.6)	Chapter 4
Growth-inducing Impacts (Section 15126.2)	Chapter 5
Effects Found Not to Be Significant (Section 15128)	Chapter 5
Organizations and Persons Consulted (Section 15129)	Chapter 6 and 7
List of Preparers	Chapter 7
Acronyms/Abbreviations	Chapter 8

1.3 DRAFT EIR ORGANIZATION

The Draft EIR is organized into the following chapters so the reader can easily obtain information about the Proposed Project and related environmental issues:

- Executive Summary – Presents a summary of the Proposed Project and alternatives, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and impact conclusions regarding growth inducement and cumulative impacts.
- Chapter 1: Introduction – Describes the purpose and use of the Draft EIR, provides a brief overview of the Proposed Project, and outlines the organization of the Draft EIR.
- Chapter 2: Project Description and Environmental Setting – Describes the project location, project details, baseline environmental setting and existing physical conditions, and the Altadena Library District's overall objectives for the Proposed Project.
- Chapter 3: Environmental Analysis – Describes the existing conditions, or setting, before project implementation; methods and assumptions used in impact analysis; thresholds of significance; impacts that would result from the Proposed Project; and applicable mitigation measures that would eliminate or reduce significant impacts for each environmental issue.
- Chapter 4: Alternatives Analysis – Evaluates the environmental effects of project alternatives, including the No-Project Alternative and Environmentally Superior Project Alternative.
- Chapter 5: Other CEQA Considerations – Includes a discussion of issues required by CEQA that are not covered in other chapters. This includes unavoidable adverse impacts, impacts found not to be significant, irreversible environmental changes, and growth-inducing impacts.
- Chapter 6: References – Identifies the documents and individuals consulted in preparing the Draft EIR.
- Chapter 7: Report Preparation – Lists the individuals involved in preparing the Draft EIR and organizations and persons consulted.
- Chapter 8: Acronyms/Abbreviations – Presents a list of the acronyms and abbreviations.

Appendices – Present data supporting the analysis or contents of this Draft EIR. The Appendices include the following:

- APPENDIX A Notice of Preparation, Initial Study

- APPENDIX B Air Quality Screening Assessment
- APPENDIX C Historic Resource Impact Assessment
- APPENDIX D Greenhouse Gas Screening Assessment
- APPENDIX E Construction Noise Screening Assessment

1.4 AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT EIR

The Draft EIR for the Proposed Project is being distributed directly to numerous agencies, organizations, and interested groups and persons for comment during the 45-day formal review period from September 25th, 2025 to November 13th, 2025. The Draft EIR is also available for review at the following locations in the Town:

- Altadena Main Library at 600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena, CA 921001
- Altadena One-Stop Permit Center at 464 W Woodbury Road, Suite 210, Altadena, CA 921001

In addition, the document is available online at https://planning.lacounty.gov/environmental-review/public-notice/.

1.5 AGENCY COMMENTS

If this document includes information necessary for an agency to meet any statutory responsibilities that are related to the Proposed Project, the County needs to know the views of that agency regarding the scope and content of the environmental information included in this Draft EIR. Responsible and trustee agencies for the purposes of CEQA and other entities that may use this Draft EIR in their decision-making process or for informational purposes include but may not be limited to the following:

- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

The Project description, location, and the environmental issues addressed in this Draft EIR are contained in the attached materials. Due to the time limits mandated by State law [CEQA Guidelines Section 15205(d)], the Draft EIR will be circulated for review and comment by the public and other interested parties, agencies, and organizations for a minimum of 45 calendar days.

Comments may be mailed to the following address:

Jolee Hui, Principal Planner
LA County Planning
Foothill Development Services Section
320 West Temple Street, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: 213-893-7011

Comments can also be emailed to jhui@planning.lacounty.gov and should include Altadena Main Library EIR in the subject line. Agency responses to the Draft EIR should include the name of a contact person within the commenting agency.

CHAPTER 2.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.1 PROJECT APPLICANT

The Altadena Library District (District) is a small public agency that is considered a California Special District. The District is a public library system that operates two libraries. According to the May 2011 estimate for cities and counties from the Demographic Research Unit, State Department of Finance, the Altadena Library District provides library services to a population of approximately 51,737 people including the 43,000 residents of Altadena. The District collaborates with its community to create environments for learning and inspiration, serves as a community center, and brings residents together to share the unique history of Altadena and the San Gabriel Valley.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The Main Library (the Main) is located at 600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena, CA 91001 (Assessor's Parcel Number 5840-010-900), at the southwest corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and Mariposa Street. The community of Altadena is in unincorporated Los Angeles County at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. The Main is situated in a residential area surrounded by residences to the South and East across Santa Rosa Avenue, Altadena Senior's Center to the West, and "Camp Mariposa" (owned by the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Chapter) to the North across E. Mariposa Street (Figure 2). The existing Main is approximately 22,000 square feet, and is built into its sloped site, appearing as a two-story building on the south end and one story on the north end. From the north, the upper footbridge provides access to the main entrance on Mariposa Avenue. Secondary access is possible from the southern parking lot along a lower footbridge and two sets of exterior concrete staircases. Both pathways lead to the main entrance. In addition, another staircase leads to the mid-level of the library. As shown in Figure 3, the exterior consists of exposed concrete block and stucco, topped by multi-level flat roofs with closed eaves, windows floor to ceiling, grouped elevated windows to allow natural light inside.

2.3 REGIONAL SETTING

The unincorporated community of Altadena is located north of Pasadena adjacent to the Angeles National Forest in the northwest potion of the San Gabriel Valley. The Altadena community is uniquely bordered by major physiographic features, including the San Gabriel Mountains to the north, Arroyo Seco on the west, and Eaton Canyon on the East.

2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Universal Design

- Meet and exceed ADA requirements

Health, Safety, and Security

- Seismic and safety upgrades
- Mitigate hazards including asbestos containing materials

Functionality

- Provide physical and acoustic separation between library areas

DRAFT

- Provide dedicated program areas for teens, the fabrication lab/maker space, and meeting rooms
- Centralize staff work areas
- Provide outdoor programming spaces

Security

- Provide the option for after-hours access for the Friends of the Altadena Library Bookstore, passport services, meeting rooms, fabrication lab, and community room, while keeping books stacks and staff areas secure.

Technology

- Upgrade building systems to replace end-of-life equipment and materials
- Provide technology infrastructure to meet current and future library needs

Preserve Historic Nature of the Library

- Minimize impact on the historic nature of the original mid-century modern design

2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The planned improvements at the Main include an expansion of the building footprint by approximately 700 square feet, interior space reconfigurations, access improvements, seismic retrofit, and replacement of aged building infrastructure to address mechanical (elevator and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC]), plumbing (including additional and accessible restrooms), and electrical and structural elements of the facility. Infrastructure improvements are expected to include some modernized Audio Visual (AV) spaces with newer technology, updated communications infrastructure, and structured cabling. Upgrades to plantings and irrigation and adding outdoor functional spaces are also planned. Project features shown in Figure 3 include the following:

- New Entry/Lobby
- New Community Room Deck
- New Outdoor Reading Court
- New Delivery Loading Zone
- New Entry Wall and Signage
- New Access Ramp
- New Stairs
- Parking lot Re-surfaced and Striped
- Refurbish Existing Bridges

Demolition

Some demolition and grading are required to complete the Main renovation and expansion. The site is approximately 1.72 acres with 0.28 acres being disturbed for improvements. Demolition includes removal of concrete, pavement, and existing turf, planters, and shrubs. Grading is designed to slope walking paths, landscapes, and other surfaces away from buildings toward onsite drainage features. Areas of pavement and concrete removal include area for the new entry/lobby, along much of the south side of the Main and walkways to the bridge on north side

DRAFT

of facility. Clearing and grubbing will occur at the new outdoor reading court, new entry/lobby, near the path to the bridge on the north side, and the new Community Room Deck. In the interior there will be some demolition to nonstructural walls, doors and stairways.

Seismic Retrofit

Current known deficiencies of the existing library include inadequate wall anchorage detailing at masonry bearing walls and inadequate horizontal reinforcing in existing masonry walls. The retrofit plan resolves these inadequacies by the addition of a new full height shear wall at the South elevation. Larger columns are planned to replace the existing smaller ones to address performance issues with the glass panels between the low and high roofs. Shotcrete is planned at existing masonry walls to increase the shear strength.

Interior Renovations

The interior changes are focused on accommodating current trends in library use. Traditional spaces such as reading areas, collections, and staff areas are being added/reconfigured. A new space for fabrication lab/makers space would be placed at the lower level. The existing community room will be renovated to remove an unused raised platform and add a kitchen. Also, various types of meeting rooms where persons and organizations can reserve rooms to host in-person and virtual meetings will be included. Additional support space such as storage, staff, and infrastructure are included in the proposed interior layout. To accommodate access, a new lobby/exhibit space allows for direct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access from the parking lot. An elevator that serves all levels of the building is planned. Reading collections separately located for children, tweens, young adults, and adults have been incorporated into the design.

Exterior Renovations

The scope of work for exterior improvements includes new hardscape areas along with planting and irrigation improvements. The east side of the site along Santa Rosa Avenue will receive minor changes to the existing planting and irrigation. The primary planting palette would consist of native and adapted plantings that require low amounts of irrigation and maintenance. The existing community garden on the south side will be protected in place. The remaining area surrounding the building improvements on the north, south and west sides will receive new planting and irrigations systems.

Under the Proposed Project, 48 trees would be protected in place, and 9 trees would be removed. Of the trees to be protected in place, two are coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia).* Although the coast live oak trees would not be removed, proposed encroachments associated with landscape, utility, and/or other infrastructure improvements within the tree's protected root zones will require discretionary approval of an Oak Tree Permit pursuant to Chapter 22.174 of the County Code. Approval of the Oak Tree Permit will require measures such as preservation of the tree in place, relocation of the tree, replacement of the tree, or payment into the Oak Forests Special Fund.

All other trees and shrubbery proposed for protection in place or removal are non-native ornamental species not protected under the County Code. As part of the proposed landscape plan, three non-invasive, drought-tolerant oak trees (two coast live oaks and one Holly oak) will be planted onsite along with other landscape shrubbery and vegetative groundcover.

DRAFT

The new pedestrian entry sequence on Mariposa will start with a new low signage wall and a new direct connection to the existing bridge. The North Patio will accommodate events and daily functions, and includes a sunken reading court with terraced seating. At the building's southeast corner, the Community Room Deck extends a raised deck from the building. The new southern edge of the building will provide parking for approximately 4 bicycles to the east, with planted walkways moving west to the new main building entrance.

The existing visitor parking lot, located in the southern portion of the Project site, would be modified to accommodate 55 total parking spaces, including five ADA accessible spaces.

2.5.1 Project Construction

The Project is expected to occur in a single phase and be completed within 14 months. The Main would be closed for public use during construction and users would be directed to utilize services at the Bob Lucas Branch Library (Branch) or the interim library site, which is anticipated to be located at Loma Alta Park in Altadena. Construction activities will take place between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Prior to issuance of building permits, Project plans must be approved by the County Building and Safety Division to ensure proper drainage distribution, accommodate contributory drainage from adjoining properties, eliminate the sheet overflow and ponding, and protect lots from high velocity scouring action.

Construction Equipment

Construction equipment to be used during construction of the Project upgrades include the following items:

- Jackhammers
- Loaders
- Pick-up trucks
- Backhoes
- Water Truck
- Asphalt Paver
- Concrete Mixers
- Cranes
- Nail Guns
- Power Drill and Saws

Staging Areas

Construction trailers and staging areas will be located within the Project site. The staging areas would be located within the parking lot, outside of the construction zone, but within the Project site.

2.5.2 Project Design Features/Best Management Practices

The following project design features are included as part of the Proposed Project:

Project Design Features

DRAFT

PDF-1: If Project clearing and construction must occur during the avian nesting season (February to September), a survey for active nests must be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 2 weeks prior to the activities to determine the presence/absence, location, and status of any active nests on or adjacent to the Project site. If no active nests are discovered or identified, no further mitigation is required. In the event that active nests are discovered on-site, a suitable buffer determined by the qualified biologist (e.g., 30 to 50 feet for passerines) will be established around such active nests. No ground-disturbing activities will occur within this buffer until the biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed, and the young have fledged the nest. Limits of construction to avoid a nest site will be established in the field by a qualified biologist with flagging and stakes or construction fencing. Construction personnel will be instructed regarding the ecological sensitivity of the fenced area. The results of the survey will be documented and filed with the District within five days after the survey.

PDF-2: The Project will implement Low Impact Development (LID) standards, as required by Section 12.84.440 of County Code, that would result in a net reduction in impervious surface on the site compared to existing conditions.

Best Management Practices

The following design standards are included as part of the Program Design Best Management Practices (BMPs) and would be applied to the Proposed Project:

- Light and Glare: All new luminaires, or lighting sources, in connection with the District projects will be installed in such a manner as to minimize glare for pedestrians and drivers and to minimize light spilling onto adjacent properties.
- Cultural Resources: The District will require that the construction contractor, in the event of a cultural resource (i.e., historic or prehistoric artifact, fossilized shell, or bone) is discovered during ground-disturbing activities, stop all work within the immediate area and notify the District and that the finding be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be potentially significant, the archaeologist, in consultation with the District and contractor, will develop a treatment plan. All work in the immediate vicinity of the unanticipated discovery will cease until the qualified archaeologist has evaluated the discovery or the treatment plan has been implemented.

The following BMPs would comply with the Los Angeles County Public Works (LACPW) Department, which requires construction noise to be minimized through the implementation of the following BMPs:

- Proper maintenance tuning of all construction equipment engines to minimize noise emissions.
- Proper maintenance and functioning of the mufflers on all internal combustion and equipment engines.
- Locate fixed and/or stationary equipment as far as possible from noise-sensitive receptors.
- Appoint a public liaison for Project construction that would be responsible for addressing public concerns about construction activities, including excessive noise. As needed, the liaison would determine the cause of concern (e.g., starting too early, bad muffler) and implement measures to address the concern.

Implementation of these BMPs would reduce construction noise levels shown in levels shown in Table 3-6 (Construction Noise Standards).

Figure 2 – Project Location and Vicinity Map

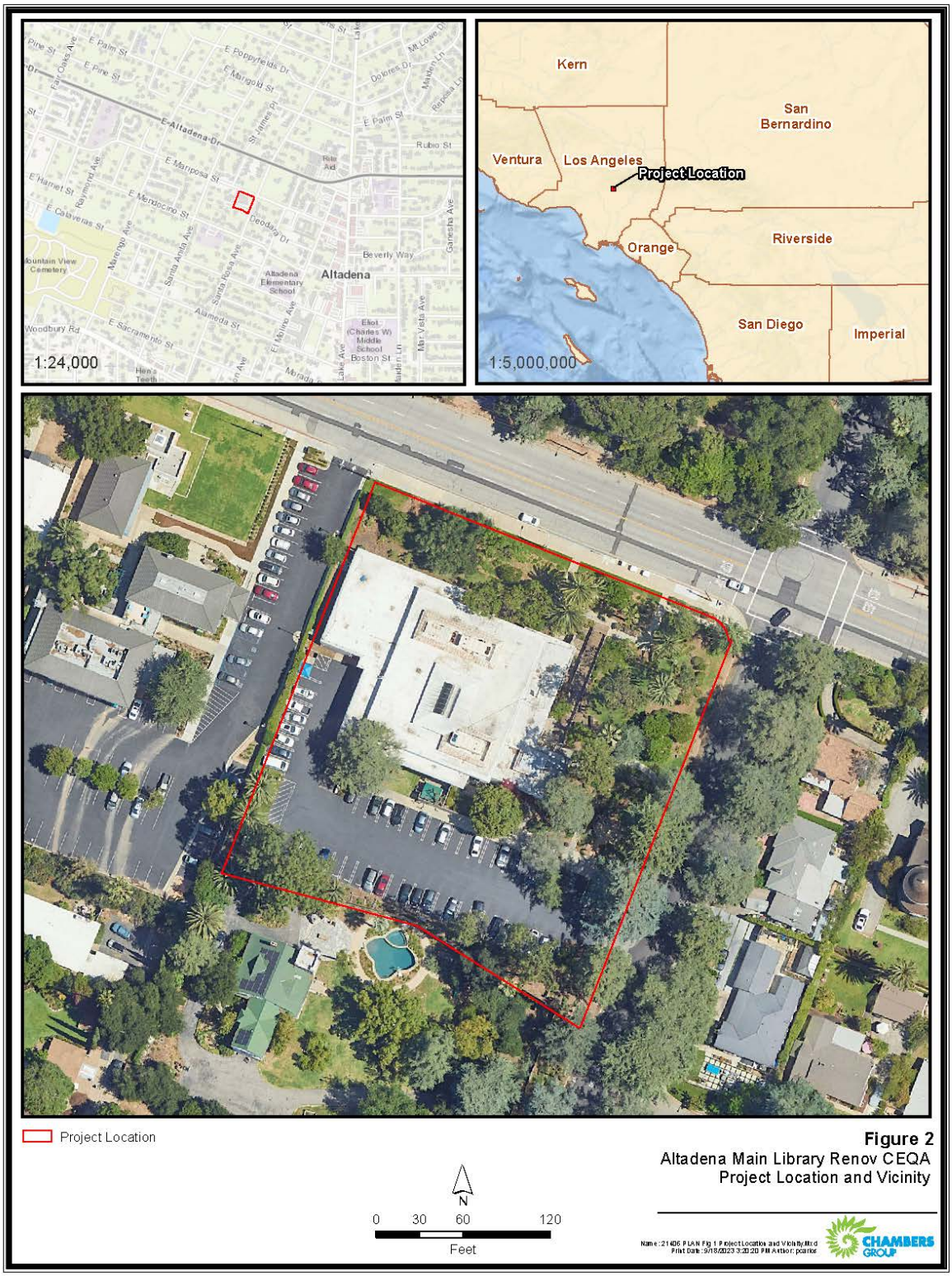
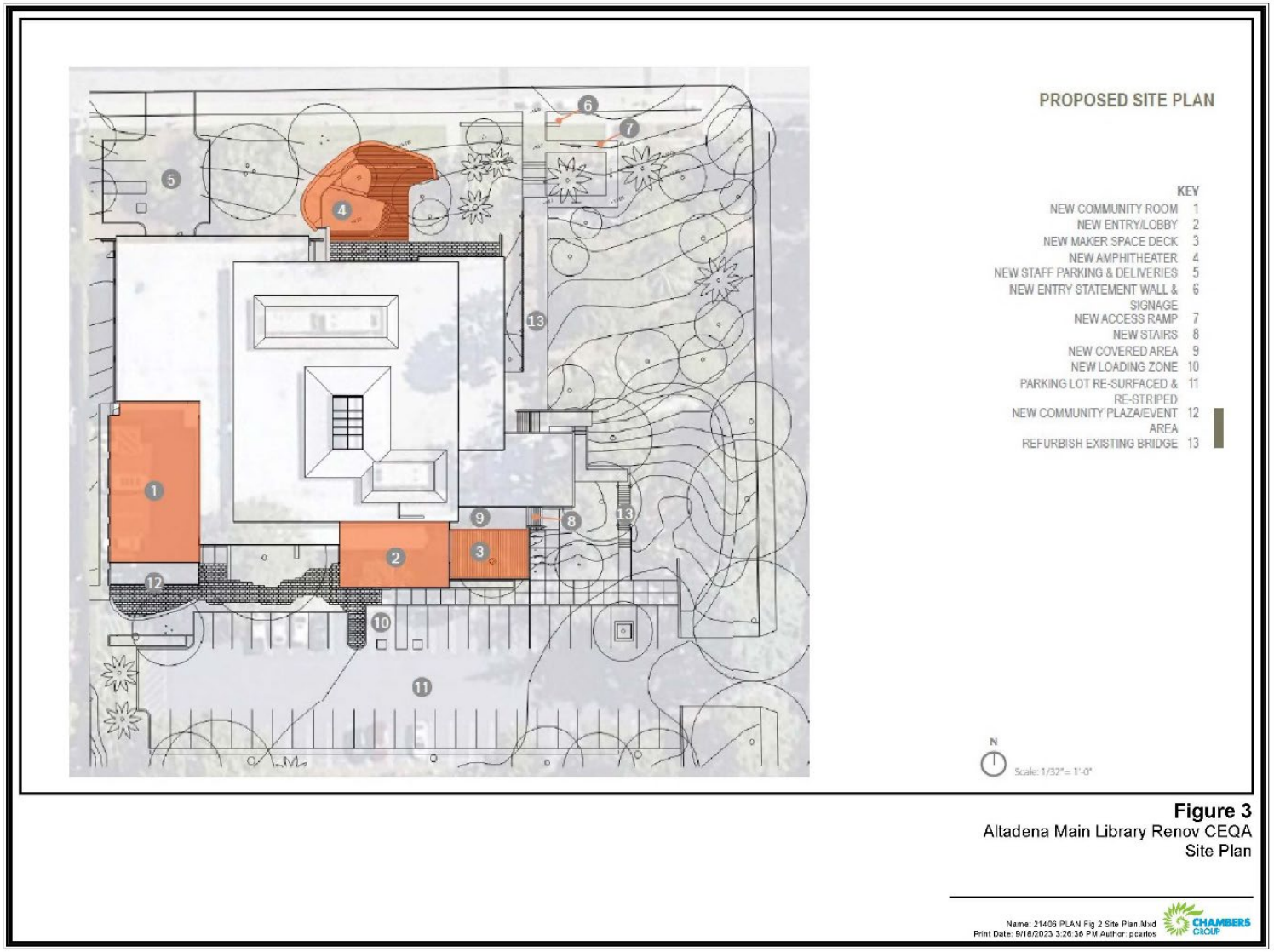


Figure 3 – Site Plan



2.6 LAND USE

2.6.1 Existing Site Uses

The Project site's Land Use Policy designation is P- Public and Semi Public and is zoned R-1-10,000 (Single Family Residence –10,000 Square Feet Minimum Lot Area) within the Los Angeles County General Plan and the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan. Libraries are permitted within the R-1 Zone with an approved Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

2.6.2 Surrounding Land Uses

The Project site is surrounded by recreational land use to the north, and single-family residences to the south, east, and west.

2.7 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

As required by the CEQA Guidelines, this section provides, to the extent the information is known to the County, a list of permits and approvals to implement the Proposed Project and a list of agencies that will review this Draft EIR as part of their decision-making process. The following lists entitlements and permits that may be required for the Proposed Project prior to construction and operation:

Regional

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Southern California Edison (SCE)
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB)

The Final EIR must be certified by the final decision-making body of the lead agency (CEQA Guidelines Section 15090) for its adequacy in compliance with CEQA prior to any actions being taken on the Proposed Project. The analysis of this Draft EIR is intended to provide environmental review for the Proposed Project, including the demolition, seismic retrofit, interior renovations, exterior renovations, and operations in accordance with CEQA requirements.

2.7.1 Reviewing Agencies

Reviewing Agencies include those agencies that do not have discretionary powers, but that may review the Draft EIR for adequacy and accuracy. Potential Reviewing Agencies include the following:

- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- California Department of Education (CDE)
- California Department of Public Health
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- California Geological Survey

2.8 CUMULATIVE SCENARIO

Cumulative impacts refer to the combined effect of Proposed Project impacts with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. Both CEQA and the CEQA

DRAFT

Guidelines require that cumulative impacts be analyzed in an EIR. As set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, the discussion of cumulative impacts must reflect the severity of the impacts, as well as the likelihood of their occurrence; however, the discussion need not be as detailed as the discussion of environmental impacts attributable to the project alone. As stated in CEQA, "a project may have a significant effect on the environment if the possible effects of a project are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable" (CEQA Guidelines 15130).

According to the CEQA Guidelines 15355:

"Cumulative impacts" refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable and which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

- The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects.

- The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the proposed project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.

In addition, as stated in the CEQA Guidelines 15604, it should be noted that:

> "The mere existence of significant cumulative impacts caused by other projects alone shall not constitute substantial evidence that the Proposed Project's incremental effects are cumulatively considerable."

Cumulative impact discussions for each issue area are provided in the technical analyses contained within Chapter 3.0 (Environmental Analysis).

CHAPTER 3.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ADDRESSED

An IS was prepared for the Proposed Project in December 2024. Based on the findings of the IS, it has been determined that a Draft EIR is required for the Proposed Project. Environmental issue areas are listed by the level of significance of their impacts in Table 3-1 (Environmental Issue Areas) below, as determined by the analysis provided in the IS. While the IS identified certain impacts as potentially significant, further analysis in the EIR has refined these determinations, and not all were ultimately found to be potentially significant.

Table 3-1: Environmental Issue Areas

No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact
Agricultural Resources	Aesthetics	Air Quality
Land Use	Biological Resources	Cultural Resources
Mineral Resources	Energy	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Population and Housing	Geology and Soils	Noise
	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Tribal Cultural Resources
	Hydrology and Water Quality	
	Public Services	
	Transportation	
	Utilities	
	Wildfire	

The County used the IS as well as the agency and public input received during the public scoping period from December 17, 2024 to February 4, 2025, to determine the final scope for this Draft EIR. Sections 3.3 to 3.7 provide a discussion of the environmental setting, applicable project design features, impacts associated with the Proposed Project, cumulative impacts, and mitigation measures designed to reduce significant impacts. Where impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level, the County may consider adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

3.2 TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS ANALYSIS

For each CEQA checklist question listed in the Draft EIR, a determination of the level of significance of the impact is provided (CEQA Guidelines Appendix G). Impacts are determined in the following categories:

- **No Impact.** A designation of *no impact* is given when no adverse changes in the environment are expected.
- **Less Than Significant.** A *less than significant impact* would cause no substantial adverse change in the environment.
- **Less Than Significant with Mitigation.** A *potentially significant (but mitigable) impact* would have a substantial adverse impact on the environment but could be reduced to a less-than-significant level with incorporation of mitigation measure(s).

- **Potentially Significant.** A *significant and unavoidable impact* would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment and no feasible mitigation measures would be available to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

DRAFT

3.3 AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans of either the South Coast AQMD (SCAQMD) or the Antelope Valley AQMD (AVAQMD)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

This section provides information on ambient air quality conditions in the vicinity of the Project site and identifies potential impacts to air quality as a result of the construction and operation of the Project. Information contained in this section is from the *Air Quality Screening Assessment,* prepared by Ldn Consulting and dated January 8th, 2025, included as Appendix B of this EIR.

3.3.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Regional Climate

The South Coast Air Basin experiences a Mediterranean climate characterized by warm summers, mild winters, infrequent rainfall, and plentiful sunshine. The Pacific Ocean is the primary moderating influence on the climate pattern, but the coastal mountain ranges lying along the north and east sides of the Air Basin act to buffer extreme summer heat and winter cold temperatures occurring in the interior desert and plateau areas.

Altadena is an unincorporated community of Los Angeles County, next to and within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. It is bounded on three sides by wilderness (the Arroyo Seco, Angeles National Forest, and Eaton Canyon), and on the south by the City of Pasadena (Zack 2012). In Altadena, the summers are short, hot, arid, and clear and the winters are long, cool, wet, and partly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 43°F to 88°F and is rarely below 36°F or above 97°F.

Although the Air Basin has a semi-arid climate, the air near the surface is generally moist due to the presence of a shallow marine layer. Because of very low average wind speeds, a limited capacity exists to disperse air contaminants (e.g., smog) horizontally. The dominant daily wind pattern is an onshore 8 to 12 miles per hour (mph) daytime breeze and an offshore 3 to 5 mph nighttime breeze. The typical wind flow pattern fluctuates only with occasional windstorms or strong northeasterly Santa Ana Winds from the mountains and deserts northeast of the Air Basin. During the winter and fall months, surface high pressure systems over the Air Basin, combined with other meteorological conditions, can result in very strong, downslope Santa Ana winds. These winds normally have durations of a few days before predominant meteorological conditions are reestablished.

On virtually all spring and early summer days, most of the pollution produced during an individual day is moved out of the Air Basin through mountain passes or is lifted by warm vertical current produced by the heating of adjacent mountain slopes. In those seasons, the Air Basin can be "flushed" of pollutants by a transport of ocean air in the afternoon.

From late summer through the winter months, flushing is less pronounced because of lower wind speeds and earlier appearance of offshore winds. With extremely stagnant wind flows, the drainage winds may begin near the mountains by late afternoon. Remaining pollutants are trapped and begin to accumulate during the night and the following morning. A low average morning wind speed in pollution source areas is an indicator of stagnation potential and pollutant accumulation.

Vertical dispersion of air pollutants in the Air Basin is hampered by the presence of a temperature inversion in the layers of the atmosphere near the surface of the Earth. In a normal situation, temperatures decrease with altitude, and air continues to rise because it remains warmer than the surrounding air. In the case of an inversion layer, air cannot expand upward because the warmer air above traps it. However, as the day progresses and the sun warms the ground, the surface layer of the air approaches a temperature equal to the temperature of the inversion layer. When these temperatures become equal, the inversion layer begins to erode at the lower edge. If enough warming takes place, the inversion layer becomes weaker and weaker and finally "breaks." The surface air layers will then mix upward without limit. This phenomenon is frequently observed in the middle or late afternoon on hot summer days, when the smog appears to clear up suddenly. Winter inversions frequently break by midmorning, preventing contaminant build-up. The combination of low wind speeds and low-level inversions produces the greatest concentration of pollutants. On high wind days, air pollutants are swept and carried through the air. On days of no inversion, or on days of wind speed averaging 15 mph, concentration of pollutants is minimal, independent of season.

Air Pollutants of Concern

Criteria Air Pollutants

Federal and State laws regulate the air pollutants emitted into the ambient air by stationary and mobile sources. These regulated air pollutants are known as "criteria air pollutants" and are categorized as primary and secondary pollutants. Primary air pollutants are those that are emitted directly from sources. Carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and most fine particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5), including lead (Pb) and fugitive dust, are primary air pollutants. Of these CO, SO2, PM10, and PM2.5 are criteria air pollutants. VOC and NOx are criteria pollutant precursors and go on to form secondary criteria

pollutants through chemical and photochemical reactions in the atmosphere. Ozone (O3) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) are the principal secondary pollutants.

Toxic Air Contaminants

The public's exposure to toxic air contaminants (TACs) is a significant environmental health issue in California. In 1983, the California Legislature enacted a program to identify the health effects of TACs and reduce exposure to these contaminants to protect the public health. The Health and Safety Code defines a TAC as "an air pollutant which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health." A substance that is listed as a hazardous air pollutant pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 112 of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] § 7412[b]) is a TAC.

Under State law, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), through the California Air Resources Board (CARB), is authorized to identify a substance as a TAC if it determines the substance is an air pollutant that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious illness, or that may pose a present or potential hazard to human health.

3.3.2 Regulatory Setting

The Proposed Project site lies within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is managed by the SCAQMD. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) have been established for the following criteria pollutants: CO, O3, SO2, NO2, PM10, PM2.5, and Pb. The CAAQS also set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility.

Areas are classified under the Federal Clean Air Act as either "attainment" or "nonattainment" areas for each criteria pollutant, based on whether the NAAQS have been achieved or not. Attainment relative to the state standards is determined by the CARB. The SCAB has been designated by the federal EPA as a nonattainment area for O3 and suspended particulates (PM2.5). Currently, the SCAB is in attainment with the ambient air quality standards for CO, SO_2, PM_{10} and NO_2.

The EPA has designated the SCAB as extreme nonattainment for the 8-hour average ozone standard. The 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS was strengthened from 0.08 parts per million (ppm) to 0.075 ppm, effective May 27, 2008. The 1997 8-hour ozone standard was revoked in implementation rules for the 2008 ozone NAAQS, effective April 6, 2015. On October 1, 2015, the EPA again strengthened the 8-hour ozone NAAQS to 0.070 ppm, effective December 28, 2015, retaining the same form as the previous 1997 and 2008 standards. The 2008 ozone NAAQS is a primary focus of the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

Additionally, the EPA has designated the SCAB as nonattainment for PM2.5. In 1997, the EPA established standards for PM2.5 (particles less than 2.5 micrometers), which were not implemented until March 2002. PM2.5 is a subset of the PM10 emissions, with its standards developed to complement the PM10 standards that cover a full range of inhalable particle matter. For the PM10 health standards, the annual PM10 standard was revoked by the EPA on October 17, 2006; the 24-hour average PM10 nonattainment status was redesignated to attainment (maintenance) on July 26, 2013.

The 2012 AQMP provides measures to reduce PM2.5 emissions to within the federal standard by 2015. On January 25, 2013, the CARB approved the 2012 AQMP that was prepared per the

federal Clean Air Act requirements to show attainment of the PM2.5 standard by the revised date of 2014. The 2012 AQMP builds upon the approaches taken in the 2007 AQMP utilized to reduce PM2.5 emissions in the SCAB. On December 14, 2012, the EPA revised the primary annual PM2.5 NAAQS from 15 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m3) to 12 µg/m3. The 2016 AQMP includes implementation strategies to meet the revised PM2.5 standard.

The SCAB has been designated by CARB as a nonattainment area for O3, NO2, PM10, PM2.5, and Pb. Currently, the SCAB is in attainment with the state ambient air quality standards for CO, SO2, and sulfates, and is unclassified for visibility-reducing particles and hydrogen sulfide. The 2007, 2012, and 2016 AQMPs provide measures to meet the state standards for O3, NO2, PM10, and PM2.5.

Table 2-2 – National Air Quality Standards Attainment Status – South Coast Air Basin

Criteria Pollutant	Averaging Time	Designation[a]	Attainment Date[b]
Ozone	1979 1-Hour (0.12 ppm)	Nonattainment (Extreme)	2/6/2023 (revised deadline)
	2015 8-Hour (0.07 ppm)[d]	Nonattainment (Extreme)	8/3/2038
	2008 8-Hour (0.075 ppm)[d]	Nonattainment (Extreme)	7/20/2032
	1997 8-Hour (0.08 ppm)[d]	Nonattainment (Extreme)	6/15/2024
PM2.5[e]	2006 24-Hour (35 µg/m^3)	Nonattainment (Serious)	12/31/2019
	2012 Annual (12 µg/m^3)	Nonattainment (Serious)	12/31/2021
	1997 Annual (15 µg/m^3)	Attainment (final determination pending)	4/5/2015 (attained 2013)
PM10[f]	1987 24-Hour (150 µg/m^3)	Attainment (Maintenance)	7/26/2013 (attained)
Lead[g]	2008 3-Months Rolling (0.15 µg/m^3)	Nonattainment (Partial) (Attainment determination requested)	12/31/2015
CO	1971 1-Hour (35 ppm)	Attainment (Maintenance)	6/11/2007
	1971 8-Hour (9 ppm)	Attainment (Maintenance)	6/11/2007
NO_2[h]	2010 1-Hour (100 ppb)	Unclassifiable/Attainment	N/A (attained)
	1971 Annual (0.053 ppm)	Attainment (Maintenance)	9/22/1998 (attained)
SO_2[i]	2010 1-Hour (75 ppb)	Unclassifiable/Attainment	1/9/2018
	1971 24-Hour (0.14 ppm)	Unclassifiable/Attainment	3/19/1979

3.3.3 Thresholds of Significance

To assist in determining whether a project would have a significant effect on the environment, the County utilizes the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist. Appendix G states that a project may be deemed to have an air quality impact if it would:

Threshold a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

DRAFT

Threshold b) **Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?**

Threshold c) **Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**

Threshold d) **Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?**

3.3.4 Methodology

Construction-related emissions associated with typical construction activities, such as site grading and construction of the buildings, were modeled using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), Version 2022.1.1.25. CalEEMod allows the user to enter project-specific construction information, such as types, number, horsepower of construction equipment, and number and length of off-site motor vehicle trips. The construction period for the Proposed Project was put into CalEEMod to estimate the total construction-related emissions. Construction-related exhaust emissions for the Proposed Project were estimated for construction worker commutes, haul trucks, and the use of off-road equipment.

Construction-generated criteria pollutant emissions were modeled based on general land use information and the construction period description provided in Chapter 3.0, Project Description of this EIR. The CalEEMod input data, included in this EIR as Appendix B, lists the assumed equipment to be used for project construction, the duration of each phase, and changes to default settings that were made for project-specific conditions.

3.3.5 Project Impact Analysis

Threshold a) **Would the Project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation for the SCAQMD AQMP. The following section discusses the Proposed Project's consistency with the SCAQMD AQMP.

SCAQMD AQMP

The CEQA requires a discussion of any inconsistencies between a Proposed Project and applicable general plans and regional plans (CEQA Guidelines Section 15125). The regional plan that applies to the Proposed Project includes the SCAQMD AQMP. Therefore, this section discusses any potential inconsistencies of the Proposed Project with the AQMP.

The purpose of this discussion is to set forth the issues regarding consistency with the assumptions and objectives of the AQMP and discuss whether the Proposed Project would interfere with the region's ability to comply with Federal and State air quality standards. If the decision makers determine that the Proposed Project is inconsistent, the lead agency may consider project modifications or inclusion of mitigation to eliminate the inconsistency.

The SCAQMD CEQA Handbook states that "New or amended GP [General Plan] Elements (including land use zoning and density amendments), Specific Plans, and significant projects must be analyzed for consistency with the AQMP." Strict consistency with all aspects of the plan is

usually not required. A proposed project should be considered consistent with the AQMP if it furthers one or more policies and does not obstruct other policies. The SCAQMD CEQA Handbook identifies two key indicators of consistency:

(1) Whether the project will result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations, or cause or contribute to new violations or delay timely attainment of air quality standards or the interim emission reductions specified in the AQMP.

(2) Whether the project will exceed the assumptions in the AQMP or increments based on the year of project buildout and phase.

Both of these criteria are evaluated in the following sections.

Criterion 1 – Increase in the Frequency or Severity of Violations?

Based on the air quality modeling analysis in Appendix B, short-term regional construction air emissions would not result in significant impacts based on SCAQMD regional thresholds of. The ongoing operation of the Proposed Project would generate air pollutant emissions that are inconsequential on a regional basis and would not result in a significant impact based on SCAQMD thresholds of significance discussed in Appendix B. The analysis for long-term local air quality impacts show that local pollutant concentrations would not be projected to exceed the air quality standards.

Therefore, a less than significant long-term impact would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

Criterion 2 – Exceed Assumptions in the AQMP?

Consistency with the AQMP assumptions is determined by performing an analysis of the Proposed Project with assumptions in the 2022 AQMP. The emphasis of this criterion is to ensure that the analyses conducted for the Proposed Project are based on the same forecasts as the AQMP. The 2022 AQMP was developed through use of the planning forecasts provided in the Connect SoCal and 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The Connect SoCal is a major planning document for the regional transportation and land use network within Southern California. The Connect SoCal is a long-range plan that is required by federal and state requirements placed on the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and is updated every four years. The 2019 FTIP provides long-range planning for future transportation improvement projects that are constructed with state and/or federal funds within Southern California. Local governments are required to use these plans as the basis of their plans for the purpose of consistency with applicable regional plans under CEQA. For this Proposed Project, the County General Plan's Land Use Plan defines the assumptions that are represented in AQMP.

The Project site is designated in the P-Public and Semi-Public land use category and zoned as R-1-10,000 (Single Family Residence –10,000 Square Feet Minimum Lot Area). According to the County's zoning code, libraries are conditionally authorized land uses within the R-1 zone (Municipal Code Section 22.18). The Project does not propose a change to the existing land use or zoning designation and is an allowed use within the current land use designation. As such, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to exceed the AQMP assumptions for the Project site and is found to be consistent with the AQMP for the second criterion. Based on the above, the Proposed Project will not result in an inconsistency with the SCAQMD AQMD.

DRAFT

Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

Threshold b) Would the Project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Proposed Project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard. The following section calculates the potential air emissions associated with the construction and operations of the Proposed Project and compares the emissions to the SCAQMD standards.

Construction Emissions

The construction activities for the Proposed Project are anticipated to include demolition, seismic retrofit, interior renovations, and exterior renovations. The CalEEMod model has been utilized to calculate the construction-related regional emissions from the Proposed Project and the input parameters utilized in this analysis have been detailed in Appendix B. The maximum daily construction emissions by season are shown below in Table 3-3 (Expected Maximum Daily Construction Emissions).

Table 3-3: Expected Maximum Daily Construction Emissions

Year (lb/day)	Pollutant Emissions (pounds/day)					
	ROG	NOx	CO	SO_2	PM10	PM2.5
2025	0.64	8.2	11.1	0.02	0.41	0.14
2026	43.4	3.1	3.73	0.01	0.21	0.04
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds	75	100	550	150	150	55
LTS Screening Threshold	--	69	535	--	4	3
Exceeds Thresholds?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.1.25

Table 3-3 shows that none of the analyzed criteria pollutants would exceed either the regional or local emissions thresholds during construction of the Proposed Project. Therefore, less than significant regional and local air quality impacts would occur from construction of the Proposed Project.

Operational Emissions

The Proposed Project operations are expected to remain consistent with current library use, including traffic generation. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

Threshold c) Would the Project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The local concentrations of criteria pollutant emissions produced in the nearby vicinity of the Proposed Project, which may expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations, have been calculated in Appendix B for construction activities, and the screening thresholds for localized significance thresholds (LTS) are shown in Table 3-3 above. The discussion below includes an analysis of construction-related sensitive receptor impacts as

well as an analysis of potential impacts from TAC emissions. The nearest sensitive receptors are the residents at the single-family homes that surround the Project site.

Construction-Related Sensitive Receptor Impacts

Construction activities may expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations of localized criteria pollutant concentrations and TAC emissions created from on-site construction equipment, which are described below.

Local Criteria Pollutant Impacts from Construction

The local air quality impacts from construction of the Proposed Project have been analyzed in the report and confirm that the construction of the Proposed Project would not exceed the local NOx, CO, PM10 and PM2.5 thresholds of significance as provided in Table 3-3 and discussed in Appendix B. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Project would create a less than significant construction-related impact to local air quality and no mitigation would be required.

Toxic Air Contaminants Impacts from Construction

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project are anticipated to generate TAC emissions from DPM associated with the operation of trucks and off-road equipment, and from possible asbestos in the structures to be demolished.

Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) Emissions

The greatest potential for toxic air contaminant emissions would be related to DPM emissions associated with heavy equipment operations during construction of the Proposed Project. According to SCAQMD methodology, health effects from carcinogenic air toxics are usually described in terms of "individual cancer risk." "Individual Cancer Risk" is the likelihood that a person exposed to concentrations of TACs over a 70-year lifetime will contract cancer, based on the use of standard risk-assessment methodology. It should be noted that the most current cancer risk assessment methodology recommends analyzing a 30-year exposure period for the nearby sensitive receptors.

Given the relatively limited number of heavy-duty construction equipment, the varying distances that construction equipment would operate to the nearby sensitive receptors, and the short-term construction schedule, the Proposed Project would not result in a long-term (i.e., 30 or 70 years) substantial source of TAC emissions and corresponding individual cancer risk. In addition, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 13, Article 4.8, Chapter 9, Section 2449 regulates emissions from off-road diesel equipment in California. This regulation limits the idling of equipment to no more than five minutes, requires equipment operators to label each piece of equipment, and provide annual reports to CARB of their fleet's usage and emissions. This regulation also requires systematic upgrading of the emission Tier level of each fleet, and currently no commercial operator is allowed to purchase Tier 0, Tier 1, or Tier 2 equipment. In addition to the purchase restrictions, equipment operators need to meet fleet average emission targets that become more stringent each year between the years 2014 and 2023. Therefore, due to the limitations in off-road construction equipment DPM emissions from implementation of Section 2449, a less than significant short-term TAC impact would occur during construction of the Proposed Project from DPM emissions.

Asbestos Emissions
It is possible that the existing on-site structures to be demolished contain asbestos. According to SCAQMD Rule 1403 requirements, prior to the start of demolition activities, the existing structures located on-site shall be thoroughly surveyed for the presence of asbestos by a person that is certified by Cal/OSHA for asbestos surveys. Rule 1403 requires that the SCAQMD be notified a minimum of 10 days before any demolition activities begin with specific details of all asbestos to be removed, start and completion dates of demolition, work practices and engineering controls to be used to contain the asbestos emissions, estimates on the amount of asbestos to be removed, the name of the waste disposal site where the asbestos will be taken, and names and addresses of all contractors and transporters that will be involved in the asbestos removal process. Therefore, through adherence to the asbestos removal requirements, detailed in SCAQMD Rule 1403, a less than significant asbestos impact would occur during construction of the Proposed Project.

Operational Emissions

The Proposed Project would continue to operate as a library and is not expected to create pollution concentrations that exceed those of the existing use. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur to sensitive receptors.

Threshold d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. Sources of odors associated with the Proposed Project would be from diesel equipment used during construction and uses of paints and solvents. Construction activities would be short-term in nature and would not create a significant long-term impact. There are no extensive grading or demolition activities on-site that would result in substantial emissions. Exhaust odors from diesel engines may be considered offensive to some individuals; however, diesel emissions would not be ongoing, and any emissions would disperse rapidly, including those of paints and solvents. The Proposed Project would continue to operate as a library and does not include uses that would result in emissions that would lead to odors. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with objectionable odors.

3.3.6 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined in the CEQA as “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Stated in another way, “a cumulative impact consists of an impact which is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing related impacts” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 (a)(1)).

An analysis of potential cumulative criteria pollutant impacts has been provided in Threshold b above. This analysis found that construction activities associated with implementation of the Proposed Project would be below the significance thresholds for all phases of construction activities, and that regional emissions associated with the operation of the Proposed Project would be less than the daily significance thresholds. As such, the Proposed Project would create a less than significant cumulative impact to air quality, and no mitigation is required.

3.3.7 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required, as all Project impacts regarding air quality are less than significant.

3.3.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation

No mitigation measures are required, as all Project impacts regarding air quality are less than significant.

DRAFT

3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

This section describes the cultural resources at the Project site and general vicinity. Cultural resources include archaeological and historic sites, buildings, structures, features, objects, and human remains (Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines). This section analyzes the potential impacts resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project and recommends mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts to these resources. This section also examines levels of significance after mitigation.

The Proposed Project was reviewed for its historical significance and for compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards by Kleinfelder in 2024 in the *Historical Resource Impact Report* (Appendix C). The impact assessment report investigates the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on character-defining features of the Main Library and identifies if the Project will result in substantial adverse changes to the historical resource under CEQA.

3.4.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Existing Conditions

The Proposed Project is located in a developed area in unincorporated Altadena in the County of Los Angeles. The Project site currently houses the Altadena Main Library, which was originally built in 1967 and is situated in a residential area surrounded by housing on all sides of the property. The Main continues to provide a range of services for approximately 50,000 residents in Altadena and adjacent communities.

Cultural Setting

The Altadena Main Library is eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register, and as a Los Angeles County Landmarks under Criteria A/1/A.1 and C/3/A.3 for its association with the increase in civic services resulting from Altadena's postwar population boom as well as for being an excellent example of Mid-Century Modern architecture designed by noted architect Boyd Georgi. The property also appears eligible for listing as a Los Angeles County Landmark under

Criterion A.7 for its integral landscape, designed by Eriksson, Peters & Thomas. The library's period of significance is 1967, corresponding with its date of construction.

3.4.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

American Indian Religious Freedom Act

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Title 42 United States Code (U.S.C), Section 1996, protects Native American religious practices, ethnic heritage sites, and land uses.

National American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Enacted in 1990, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) conveys to American Indians of demonstrated lineal descent the human remains and funerary or religious items that are held by federal agencies and federally supported museums, or that have been recovered from federal lands. It also makes the sale or purchase of American Indian remains illegal, whether or not they are derived from federal or Indian lands.

National Historic Preservation Act and NRHP

Federal regulations for cultural resources are primarily governed by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, which applies to actions taken by federal agencies. The criteria for determining NRHP eligibility are found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 60. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on any site, district, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, and affords the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The Council's implementing regulations, 'Protection of Historic Properties,' are found in 36 CFR Part 800. The NRHP (36 CFR 60.4) criteria are used to evaluate resources when complying with Section 106 of the NHPA. Those criteria state that eligible resources comprise districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and any of the following eligibility criteria as follows:

- Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution of the broad patterns of our history;
- Criterion B: Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criterion C: That embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Criterion D: Have yielded, or have potential to yield, information important to history or prehistory.

For properties to be considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, they must demonstrate significance. If significance has been established, it is necessary to determine whether the resource retains the integrity for which it is significant. Therefore, eligible properties must meet at least one of the criteria and exhibit integrity. Historical integrity is measured by the degree to which the resource retains its historical attributes and conveys its historical character, the degree to which the original fabric has been retained, and the reversibility of changes to the property.

Historical Districts derive their importance from being considered a unified entity, even though they are often composed of a variety of resources. The identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources, which can be an arrangement of historically or functionally related properties. A district is defined as a geographically definable area of land containing a significant concentration of buildings, sites, structures, or objects united by past events, or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district's significance integrity should help determine the boundaries.

With historic districts, resources are identified as contributing and noncontributing. A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which a district is significant because it was either present during a period of significance, relates to the significance of the district, and retains its physical integrity; or it independently meets the criteria for listing in the NRHP.

Archaeological site evaluation assesses the potential of each site to meet one or more of the criteria for NRHP eligibility based on visual surface and subsurface evidence (if available) at each site location, information gathered during the literature and record searches, and the researcher's knowledge of and familiarity with the historic or prehistoric context associated with each site.

Secretary of Interior Standards

The Secretary of the Interior (SOI) is the head of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which is the nation's principal conservation agency. The department oversees agencies including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the National Park Service (NPS).

The Secretary of Interior Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation

The Purpose of the SOI Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation of 1983 is to (1) organize the information gathered about preservation activities; (2) describe results to be achieved by federal agencies, states, and others when planning for the identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties; and (3) integrate the diverse efforts of many entities performing historic preservation into a systematic effort to preserve the nation's cultural heritage (NPS 1983).

The Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation

Developed in 1986, the SOI Standards for Rehabilitation are 10 basic principles created to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic building and its site, whole allowing for reasonable chance to meet new needs.

The Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitation, or Reconstructing Historic Buildings, 1995

The SOI Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties were developed to help protect the nation's irreplaceable cultural resources by promoting consistent preservation practices. The

standards are a series of concepts about maintaining, repairing, and replacing historic materials, as well as designing new additions or making alterations; as such, they cannot, in and of themselves, be used to make essential decisions about which features of historic property should be saved in which might be changes. But once an appropriate treatment is selected, the standards provide philosophical consistency to the work.

State

Assembly Bill 4239

Assembly Bill (AB) 4239 established the NAHC as the primary government agency responsible for identifying and cataloging Native American cultural resources. The bill authorized the NAHC to act in order to prevent damage to and insure Native American access to sacred sites, and to prepare an inventory of Native American sacred sites located on public lands.

CEQA and the CRHR

In accordance with the provisions of the CEQA, California Public Resources Code (PRC) Division 13 Environmental Quality, §21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. For the purposes of this statute, a historical resource is defined as a resource listed in or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR. Historical resources included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1 or deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in §5024.1((g), are presumed to be historically or culturally significant for purposes of §21084.1. The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the CRHR, not included in a local register of historical resources, or not deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in §5024.1(g) shall not preclude a lead agency from determining whether the resource may be a historical resource for purposes of §21084.1.

The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is responsible for administering federally and State mandated historic preservation programs to further the identification, evaluation, registration, and protection of California's irreplaceable archaeological and historical resources under the direction of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), a gubernatorial appointee, and the State Historic Resources Commission (SHRC). The SHRC designed and manages the CRHR program for use by State and local agencies, private groups, citizens, and other stakeholders to identify, evaluate, register, and protect California's historical resources. As such, the CRHR is used to determine if a resource qualifies for listing on the register and is a "historical resource" per CEQA 2.1084.1. The determination of significance of impacts to historical resources is defined in section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, which defines the term "historical resources" as the following:

(1) A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for by the SHRC, for listing in the CRHR (PRC §5024.1, Title 14 CRR, §4850 et seq.)
(2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in §5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified as significant in a historical resources survey meeting the requirements of PRC §5024.1(g), shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.

(3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, education, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the CRHR (PRC §5024.1, Title 14 CRR, §4850) including the following.
   a. Is associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
   b. Is associated with the lives of persons important to our past;
   c. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values;
   d. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

The fact that a resource is not listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR and not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant §5024.1) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be a historical resource as defined in PRC §5020.1 or §5024.1(B).

Per §15064.5(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, which is the foundation of Threshold 3.401 below, a project with an effect that may cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. The factors used when making this determination are as follows.

(1) Substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired.
(2) The significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project:
   a. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the CRHR; or
   b. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to PRC §5020.1, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or
   c. Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR as determined by the lead agency for the purpose of the CEQA.
(3) Generally, a project that follows the SOI Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings of the SOI's Standards for the Rehabilitation and Guidelines for

DRAFT

Rehabilitating Historic Buildings shall be considered as mitigated to a level of less than significant impact on the historical resource. This includes assessing the integrity of a resource in accordance with SOI guidelines to aid in the determination of eligibility for CRHR as a historic resource.

(4) A lead agency shall identify potentially feasible measures to mitigate significant adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource. The lead agency shall ensure that any adopted measures to mitigate or avoid significant adverse changes are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures.

(5) When a project will affect State-owned historical resources, as described in PRC §5024.5 Consultation should be coordinating in a timely fashion with the preparation of environmental documents.

California Historical Landmarks

The State Historical Landmarks Program places an emphasis on well-known places and events in California history. The goals of the program include the preservation and maintenance of registered landmarks, most of which include missions, early settlements, battles, and gold rush sites.

California NAGPRA (Health and Safety Code Section 8010)

The California NAGPRA 2001 conveys to American Indians of demonstrated lineal descent, the human remains and funerary items that are held by State agencies and museums.

California Points of Historical Interest Program (PRC §5020.2)

The State Points of Historical Interest Program was established in the effort to accommodate local historic properties not able to meet the restrictive criteria of the State Historical Landmarks Program. The Points of Historic Interest Program requires the participation of local governmental officials, such as the chairperson of the Board of Supervisors, in the approval process. To be eligible for designation as a Point of Historical Interest, a resource must meet at least one of the following criteria:

(A) The first, last, only, or most significant of its type within the local geographic region (City or County)

(B) Associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of the local area

(C) A prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement, or construction, or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in the local region of a pioneer architect, designer, or master builder.

PRC 5097.97

No public agency and no private party using or occupying public property or operating on public property under a public license, permit, grant, lease, or contract made on or after July 1, 1977, shall in any manner whatsoever interfere with the free expression or exercise of Native American religion as provided in the United States Constitution and the California Constitution; nor shall any such agency or party cause severe or irreparable damage to any Native American sanctified

cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine located on public property, except on a clear and convincing showing that the public interest and necessity so require.

PRC 5097.98 (b) and (e)

PRC 5097.98 (b) and (e) require a landowner on whose property Native American human remains are found to limit further development activity in the vicinity until they confer with the NAHC-identified Most Likely Descendants (MLDs) to consider treatment options. In the absence of MLDs or of a treatment acceptable to all parties, the landowner is required to reinter the remains elsewhere on the property in a location not subject to further disturbance.

California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5

California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5 makes it a misdemeanor to disturb or remove human remains found outside a cemetery. This code also requires a project owner to halt construction if human remains are discovered and to contact the county coroner.

Local

Altadena is under the jurisdiction of the County of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County Historic Preservation Ordinance was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on September 1st, 2015. According to the Ordinance, to be determined eligible for designation as a historic landmark, and individual resource (structure, site, object, tree, landscape, or other natural land feature) must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

A.1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;

A.2. It is associated with the lives of persons who are significant in the history of the nation, State, County or community in which it is located;

A.3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, architectural style, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose work is of significance to the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located; or possesses artistic values of significance to the nation, State, County, or community;

A.4. It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, significant and important information regarding the prehistory of the nation, State, County, or community in which it is located;

A.5. It is listed, or has formally been determined eligible by the United States National Park Services for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, or is listed, or has been formally determined eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing, on the California Register of Historical Resources;

A.6. If it is a tree, it is one of the largest or oldest trees of the species located in the County; or

A.7. If it is a tree, landscape, or other natural land feature, it has historical significance due to an association with a historic event, person, site, street, or structure, or because it is a defining or significant outstanding feature of a neighborhood.

3.4.3 Thresholds of Significance

Threshold a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5

3.4.4 Methodology

In 2020, the Altadena Library District commissioned Architectural Resources Group (ARG) to complete a historical resources assessment of the Altadena Main Library (ARG 2020). ARG assessed the Altadena Main Library for historical significance under the NRHP, CRHR, and Los Angeles County landmark (Local Register) criteria. Based on their analysis, ARG recommended that the Altadena Main Library is eligible for listing on the NRHP, the CRHR, and the Local Register under Criteria A/1/A.1 and C/3/A.3, respectively, for its association with the increase in civic services resulting from Altadena's postwar population boom as well as for being an excellent example of Mid-Century Modern architecture designed by noted architect Boyd Georgi. Additionally, ARG recommended that the Library is eligible for listing as a Los Angeles County landmark under Criterion A.7 for its integral landscape, designed by Eriksson, Peters & Thoms.

In August 2024, Kleinfelder prepared a separate Historical Resources Assessment Report in support of the Altadena Main Library Renovation Project. Kleinfelder's principal architectural historian completed a site visit in January 2024 to assess the potential impacts of the Project on the Altadena Library District. Kleinfelder completed a Secretary of the Interior (SOI) Standards for Rehabilitation Assessment to assess the Project's impacts on historical resources.

Both Kleinfelder and ARG's reports are included in Appendix C.

3.4.5 Project Impact Analysis

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Significant and Unavoidable. The historical resources assessment reports in Appendix C analyze whether the Project's design changes to character-defining features of the Main Library would be consistent with the SOI Standards. The proposed changes are grouped into three categories: 1) site and landscape, 2) building exterior and 3) building interior. The following discussion is a summary of the Project design changes by the three categories and if they meet each of the SOI Standards.

Site and Landscape

- The removal of non-native ornamental trees will not modify the overall appearance of the landscape in such a way that will compromise the historic integrity of the landscaping plan.
- The built environment landscaping elements such as the footbridges and globe lanterns will be repaired if possible, using in-kind materials in conformance with the SOI Standards.
- Additions to the building, new walkways, and the potential construction of the exterior reading court alter the landscape and the site plan, but are compatible with the intent and the design for the space while not creating a false sense of history.

Building Exterior

- The addition of the new entrance and atrium on the south façade of the library will alter character-defining features such as the emphasis of horizontal planes, characteristic of Mid-Century Modern architecture. Partially removing the existing fascia creates a visual break in horizontality.
- A portion of the existing concrete masonry unit (CMU) wall on the south façade will be demolished, breaking the visual horizontality, a character-defining feature.
- A portion of the glass windows on the southern façade will be replaced with CMU block (per schematic design) breaking the interior/exterior character-defining feature associated with Mid-Century Modern architecture.
- The main entrance will be altered and replaced with a new set of modern glass doors and an atrium, making it the central focus of the south façade and thus removing the character-defining feature of unassuming recessed entrances.
- The new entrance will consist of double-height glass; however, it might be partially obscured by the existing CMU wall, thus partially obstructing the indoor/outdoor transition.

Building Interior

- Open spaces will be broken with bigger enclosed spaces, notably on the western portion of the interior space, breaking the open plan space.
- Character-defining features of the sunken living room, such as tiled floor, will be preserved except where the new ADA ramp is installed.
- Wood paneling and millwork will be removed, but the carved wood tiles will be reused at the new service desk.

Table 3-4: SOI Standards Assessment

SOI Standards	Assessment
A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.	The Altadena Main Library will continue to be used as a public library. Therefore, the Project generally conforms to this standard.
The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.	Based on the Project plans, historic character features will be altered, distinctive character defining materials will be removed, and spatial relationships between spaces will be altered. These alterations will result in a significant change in the spatial relationship and to the integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and feeling, particularly for the interior of the building. Therefore, the Project does not generally conform to this standard.
Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.	Based on the Project plans that have been provided, the alterations to the property will be distinct from the historical design, while also complimentary to the intent of the original design. These changes will be differentiated from the historical material and will not create a false sense of history. Therefore, the Project generally conforms to this standard.

SOI Standards	Assessment
Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.	No changes to the property that have acquired historic significance have been identified. Therefore, the Project generally conforms to this standard.
Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.	Although some materials and finishes will be retained, other of the character-defining features such as wood paneling and millwork, tiles, spatial relationship between the interior and exterior, and emphasis in horizontal panes will be removed. These alterations will result in an overall loss of integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and feeling. Therefore, the Project does not generally conform to this standard.
Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.	Based on the Project plans, historic features such as the trellis/chandelier, will be refurbished rather than replaced. In addition, the wooden bridges on the exterior of the building will be repaired and/or replaced with in-kind materials. While these specific improvements generally conform to this standard, the building will undergo such significant alterations that other historic features (such as windows and wood paneling) will be removed. These alterations will result in an overall loss of integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and feeling. Therefore, the Project does not generally conform to this standard.
Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.	Based on the Project plans that have been provided, it does not appear that use of chemical or physical treatments will cause damage to historic materials that will not be modified by removal and new construction. Therefore, the Project generally conforms to this standard.
Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.	Appendix C does not address archaeological resources.
New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.	The proposed additions will alter character defining features and will remove/destroy historic materials. These alterations will result in an overall loss of integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and feeling. Therefore, the Project does not generally conform to this standard.
New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in a such a manner that, if removed in the future, the	The majority of the modifications to the building under this Project will permanently modify the building in such a way that, if removed in the

SOI Standards	Assessment
essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.	future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property would not be retained. Therefore, the Project does not generally conform to this standard.

As summarized in Table 3-4 (SOI Standards Assessment), the Project will not conform to all of the SOI Standards and will result in an overall loss of integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and feeling.

As a result of background research, site inspection, and evaluation under federal, state, and county eligibility criteria, it was determined that the Altadena Main Library is eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register, and as a Los Angeles County Landmark and therefore meets the definition of a "qualified historic structure" per the California Historical Building Code (Section 18955 of Division 13, Part 2.7 of Health and Safety Code).

As determined by the *Historical Resource Impact Assessment Report* prepared by Kleinfelder, the Altadena Main Library is eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register, and as a Los Angeles County Landmark under Criteria A/1/A.1 and C/3/A.3. The Altadena Main Library's association with the increase in civic services resulting from Altadena's postwar population boom as well as for being an excellent example of Mid-Century Modern architecture designed by noted architect Boyd Georgi. The property also appears eligible for listing as a Los Angeles County Landmark under Criterion A.7 for its integral landscape, designed by Eriksson, Peters & Thoms. The library's period of significance is 1967, corresponding with its date of construction. Therefore, a significant and unavoidable impact would occur in this regard.

3.4.6 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined in the CEQA as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Stated in another way, "a cumulative impact consists of an impact which is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing related impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 [a][1]).

The geographic scope of cumulative archaeological and tribal resource impacts associated with the Proposed Project are limited to the Proposed Project site. Activities associated with the Proposed Project, as it relates to archaeological and tribal resources, would have no impact to areas outside the Proposed Project site due to the localized nature of the impact. As such, no cumulative archaeological and tribal resource impacts would be associated with implementation of the Proposed Project.

3.4.7 Mitigation Measures

CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures be undertaken, even if it does not mitigate below a level of significance. In this context, recordation, material salvage, and interpretation serve a legitimate archival purpose. The level of documentation required as a mitigation should be proportionate with the level of significance of the resource. The Proposed Project will implement mitigation measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 in order to reduce the potentially significant impacts on the historical resource; however, the impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

MM CUL-1: Prior to the commencement of demolition, the building should be recorded through a documentation report based on Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)-standards. The report will be completed by an architectural historian or historic architect who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards and will be based on the National Park Service (NPS) HABS Level III format and content requirements. An archival copy of the HABS report will be filed with the Altadena Library and nonarchival copies may be deposited in the collections of the Long Beach Public Library and Long Beach Heritage Museum, if requested, and in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC).

MM CUL-2: Prior to the commencement of demolition, the Altadena Library District shall coordinate with an architectural historian or historic architect who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, the Project architect, and the demolition contractor to develop a list of materials that would be salvaged during demolition and a salvage plan, which may include architectural history monitoring during demolition.

3.4.8 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Impacts to historic resources would be significant and unavoidable.

3.4.9 Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts to historic resources would be significant and unavoidable.

DRAFT

3.5 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

This section provides information on potential impacts from the GHG emissions generated either directly or indirectly by the Project. This section also addresses the potential of the Project to conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Information contained in this section is from the GHG modeling parameter and output prepared for the Project in the *Construction Greenhouse Gas Screening Assessment,* dated December 18th, 2024, prepared by Ldn Consulting, Inc. (Appendix D). Information contained in this Section is from the CalEEMod Version 2022.1.

3.5.1 Background Information

According to Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks 1990-2021, prepared by EPA, April 2023, total U.S. GHG emissions in the year 2021 were 6,340.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MMTCO_2e$). Total U.S. emissions have decreased by 2.3 percent between 1990 and 2021, which is down from a high of 15.8 percent above 1990 levels in 2007. Emissions increased from 2020 to 2021 by 5.2 percent. There was a decline in 2020 emission due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel and other economic activity. Between 2020 and 2021, the increase in GHG emissions were driven largely by an increase in fossil fuel combustion due to economic activity rebounding after the height of COVID-19 pandemic.

According to California Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2000 to 2001 Trends of Emissions and Other Indicators, prepared by the CARB, December 2014, 2023, the State of California created 381.3 MMTCO2e in 2021. The 2021 emissions were 12.6 MMTCO2e higher than 2020 but 23.1 MMTCO2e lower than 2019 levels. Both the 2019 to 2020 decrease and the 2020 to 2021 increase in emissions are likely due in part to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that were felt globally. The transportation sector showed the largest increase in emissions of 10 MMTCO2e (7.4 percent) compared to 2020, which is most likely from passenger vehicles whose activity and emissions rebounded after COVID-19 shelter in place orders were lifted

3.5.2 Greenhouse Gasses

GHGs are global pollutants and are, therefore, unlike criteria air pollutants such as ozone (O_3, particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and toxic air contaminants (TACs), which are pollutants of regional and local concern (see Section 4.1, Air Quality, of this EIR). While pollutants with

localized air quality effects have relatively short atmospheric lifetimes (generally on the order of a few days), GHGs have relatively long atmospheric lifetimes, ranging from one year to several thousand years. Long atmospheric lifetimes allow GHGs to disperse around the globe. Therefore, GHG effects are global, as opposed to the local and/or regional air quality effects of criteria air pollutant and TAC emissions.

California AB 32 defines greenhouse gases as any of the following compounds: carbon dioxide (CO2) methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) (California Health and Safety Code Section 38505[g]). CO2, followed by CH4 and N2O, are the most common GHGs that result from human activity.

GHGs have varying global warming potential (GWP). The GWP is the potential of a gas or aerosol to trap heat in the atmosphere; it is the "cumulative radiative forcing effect of a gas over a specified time horizon resulting from the emission of a unit mass of gas relative to a reference gas" (USEPA 2018). The reference gas for GWP is CO2; therefore, CO2 has a GWP of 1. The other main greenhouse gases that have been attributed to human activity include CH_4, which has a GWP of 21, and N_2O, which has a GWP of 310.

Human-caused sources of CO_2 include combustion of fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas, gasoline and wood). Data from ice cores indicate that CO_2 concentrations remained steady prior to the current period for approximately 10,000 years. Concentrations of CO_2 have increased in the atmosphere since the industrial revolution. CH_4 is the main component of natural gas and also arises naturally from anaerobic decay of organic matter. Human-caused sources of natural gas include landfills, fermentation of manure, and cattle farming. Human-caused sources of N_2O include combustion of fossil fuels and industrial processes such as nylon production and production of nitric acid.

Other GHGs are present in trace amounts in the atmosphere and are generated from various industrial or other uses. The sources of GHG emissions, GWP, and atmospheric lifetime of GHGs are all important variables to be considered in the process of calculating CO_2e for discretionary land use projects that require a climate change analysis

3.5.3 Regulatory Setting

The regulatory setting related to global climate change is addressed through the efforts of various international, federal, State, regional, and local government agencies. These agencies work jointly, as well as individually, to reduce GHG emissions through legislation, regulations, planning, policymaking, education, and a variety of programs. The agencies responsible for global climate change regulations are discussed below.

Federal

The USEPA is responsible for implementing federal policy to address global climate change. The federal government administers a wide array of public-private partnerships to reduce U.S. GHG intensity. These programs focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, methane and other non-CO_2 gases, agricultural practices, and implementation of technologies to achieve GHG reductions. USEPA implements several voluntary programs that substantially contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions. On December 7, 2009, the USEPA Administrator signed two distinct findings regarding GHGs under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act. The findings state:

- **Endangerment Finding:** The Administrator finds that the current and projected concentrations of the six key well-mixed greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO_2); methane (CH_4); nitrous oxide (N_2O); hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); perfluorocarbons (PFCs); and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6), into the atmosphere, threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations.

- **Cause or Contribute Finding**: The Administrator finds that the combined emissions of these well-mixed greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines contribute to the greenhouse gas pollution which threatens public health and welfare.

These findings did not impose any requirements on industry or other entities; however, since 2009 the USEPA has been providing GHG emission standards for vehicles and other stationary sources of GHG emissions that are regulated by the USEPA. On September 13, 2013, the USEPA Administrator signed 40 CFR Part 60, that limits emissions from new sources to 1,100 pounds of CO2 per MWh for fossil fuel-fired utility boilers and 1,000 pounds of CO2 per MWh for large natural gas-fired combustion units.

On August 3, 2015, the USEPA announced the Clean Power Plan, emissions guidelines for U.S. states to follow in developing plans to reduce GHG emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired power plants (Federal Register Vol. 80, No. 205, October 23, 2015). On February 9, 2016, the Supreme Court stayed implementation of the Clean Power Plan due to a legal challenge from 29 states; and, in April 2017, the Supreme Court put the case on a 60-day hold and directed both sides to make arguments for whether it should keep the case on hold indefinitely or close it and remand the issue to the USEPA. On October 11, 2017, the USEPA issued a formal proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan; however, the repeal of the Plan will require following the same rule-making system used to create regulations and will likely result in court challenges.

State

CARB has the primary responsibility for implementing state policy to address global climate change; however, State regulations related to global climate change affect a variety of State agencies. CARB, which is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency, is responsible for the coordination and administration of both the Federal and State air pollution control programs within California. In this capacity, the CARB conducts research, sets CAAQS, compiles emission inventories, develops suggested control measures, provides oversight of local programs, and prepares the State Implementation Plan (SIP). In addition, the CARB establishes emission standards for motor vehicles sold in California, consumer products (e.g., hairspray, aerosol paints, and barbeque lighter fluid), and various types of commercial equipment. It also sets fuel specifications to further reduce vehicular emissions.

In 2008, CARB approved a Climate Change Scoping Plan that proposes a “comprehensive set of actions designed to reduce overall carbon GHG emissions in California, improve our environment, reduce our dependence on oil, diversify our energy sources, save energy, create new jobs, and enhance public health” (CARB 2008). The Climate Change Scoping Plan has a range of GHG reduction actions which include direct regulations; alternative compliance mechanisms; monetary and nonmonetary incentives; voluntary actions; and market-based mechanisms such as a cap-and-trade system. In 2014, CARB approved the First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan that identifies additional strategies moving beyond the 2020 targets to the year 2050. On December 14, 2017, CARB adopted California’s 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan (CARB

2017) that provides specific statewide policies and measures to achieve the 2030 GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and the aspirational 2050 GHG reduction target of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. In addition, the State has passed the following laws directing CARB to develop actions to reduce GHG emissions, which are listed below in chronological order, with the most current first.

Executive Order N-79-20

The California Governor issued Executive Order (EO) N-79-20 on September 23, 2020, that requires all new passenger cars and trucks, and commercial drayage trucks sold in California to be zero-emissions by the year 2035 and all medium-heavy-duty vehicles (commercial trucks) sold in the state to be zero-emissions by 2045 for all operations where feasible. EO N-79-20 also requires all off-road vehicles and equipment to transition to 100 percent zero-emission equipment, where feasible, by 2035.

Title 24, Part 6, Energy Efficiency Standards

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24, Part 6: California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings (Title 24) was first established in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. The standards are updated periodically to allow consideration and possible incorporation of new energy efficiency technologies and methods. Although it was not originally intended to reduce GHG emissions, electricity production by fossil fuels results in GHG emissions; and energy efficient buildings require less electricity. Therefore, increased energy efficiency results in decreased GHG emissions.

Title 24 standards are updated on a three-year schedule, and the most current 2019 standards went into effect on January 1, 2020. The Title 24 standards now require that the average new home built in California will now use zero-net-energy and that nonresidential buildings will use about 30 percent less energy than the 2016 standards due mainly to lighting upgrades. The 2019 standards also encourage the use of battery storage and heat pump water heaters, require more widespread use of LED lighting, and improve a building's thermal envelope through high performance attics, walls, and windows. The 2019 standards also require improvements to ventilation systems by requiring highly efficient air filters to trap hazardous air particulates as well as improvements to kitchen ventilation systems.

Title 24, Part 11, California Green Building Standards

CCR Title 24, Part 11: California Green Building Standards (Title 24) was developed in response to continued efforts to reduce GHG emissions associated with energy consumption. The most current version is the 2019 CALGreen Code, which became effective on January 1, 2020, and replaced the 2016 CALGreen Code.

The CALGreen Code contains requirements for construction site selection, storm water control during construction, construction waste reduction, indoor water use reduction, material selection, natural resource conservation, site irrigation conservation, and more. The code provides design options that allow the designer to determine how best to achieve compliance for a given site or building condition. The code also requires building commissioning, which is a process for verifying that all building systems (e.g., heating and cooling equipment and lighting systems) are functioning at their maximum efficiency.

The CALGreen Code provides standards for bicycle parking, carpool/vanpool/electric vehicle spaces, light and glare reduction, grading and paving, energy-efficient appliances, renewable energy, graywater systems, water-efficient plumbing fixtures, recycling and recycled materials, pollutant controls (including moisture control and indoor air quality), acoustical controls, storm water management, building design, insulation, flooring, and framing, among others. Implementation of the CALGreen Code measures reduced energy consumption and vehicle trips and encourages the use of alternative-fuel vehicles, which reduces pollutant emissions.

Some of the notable changes in the 2019 CALGreen Code over the prior 2016 CALGreen Code include: an alignment of building code engineering requirements with the national standards that include anchorage requirements for solar panels, provide design requirements for buildings in tsunami zones, increase Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values (MERV) for air filters from 8 to 13, increase electric vehicle charging requirements in parking areas, and set minimum requirements for use of shade trees.

Renewable Portfolio Standards

The State of California requires that utility providers provide renewable energy to their customers. Senate Bill (SB) 100 was adopted September 2018 and requires that by December 1, 2045, 100 percent of retail sales of electricity be generated from renewable or zero-carbon emission sources of electricity. SB 100 supersedes the renewable energy requirements set by SB 350, SB 1078, SB 107, and SB X1-2. SB 100 codified the interim renewable energy thresholds from the prior Bills of: 33 percent by 2020; 40 percent by December 31, 2024; 45 percent by December 31, 2027; and 50 percent by December 31, 2030.

Executive Order B-30-15, Senate Bill 32 & Assembly Bill 197 (Statewide Year 2030 GHG Targets)

California EO B-30-15 (April 29, 2015) set an “interim” statewide emission target to reduce greenhouse emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and directed State agencies with jurisdiction over greenhouse gas emissions to implement measures pursuant to statutory authority to achieve this 2030 target and the 2050 target of 80 percent below 1990 levels. Specifically, the EO directed CARB to update the Scoping Plan to express this 2030 target in metric tons. Assembly Bill 197 (AB 197) (September 8, 2016) and SB 32 (September 8, 2016) codified into statute the GHG emissions reduction targets of at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 as detailed in EO B-30-15. AB 197 also requires additional GHG emissions reporting to CARB from stationary sources and requires CARB to provide sources of GHG emissions on its website that are broken down to sub-county levels. AB 197 requires CARB to consider the social costs of emissions impacting disadvantaged communities.

Executive Order B-29-15 and Senate Bill X7-7, Water Conservation Measures

The Water Conservation Act of 2009 sets an overall goal of reducing per-capita urban water use by 20 percent by December 31, 2020. The state is required to make incremental progress toward this goal by reducing per-capita water use by at least 10 percent by December 31, 2015. This is an implementing measure of the Water Sector of the AB 32 Scoping Plan. Reduction in water consumption directly reduces the energy necessary and the associated emissions to convene, treat, and distribute the water; it also reduces emissions from wastewater treatment.

The Department of Water Resources adopted a regulation on February 16, 2011, that sets forth criteria and methods for exclusion of industrial process water from the calculation of gross water use for purposes of urban water management planning. The regulation would apply to all urban

retail water suppliers required to submit an Urban Water Management Plan, as set forth in the Water Code, Division 6, Part 2.6, Sections 10617 and 10620.

On April 1, 2015, the California Governor issued Executive Order B-29-15 that directed the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to impose restrictions to achieve a statewide 25-percent reduction in urban water usage and directed the Department of Water Resources to replace 50 million square feet of lawn with drought-tolerant landscaping through an update to the State's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. The Ordinance also requires installation of more efficient irrigation systems, promotes usage of greywater and onsite stormwater capture, limits the turf planted in new residential landscapes to 25 percent of the total area, and restricts turf from being planted in median strips or in parkways unless the parkway is next to a parking strip where a flat surface is required to enter and exit vehicles. EO B-29-15 and SB X7-7 would reduce GHG emissions associated with the energy used to transport and filter water.

Senate Bill 97 and Amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

SB 97 directed the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to adopt amendments to the CEQA Guidelines that require evaluation of GHG emissions or the effects of GHG emissions by January 1, 2010. The CNRA has done so, and the amendments to the CEQA Guidelines, in a new Section 15064.4, entitled Determining the Significance of Impacts from Greenhouse Gas Emissions, provide that:

a) The determination of the significance of greenhouse gas emissions calls for a careful judgment by the lead agency consistent with the provisions in Section 15064. A lead agency should make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate, or estimate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project.

b) A lead agency should consider the following factors, among others, when assessing the significance of impacts from greenhouse gas emissions on the environment.

    1) The extent to which the project may increase or reduce greenhouse gas emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting;

    2) Whether the project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the project; and

    3) The extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Such requirements must be adopted by the relevant public agency through a public review process and must reduce or mitigate the project's incremental contribution of greenhouse gas emissions.

The amendments also add a new Section 15126.4(c), Mitigation Measures Related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Generally, this State CEQA Guidelines section requires lead agencies to consider feasible means—supported by substantial evidence and subject to monitoring or reporting—of mitigating the significant effects of GHG emissions. Potential measures to mitigate the significant effects of GHG emissions are identified, including those outlined in Appendix D, Energy Conservation, of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Senate Bill 375

SB 375 was adopted September 2008 in order to support the State's climate action goals to reduce GHG emissions through coordinated regional transportation planning efforts, regional GHG emission reduction targets, and land use and housing allocation. SB 375 requires CARB to set regional targets for GHG emissions reductions from passenger vehicle use. In 2010, CARB established targets for 2020 and 2035 for each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) within the state. It was up to each MPO to adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that will prescribe land use allocation in that MPO's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to meet CARB's 2020 and 2035 GHG emission reduction targets. These reduction targets are required to be updated every eight years; and in June 2017 CARB released a Staff Report Proposed Update to the SB 375 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target, which provided recommended GHG emissions reduction targets for Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) of 8 percent by 2020 and 21 percent by 2035.

The 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), adopted by SCAG April 7, 2016, provides a 2020 GHG emission reduction target of 8 percent and a 2035 GHG emission reduction target of 18 percent. SCAG will need to develop additional strategies in its next revision of the RTP/SCS in order to meet CARB's new 21-percent GHG emission reduction target for 2035. CARB is also charged with reviewing SCAG's RTP/SCS for consistency with its assigned targets.

City and County land use policies, including General Plans, are not required to be consistent with the RTP and associated SCS. However, new provisions of CEQA incentivize, through streamlining and other provisions, qualified projects that are consistent with an approved SCS and categorized as "transit priority projects."

Assembly Bill 32, The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006

The California Legislature adopted the public policy position that global warming is "a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California" (California Health and Safety Code, Section 38501). Further, the State Legislature has determined that:

"…the potential adverse impacts of global warming include the exacerbation of air quality problems, a reduction in the quality and supply of water to the state from the Sierra Nevada snowpack, a rise in sea levels resulting in the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and the natural environment, and an increase in the incidences of infectious disease, asthma, and other human health-related problems."

The State Legislature also states that:

"Global warming will have detrimental effects on some of California's largest industries, including agriculture, wine, tourism, skiing, recreational and commercial fishing, and forestry. It will also increase the strain on electricity supplies necessary to meet the demand for summer air-conditioning in the hottest parts of the State (California Health and Safety Code, Section 38501)."

These public policy statements became law with the enactment of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2006. AB 32 is now codified as Sections 38500 through 38599 of the California Health and Safety Code.

AB 32 requires that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. This reduction is to be accomplished through an enforceable statewide cap on GHG emissions to be phased in starting in 2012. AB 32 directs CARB to establish this statewide cap based on 1990 GHG emissions levels; to disclose how it arrived at the cap; to institute a schedule to meet the emissions cap; and to develop tracking, reporting, and enforcement mechanisms. Emissions reductions under AB 32 are to include carbon sequestration projects and best management practices that are technologically feasible and cost effective. As of the date of this Draft SEIR, CARB has not promulgated GHG emissions or reporting standards that are directly applicable to the Project.

Executive Order S-3-05

On June 1, 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed EO S-3-05, which proclaims that California is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It declares that increased temperatures could reduce snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, could further exacerbate California's air quality problems, and could potentially cause a rise in sea levels. In an effort to avoid or reduce the impacts of climate change, EO S-3-05 calls for a reduction in GHG emissions to the year 2000 level by 2010, to year 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. It should be noted that the 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 is currently an aspirational goal by EO S-3-05 but has not yet been codified into law.

Assembly Bill 1493, Clean Car Standards

AB 1493, adopted September 2002, also known as Pavley I, requires the development and adoption of regulations to achieve the maximum feasible reduction of GHGs emitted by noncommercial passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, and other vehicles used primarily for personal transportation in the state. Although setting emissions standards on automobiles is solely the responsibility of the USEPA, the federal Clean Air Act allows California to set state-specific emission standards on automobiles if the State first obtains a waiver from the USEPA. The USEPA granted California that waiver on July 1, 2009. The emission standards become increasingly more stringent through the 2016 model year. California is also committed to further strengthening these standards beginning in 2017 to obtain a 45 percent GHG reduction from 2020 model year vehicles (CARB 2009).

The second set of regulations, "Pavley II," was developed in 2010 and is being phased in between model years 2017 through 2025 with the goal of reducing GHG emissions by 45 percent by the year 2020 as compared to the 2002 fleet. The Pavley II standards were developed by linking the GHG emissions and formerly separate toxic tailpipe emissions standards previously known as the "LEV III" (third stage of the Low Emission Vehicle standards) into a single regulatory framework. The new rules reduce emissions from gasoline-powered cars as well as promote zero-emissions auto technologies, such as electricity and hydrogen, through increasing the infrastructure for fueling hydrogen vehicles. In 2009, the USEPA granted California the authority to implement the GHG standards for passenger cars, pickup trucks, and sport utility vehicles; and these GHG emissions standards are currently being implemented nationwide. However, USEPA has performed a midterm evaluation of the longer-term standards for model years 2022-2025; and, based on the findings of this midterm evaluation, the USEPA has proposed to amend the CAFE and GHG emissions standards for light vehicles for model years 2021 through 2026. The USEPA's proposed amendments do not include any extension of the legal waiver granted to California by the 1970 Clean Air Act which has allowed the State to set tighter standards for vehicle pipe emissions than the USEPA standards. On September 20, 2019, California filed a suit

over the USEPA decision to revoke California's legal waiver that has been joined by 22 other states.

Local

Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan

The County adopted the 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP) in June 2024. The 2045 CAP is the County's path toward meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and achieving carbon neutrality for unincorporated Los Angeles County. The 2045 CAP identifies strategies, measures, and actions to mitigate GHG emissions from community activities. The 2045 CAP is an update to the Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan 2020 (2020 CCAP), and it sets new GHG emissions reduction targets beyond the 2020 timeframe that are consistent with state goals pursuant to SB 32, AB 1279, and the 2022 Scoping Plan. The 2045 CAP includes the following elements:

- A GHG emissions inventory from communitywide activities in unincorporated Los Angeles County in 2018, along with a baseline inventory for 2015.
- Projections of future emissions for 2030, 2035, and 2045.
- GHG emissions reduction targets for 2030, 2035, and 2045.
- A long-term aspirational goal for carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Climate strategies, measures, and actions to reduce GHG emissions from major sectors.
- Technical modeling appendix to explain the GHG emissions reduction estimates.
- A consideration of environmental justice and equity concerns.
- Implementation and monitoring measures to ensure successful climate action.
- A new development review consistency checklist to allow future projects to streamline.

The 2045 CAP includes 10 strategies, 25 measures, and almost 90 actions that will be implemented by the County to achieve its proportional share of state GHG emissions reductions for the target year 2030. These strategies, measures, and actions are organized into four sectors: (1) transportation; (2) stationary energy; (3) waste (including wastewater); and (4) agriculture, forestry, and other land use. Through the updated 2045 CAP, the County is targeting carbon neutrality by 2045 in unincorporated areas of the County. The 2045 CAP is the County's path toward meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and achieving carbon neutrality for unincorporated areas of the County.

Thresholds of Significance

In order to assist in determining whether a project would have a significant effect on the environment, the County utilizes the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Guidelines. Appendix G states that a project may be deemed to have greenhouse gas impacts if it would:

Threshold a) **Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**

Threshold b) **Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?**

3.5.4 Methodology

Construction related emissions associated with construction activities were modeled using the CalEEMod Version 2022.1. Construction-generated GHG emissions were modeled based on general land use information and construction period information provided in Chapter 3.0, Project Description of the EIR. CalEEMod allows the user to enter project-specific construction information, such as types, number, horsepower of construction equipment, and number and length of off-site motor vehicle trips. The construction period for the proposed project was put into the CalEEMod to estimate total construction-related emissions. Construction-related exhaust emissions for the Proposed Project were estimated for construction worker commutes, haul trucks, and the use of off-road equipment. The CalEEMod input data, included in this EIR as Appendix D, lists the assumed equipment to be used for project construction, the duration of each phase, and changes to default settings that were made for project specific.

3.5.5 Project Impact Analysis

Threshold a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The Proposed Project would consist of demolition including removal of concrete, pavement, and removal of existing turf, planters, and shrubs, and grading of surfaces to slope walking paths, landscapes, and other surfaces away from buildings towards onsite drainage features. Construction would also include seismic retrofit, interior renovations, and exterior renovations. The Proposed Project is anticipated to generate GHG emissions from mobile sources, area sources, energy usage, waste disposal, water usage, and construction equipment.

Tier 3 screening standards and Tier 4 performance standards are the baseline for significant thresholds within the SCAQMD. Under this methodology, Tier 3 screening values are established at 3,000 megatons per year of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT/year CO_2e) for residential/commercial uses and 10,000 MT/year CO_2e for industrial projects. Tier 4 performance standards establish a 2020 plan use threshold of 6.6 MT/year CO_2e per Service Population Unit (SPU) and 4.8 MT/Year CO_2e for project level analysis (Appendix D). The total expected annual CO_2 emissions are shown below in Table 3-5.

Table 3-5: Expected Annual Construction CO_2e Emissions Summary

	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tons per Year)			
Year	**Total CO_2**	**CH_4**	**N_2O**	**CO_2e**
2025	48.1	<0.005	<0.005	48.7
2026	13.4	<0.005	<0.05	13.6
Total GHG Emissions				62.3

Construction emissions amortized over 30 years as recommended in the SCAQMD GHG Working Group on November 19, 2009.
Source: CalEEMod Version 2022.1.

Table 3-5 (Expected Annual Construction CO2e Emissions Summary) shows that the Proposed Project is expected to produce a total of 62.3 MT/year CO_2e during construction. More specifically,

the Proposed Project is expected to produce approximately 49 MT/year CO_2e in 2025 and approximately 14 MT/year CO_2e in 2026. SCAQMD has a recommended 3,000 MT/year CO_2e screening threshold which establishes a point at which projects would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact with regards to GHG emissions. The Proposed Project is expected to be at a maximum of 49 MT/year CO_2e during construction activities, therefore, the Proposed Project would not exceed the threshold and would result in a less than significant impact.

The Proposed Project would continue to operate as a library and would not increase in capacity in a way that would result in a significant increase in GHG emissions. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact in this regard.

Threshold b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. In 2011, SCAQMD prepared an Air Quality-Related Energy Policy that integrates air quality, energy, and climate change issues. It outlines policies to guide and coordinate SCAQMD efforts and provides guidance in developing future clean air programs which includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action took effect in June 2024, which establishes a framework for achieving carbon neutrality through strategies that reduce GHG emissions from energy use, transportation, water, waste, and land use. The Proposed Project is consistent with CAP 2045 because it would not increase long-term operational emissions and would incorporate building improvements that enhance energy efficiency and reduce energy demand. As the library would continue to operate in the same capacity as existing conditions following completion of renovations, the Project would not generate substantial new GHG emissions or conflict with the strategies or reduction targets of CAP 2045.

The Proposed Project emissions are short-term and would be insignificant in comparison to larger construction projects. The operation of the Proposed Project would not create a significant increase in GHG emissions, as the library would continue to operate in the same manner as existing conditions once the upgrades and repairs have been completed. In addition, the proposed improvements include upgrades to provide energy-efficient systems to improve library conditions, which complies with Policy 9 of the Air Quality-Related Energy Policy (Appendix D). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for reducing the emissions of GHGs.

3.5.6 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined in CEQA as “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Stated in another way, “a cumulative impact consists of an impact which is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing relating impacts” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 [a][1]).

The analysis in Threshold A above shows that the Proposed Project would not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. Construction emissions produced by the Proposed Project will be temporary in nature and operations would remain the same as an operational library. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a cumulative impact.

3.5.7 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required, as all Project impacts regarding greenhouse gases are less than significant.

3.5.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation

No mitigation measures are required, as all Project impacts regarding greenhouse gas emissions are less than significant.

DRAFT

3.6 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08), or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

This section defines technical terminology used in the analysis of noise; identifies federal, state, and local regulations applicable to noise; and describes the environmental setting with regard to existing ambient noise levels. This section also analyzes potential noise impacts associated with construction and operation of the Project. The information in this section is based on the Project's *Construction Noise Assessment,* which was prepared by Ldn consulting on January 8th, 2025. This document is provided as Appendix E of this EIR.

3.6.1 Existing Environmental Setting

Noise Terminology

Noise Fundamentals

Noise is defined as unwanted or objectionable sound. The effects of noise on people can include general annoyance, interference with speech communication, sleep disturbance and, in the extreme, hearing impairment. The unit of measurement used to describe a noise level is the decibel (dB). The human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the sound spectrum. Therefore, the "A-weighted" noise scale, which weights the frequencies to which humans are sensitive, is used for measurements. Noise levels using A-weighted measurements are written dB(A) or dBA. Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale, which quantifies sound intensity in a manner similar to the Richter scale used for earthquake magnitudes. Thus, a doubling of the energy of a noise source, such as doubling traffic volume, would increase the noise level by 3dBA; a halving of the energy would result in a 3dBA decrease.

A given level of noise may be more or less tolerable depending on the duration of exposure experienced by an individual. A number of measures of noise exposure consider not only the A-level variation of noise, but also the duration of the disturbance. The Day-Night Average Level (Ldn) is the weighted average of the intensity of a sound, with corrections for time of day, and averaged over 24 hours. The time-of-day corrections require the addition of ten decibels to sound levels at night between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is similar to the Ldn, except that it reflects the addition of 4.77 decibels to sound levels during the evening hours between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. These additions are made to the sound levels at these time periods because during the evening and nighttime hours, when compared to daytime hours, there is a decrease in the ambient noise levels, which creates an increased sensitivity to sounds. For this reason, the sound appears louder in the evening and nighttime hours and is weighted accordingly.

It is widely accepted that the average healthy ear can barely perceive changes of 3 dBA, increases or decreases, that a change of 5 dBA is readily perceptible, and that an increase (or decrease) of 10 dBA sounds twice (half) as loud.

Ground-Borne Vibration Fundamentals

Ground-borne vibrations consist of rapidly fluctuating motions within the ground that have an average motion of zero. The effects of ground-borne vibrations typically only cause a nuisance to people, but at extreme vibration levels, damage to buildings may occur. Although ground-borne vibration can be felt outdoors, it is typically only an annoyance to people indoors where the associated effects of the shaking of a building can be notable. Ground-borne noise is an effect of ground-borne vibration and only exists indoors, since it is produced from noise radiated from the motion of the walls and floors of a room and may also consist of the rattling of windows or dishes on shelves.

Several different methods are used to quantify vibration amplitude, such as the maximum instantaneous peak in the vibration's velocity, which is known as the peak particle velocity (PPV) or the root mean square (rms) amplitude of the vibration velocity. Due to the typically small amplitudes of vibrations, vibration velocity is often expressed in decibels, is denoted as "Lv", and is based on the rms velocity amplitude. A commonly used abbreviation is "Vd8", which in this text, is when Lv is based on the reference quantity of 1 micro inch per second.

Typically, developed areas are continuously affected by vibration velocities of 50 VdB or lower. These continuous vibrations are not noticeable to humans whose threshold of perception is around 65 VdB. Off-site sources that may produce perceptible vibrations are usually caused by construction equipment, steel-wheeled trains, and traffic on rough roads, while smooth roads rarely produce perceptible ground-borne noise or vibration.

3.6.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

The Noise Control Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-574)

The Noise Control Act and several other federal laws require the federal government to set and enforce uniform noise standards for aircraft and airports, interstate motor carriers and railroads, workplace activities, medium and heavy-duty trucks. Most federal noise standards focus on preventing hearing loss by limiting exposure to sounds of 90 dBA and higher. However, some are

stricter and focus on limiting exposure to quieter levels that are annoying to most individuals and can diminish one's quality of life.

Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates onsite noise levels and protects workers from occupational noise exposure. To protect hearing, worker noise exposure is limited to 90 decibels with A-weighting (dBA) over an 8-hour work shift (29 Code of Regulations [CFR] 1910.95). Employers are required to develop a hearing conservation program when employees are exposed to noise levels exceeding 85 dBA. These programs include provision of hearing protection devices testing employees for hearing loss on a periodic basis.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CalOSHA) has codified employee noise exposure limits as part of the State Occupational Noise Exposure Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5095–5099). The CalOSHA regulations are the same as the Federal OSHA standards in terms of dBA and duration.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research published the State of California General Plan Guidelines 2003 to provide direction on preparation of the various elements of a General Plan. With regard to noise, "Appendix C - Guidelines for the Preparation and Content of the Noise Element of the General Plan" provides guidance for the acceptability of projects within specific noise contours. The Guidelines identify various land use categories and Table 1 of the Guidelines includes adjustment factors that may be used to arrive at noise acceptability standards that reflect the noise control goals of a specific community. Imperial County used the adjustment factors to modify the state's Noise/Land Use Compatibility standards for the purpose of implementing the Noise Element of its General Plane.

Local

Los Angeles County Municipal Code, Noise Regulations (Noise Ordinance)

Table 3-6 discusses the Project's consistency with the General Plan policies.

Table 3-6: Construction Noise Standards

Time Interval	Single-Family Residential	Multi-Family Residential	Semi-Residential/Commercial
Mobile Equipment[1]			
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (daytime)	75 dBA	80 dBA	85 dBA
8:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. (nighttime)	60 dBA	64 dBA	70 dBA
Stationary Equipment[2]			
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (daytime)	60 dBA	65dBA	70 dBA
8:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.	50 dBA	55dBA	60 dBA

(nighttime)			

Source: Los Angeles County 2020
Notes: [1]Mobile Equipment- Maximum noise levels for nonscheduled, intermittent, short-term operation (less than 10 days) of mobile equipment.
[2]Stationary Equipment- Maximum noise level for respectively scheduled and relatively long-term operation (periods of 10 days or more) of stationary equipment.

3.6.3 Thresholds of Significance

In order to assist in determining whether a project would have a significant effect on the environment, the County utilizes the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Guidelines. Appendix G states that a project may be deemed to have noise impacts if it would result in:

Threshold a) **Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.**

Threshold b) **Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.**

Threshold c) **For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels**

3.6.4 Methodology

Noise during the various phases of construction would include the operation of backhoes, and front-end loaders, air compressors, and hand-held power tools. Noise monitoring was conducted as part of a Noise Control Plan during the construction at a larger construction site to determine the noise levels from the associated equipment (Appendix E).

3.6.5 Project Impact Analysis

Threshold a) Would the Project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The following section calculates the potential noise emissions associated with the temporary construction activities and long-term operations of the Proposed Project and compares the noise levels to the County standards.

Construction-Related Noise

The construction activities for the Proposed Project are anticipated to include an expansion of the building footprint, interior space reconfigurations, access improvements, seismic retrofit, and

replacement of aged building infrastructure to address mechanical, plumbing, electoral, and structural elements of the facility. Noise impacts from construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would be a function of the noise generated by construction equipment, equipment location, sensitivity of nearby land uses, and the timing and duration of construction activities.

Section 12.08.440 prohibits the operation of any tools or equipment used in construction, drilling, repair, alteration or demolition work between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., or any time on Sundays or holidays. The maximum noise allowed during the permitted construction hours at affected buildings shall not exceed the levels listed in Table 3-6 above. The construction noise levels have been determined and are shown in Table 3-7 below.

Table 3-7: Construction List and Noise Levels

Construction Phase	Source Level @ 50'(dBA)	Distance from Property Line (Feet)	Noise Reduction from distance (dBA)	Noise Reduction from Duty Cycle (dBA)	Noise Reduction from Barrier (dBA)	Resultant Noise Level (dBA)
Site Grading	75.7	110	-6.8	-3.0	-5.0	60.9
Building Construction	68.2	110	-6.8	-3.0	-5.0	53.4
Architectural Coating	62.3	110	-6.8	-3.0	-5.0	47.5
Paving Equipment	71.6	110	-6.8	-3.0	-5.0	56.8

Table 3-7 shows that the demolition of portions of the existing building and pavement are expected to have the most noise impact potential. As shown, none of the expected stationary equipment would result in noise levels beyond the stationary equipment source threshold of 60 dBA at a residential receptor. Additionally, no mobile equipment would surpass the mobile equipment source threshold of 75 dBA at a residential receptor, either individually or combined. Therefore, construction activities would not expose persons to and generate noise levels in excess of County standards.

The Los Angeles County Public Works (LACPW) Department requires construction noise to be minimized through the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Proper maintenance tuning of all construction equipment engines to minimize noise emissions.
- Proper maintenance and functioning of the mufflers on all internal combustion and equipment engines.
- Located fixed and/or stationary equipment as far as possible from noise-sensitive receptors.
- Appoint a public liaison for Project construction that would be responsible for addressing public concerns about construction activities, including excessive noise. As needed, the liaison would determine the cause of concern (e.g., starting too early, bad muffler) and implement measures to address the concern. Implementation of these BMPs would reduce construction noise levels shown in levels shown in Table 3-7.

Therefore, the Proposed Project would not exceed County noise standards and will implement LACPW BMP's that would reduce construction noise levels further, and a less than significant impact would occur.

Threshold b) Would the Project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not expose persons to or cause generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The following section analyzes the potential vibration impacts associated with the construction of the Proposed Project.

Construction-Related Vibration and Noise Impacts
The construction activities for the Proposed Project are anticipated to include an expansion of the building footprint, interior space reconfigurations, access improvements, seismic retrofit, and replacement of aged building infrastructure to address mechanical, plumbing, electoral, and structural elements of the facility. Vibration impacts from construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would typically be created from the operation of heavy off-road equipment. The nearest sensitive receptors to the Project site are residents at the multi-family homes that surround the Project site.

The County regulates vibration in Section 12.08.560 of the County Code. This section prohibits the operation of any device that creates a vibration that is above the vibration perception threshold of any individual at or beyond the property line of private property. The perception threshold shall be a motion velocity of 0.01 inches per second over the range of 1 to 100 Hertz. As stated above, the Proposed Project does not exceed the County noise standards and will implement LACPW BMP's that reduce construction noise levels further. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur in regards to excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

Operation-Related Vibration and Noise Impacts
The Proposed Project would continue to operate as a library. The continued use of the library is not expected to generate excessive vibration or groundborne noise levels. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur in this regard.

Threshold c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is located approximately 9.5 miles southeast of San Gabriel Valley Airport (Google Earth 2023). The Proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the surrounding area to excessive levels of airport-generated noise. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with public airport.

3.6.6 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined in CEQA as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Stated in another way, "a cumulative impact consists

of an impact which is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing relating impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 [a][1]).

The analysis of potential cumulative criteria pollutant impacts has been provided in Threshold a) above. This analysis found that the Proposed Project does not exceed the County noise standards for construction and will implement LACPW BMP's that reduce construction noise levels further. Additionally, the continued operation of the library would not create excessive noise levels that would result in a significant impact. As such, the Proposed Project would create a less than significant cumulative impact to noise, and no mitigation is required.

3.6.7 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required, as all Project impacts regarding noise are less than significant.

3.6.8 Level of Significance After Mitigation

No mitigation measures are required, as all Project impacts regarding noise are less than significant.

DRAFT

3.7 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code § 5020.1(k) or a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	☐	☒	☐	☐

This section evaluates the Proposed Project's potential impacts on tribal cultural resources (TCRs). TCRs are defined as sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR or included in a local register of historical resources, or a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant. A cultural landscape that meets these criteria is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape. Historical resources, unique archaeological resources, or non-unique archaeological resources may also be TCRs if they meet these criteria.

Applicable State and local policies related to TCRs are discussed and potential impacts to TCRs are based on coordination and consultation with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project site. The consultation process was conducted pursuant to PRC Section 21080.3.

3.7.1 Existing Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located in a developed area in unincorporated Altadena in the County of Los Angeles. The Project site currently houses the Altadena Main Library, which was originally built in 1967 and is situated in a residential area surrounded by housing on all sides of the property. The Main continues to provide a range of services for approximately 50,000 residents in Altadena and adjacent communities.

3.7.2 Regulatory Setting

State

AB 52

AB 52, in effect as of July 1, 2015, introduces TCRs as a class of cultural resources and additional considerations relating to Native American consultation into the CEQA. As a general concept, a TCR is similar to the federally defined Traditional Cultural Properties; however, it incorporates consideration of local and state significance and required mitigation under the CEQA. A TCR may be considered significant if included in a local or State register of historical resources; determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1; is a geographically defined cultural landscape that meets one or more of these criteria; or is a historical resource described in PRC Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource described in PRC Section 21083.2, or is a nonunique archaeological resource if it conforms with the above criteria.

Native American Historic Resource Protection Act

State law addresses the disposition of Native American burials in archaeological sites and protects such remains from disturbance, vandalism, or inadvertent destruction; establishes procedures to be implemented if Native American skeletal remains are discovered during construction of a project; and establishes the NAHC to resolve disputes regarding the disposition of such remains. In addition, the Native American Historic Resource Protection Act (PRC Section 5097 et seq.) makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail to deface or destroy a Native American historic or cultural site that is listed or may be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5

California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains, and associated grave goods, regardless of their antiquity, and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains. California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that if human remains are discovered in any place other than a dedicated cemetery, no further disturbance or excavation of the site or nearby area reasonably suspected to contain human remains can occur until the County Coroner has examined the remains (Section 7050.5b). If the coroner determines or has reason to believe that the remains are those of a Native American, the coroner must contact the NAHC within 24 hours (Section 7050.5c). The NAHC will notify the MLD and with the permission of the landowner, the MLD may inspect the site of discovery. The inspection must be completed within 24 hours of notification of the MLD by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and items associated with Native Americans.

Federal

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA; 25 U.S.C., Chapter 32), enacted in 2001, requires all State agencies and museums that receive State funding and that have possession or control over collections of human remains or cultural items, as defined, to complete an inventory and summary of these remains and items on or before January 1, 2003, with certain exceptions. The NAGPRA also provides a process for the identification and repatriation of these items to the appropriate tribes.

3.7.3 Thresholds of Significance

In order to assist in determining whether a project would have a significant effect on the environment, the County utilizes the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist. Appendix G states that a project may be deemed to have an impact on TCRs if it would:

Threshold a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

(i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as define in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth is subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.

3.7.4 Methodology

The District sent out AB52 letters to the Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation, and the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians on January 31st, 2024. The Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation responded and requested consultation. The results of consultation are captured in the mitigation measures identified below.

On February 2024, Kleinfelder conducted a *Historical Resource Assessment Report* (Appendix C) to evaluate the property against federal (National Register of Historic Places), state (California Register of Historical Resources) and local (Los Angeles County Landmark) eligibility criteria. Research also consisted of conducting a search in California's Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) for previous surveys and evaluations of the property, reviewing state and local technical bulletins, ordinances, and other materials related to the evaluation of historical resources, and conducting primary and secondary source research related to the history of the property.

In addition to primary and secondary source research, Kleinfelder visited the site in January 2024. During the site visit, the site was photographed, and notes were taken on the building's physical appearance and
condition.

3.7.5 Project Impact Analysis

Threshold a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as

either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

(i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth is subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.

According to the *Historical Resource Assessment Report*, the Altadena Main Library is eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register, and as a Los Angeles County Landmark under the Criteria A/1/A.1 and C/3/A.3, listed in Section 3.4.1, for its association with the increase in civic services resulting from Altadena's postwar population boom as well as for being an excellent example of Mid-Century Modern architecture designed by noted architect Boyd Georgi. The property also appears eligible for listing as a Los Angeles County Landmark Under Criterion A.7 for its integral landscape, designed by Eriksson, Peters & Thoms. The library's period of significance is 1967, corresponding with its date of construction.

As a result of background research, site inspection, and evaluation under national, state, and county eligibility criteria, Kleinfelder finds that the Altadena Main Library is eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register, and as a Los Angeles County Landmark and therefore meets the definition of a "qualified historic structure" per the California Historical Building Code (Section 18955 of Division 13, Part 2.7 of Health and Safety Code).

Consultation with the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians was conducted in accordance with AB 52 and CEQA guidelines. Based on this consultation and a review of available records, no tribal cultural resources meeting the definition of Public Resources Code Section 21074 have been identified within the project site.

The project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any tribal cultural resource. However, construction related to the proposed project may have a direct impact to previously unidentified tribal cultural resources. Operational/permanent activities related to the Proposed Project would not have a direct impact on previously identified tribal cultural resources since they would have been handled during initial discovery (during construction). Based on tribal consultation feedback and potential of resource discovery during ground-disturbing activity, mitigation measures (TCR-1 through TCR-3) have been incorporated into the project to ensure any unexpected discoveries are handled appropriately. These measures will be implemented in coordination with tribal representatives to minimize potential impacts. Impacts are potentially significant.

3.7.6 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined in the CEQA as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355). Stated in another way, "a cumulative impact consists of an impact which is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing related impacts" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 [a][1]).

Although no known archaeological resources have been identified, there is still the potential for unanticipated archaeological findings during construction of the proposed project. Therefore, the Proposed Project's contribution to cumulative impacts on archaeological resources is considered to be potentially cumulatively considerable.

3.7.7 Mitigation Measures

TCR-1: Retain a Native American Monitor Prior to Commencement of Ground-Disturbing Activities

A. The project applicant/lead agency shall retain a Native American Monitor from or approved by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation. The monitor shall be retained prior to the commencement of any "ground-disturbing activity" for the subject project at all project locations (i.e., both on-site and any off-site locations that are included in the project description/definition and/or required in connection with the project, such as public improvement work). "Ground-disturbing activity" shall include, but is not limited to, demolition, pavement removal, potholing, auguring, grubbing, tree removal, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching.

B. A copy of the executed monitoring agreement shall be submitted to the lead agency prior to the commencement of any ground-disturbing activity, or the issuance of any permit necessary to commence a ground-disturbing activity.

C. The monitor will complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities, the type of construction activities performed, locations of ground-disturbing activities, soil types, cultural-related materials, and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to the Tribe. Monitor logs will identify and describe any discovered TCRs, including but not limited to, Native American cultural and historical artifacts, remains, places of significance, etc., (collectively, tribal cultural resources, or "TCR"), as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitor logs will be provided to the project applicant/lead agency upon written request to the Tribe.

D. On-site tribal monitoring shall conclude upon the latter of the following (1) written confirmation to the Kizh from a designated point of contact for the project applicant/lead agency that all ground-disturbing activities and phases that may involve ground-disturbing activities on the project site or in connection with the project are complete; or (2) a determination and written notification by the Kizh to the project

applicant/lead agency that no future, planned construction activity and/or development/construction phase at the project site possesses the potential to impact Kizh TCRs.

TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resource Objects (Non-Funerary/Non-Ceremonial)

Upon discovery of any TCRs, all construction activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease (i.e., not less than the surrounding 50 feet) and shall not resume until the discovered TCR has been fully assessed by the Kizh monitor and/or Kizh archaeologist. The Kizh will recover and retain all discovered TCRs in the form and/or manner the Tribe deems appropriate, in the Tribe's sole discretion, and for any purpose the Tribe deems appropriate, including for educational, cultural and/or historic purposes.

TCR-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains and Associated Funerary or Ceremonial Objects

A. Native American human remains are defined in PRC 5097.98 (d)(1) as an inhumation or cremation, and in any state of decomposition or skeletal completeness. Funerary objects, called associated grave goods in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, are also to be treated according to this statute.

B. If Native American human remains and/or grave goods are discovered or recognized on the project site, then Public Resource Code 5097.9 as well as Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 shall be followed.

C. Human remains and grave/burial goods shall be treated alike per California Public Resources Code section 5097.98(d)(1) and (2).

D. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) is the preferred manner of treatment for discovered human remains and/or burial goods.

E. Any discovery of human remains/burial goods shall be kept confidential to prevent further disturbance**.**

3.7.8 Level of Significance Before Mitigation

Based on the results of the *Historical Resource Assessment Report* and consultation with the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, no tribal cultural resources, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074, have been identified within the project site. However, construction related to the Proposed Project may have a direct impact to previously unidentified tribal cultural resources. Therefore, the project would have a potentially significant impact on tribal cultural resources. However, in response to consultation and as a precautionary measure, mitigation measures have been incorporated to ensure any unanticipated discoveries are appropriately addressed.

3.7.9 Level of Significance After Mitigation

With the implementation of mitigation measures TCR-1, TCR-2, and TCR-3, any potential impacts related to the inadvertent discovery of tribal cultural resources, including human remains, will be minimized to the extent feasible. As no known tribal cultural resources exist on-site and mitigation measures provide protocols for managing unexpected finds, the project's impact on tribal cultural resources remains less than significant after mitigation.

DRAFT

CHAPTER 4.0 – ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

CEQA requires that an EIR describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Project, or to the location of the Proposed Project, which could feasibly avoid or lessen any significant environmental impacts while substantially attaining the basic objectives of the project. An EIR should also evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. This chapter describes potential alternatives to the Proposed Project that were considered, identifies alternatives that were eliminated from further consideration and reasons for dismissal, and analyzes available alternatives in comparison to the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project.

Key provisions of the CEQA Guidelines (§15126.6) pertaining to the alternatives analysis are summarized below:

- The discussion of alternatives shall focus on alternatives to the Proposed Project or its location that are capable of avoiding or substantially lessening any significant effects of the Proposed Project, even if these alternatives would impede to some degree the attainment of the Proposed Project objectives, or would be more costly.

- The No Project Alternative shall be evaluated along with its impact. The No Project analysis shall discuss the existing conditions at the time the Notice of Preparation is published. Additionally, the analysis shall discuss what would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the Proposed Project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services.

- The range of alternatives required in an EIR is governed by a “rule of reason”; therefore, the EIR must evaluate only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice. Alternatives shall be limited to ones that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the Proposed Project.

- For alternative locations, only locations that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the Proposed Project need to be considered for inclusion in the EIR.

- An EIR need not consider an alternative whose effects cannot be reasonably ascertained and whose implementation is remote and speculative.

The range of feasible alternatives is selected and discussed in a manner to foster meaningful public participation and informed decision-making. Among the factors that may be taken into account when addressing the feasibility of alternatives are environmental impacts, site suitability, economic viability, availability of infrastructure, general plan contingency, regulatory limitation, jurisdictional boundaries, and whether the proponent could reasonably acquire, control, or otherwise have access to the alternative site. An EIR need not consider an alternative whose effects cannot be reasonably identified, whose implementation is remote or speculative, and that would not achieve the basic Project Objectives.

4.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Proposed Project has the following objectives:

Universal Design

- Meet and exceed ADA requirements

Health, Safety, and Security

- Seismic and safety upgrades
- Mitigate hazards including asbestos containing materials

Functionality

- Provide physical and acoustical separation between library areas
- Provided dedicated program areas for teens, fabrication lab/maker space, and meeting rooms
- Centralize staff work areas
- Provide outdoor programming spaces

Security

- Provide after-hours access for the Friends of the Altadena Library Bookstore, passport services, meeting rooms, fabrication lab/maker space, and community room, while keeping books stacks and staff areas secure.

Technology

- Upgrade building systems to replace end of life equipment and materials
- Provide technology infrastructure to meet current and future library needs

Preserve Historic Nature of the Library

- Minimize impact on the historic nature of the original mid-century modern

4.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED

A range of alternatives that are “reasonable” for analysis has been defined by the District and are discussed below in Section 4.4, Alternatives Analyzed. The following section describes alternatives or alternative concepts that were given consideration by the District but rejected from further analysis in the EIR due to their infeasibility.

4.3.1 ADA Only

This alternative includes only renovating the library to comply with the latest ADA requirements. This would be the bare minimum work required to meet code regulations and provide access to all three levels of the building. This alternative is considered unfeasible because it does not meet the other objectives of the Proposed Project.

DRAFT

4.3.2 CWA Renovation and Expansion Design

CWA is a private architectural firm that was commissioned by Altadena Library District to provide a Renovation and Expansion design for Altadena Main Library. This alternative includes three areas of expansion that would significantly impact both the exterior and interior of the building. This alternative is considered unfeasible because it would not meet the following project objectives:

- Provide outdoor programing spaces.
- Minimize the impact on the historic nature of the original mid-century modern design.

4.4 ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

The alternatives identified below, with the exception of the mandatory No Project Alternative, were selected due to their potential to attain the basic Project Objectives discussed above and to lessen or avoid significant environmental effects resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project. Alternatives considered in this Draft EIR include:

- No Project Alternative
- Architectural Resources Group (ARG) Design

The purpose of this section is to discuss feasible alternatives by evaluating the ability of each alternative to reduce or avoid significant adverse environmental impacts while still achieving Project Objectives. The reader is referred to the individual sections of the Draft EIR (Chapter 3.0) and to the Executive Summary for a detailed discussion of environmental impacts, by each issue area, that would result from implementation of the Proposed Project.

For each alternative, a brief description is provided below, followed by a summary impact analysis relative to the Proposed Project and an assessment of the degree to which the alternative would meet the Project's objectives.

DRAFT

4.4.1 No Project Alternative

§15126.6(e) of the CEQA Guidelines requires analysis of a No Project alternative that (1) discusses existing site conditions at the time the NOP is prepared or the Draft EIR is commenced, and (2) analyzes what is reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future based on current plans if the Proposed Project were not approved. Potential effects for the No Project Alternative were compared to the areas of potentially significant effects prior to mitigation that could be a result of the Proposed Project.

Aesthetics

Aesthetic impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. No maintenance of improvement could result in long-term deterioration.

Agricultural and Forestry Resources

Agricultural and forestry resource impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Project site is not located in an agricultural or forested area and no impacts to agricultural and forestry resources would occur.

Air Quality

Air quality impacts from construction would be reduced under the No Project Alternative compared to the Proposed Project; the No Project Alternative would not involve construction. However, operational air quality impacts would be greater under the No Project Alternative due to the absence of technological upgrades to the facility. The Project would install upgraded efficient technology that would result in less impacts regarding air quality than the No Project Alternative.

Biological Resources

Biological resource impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The site is developed and no sensitive habitat exists on-site, therefore, no impacts to biological resources would occur.

Cultural Resources

Adverse cultural resource impacts would be avoided under the No Project Alternative. This alternative would not result in any ground-disturbing activities that might result in unearthing of human remains or archaeological resources. Additionally, the No Project Alternative would not result in the alteration of a historical resource as defined under CEQA. The No Project Alternative would avoid cultural resources impacts compared to the Proposed Project, because the Project site would not be altered in a way that would change its historical resource status. This alternative would not result in the demolition of a listed historic resource that is considered significant. As a result, no significant unavoidable impacts would occur to cultural resources. This alternative is considered environmentally superior to the Proposed Project with respect to cultural resources.

Energy

The No Project Alternative would result in greater impacts associated with energy resources compared to the Proposed Project due to the outdated technologies installed in the school. The Proposed Project would install more efficient technologies that will contribute to a more efficient

DRAFT

consumption of energy. As a result, operational impacts would be greater than the Proposed Project impacts.

Geology and Soils

Impacts to geology and soils associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. Although the Project site is in a seismically active region in Southern California, it is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo special Study Zone. The No Project Alternative would not include interior and exterior upgrades. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

GHG Emissions

GHG Emission impacts from construction would be reduced under the No Project Alternative, however GHG emissions from operations would rise under the No Project Alternative because of inefficient and outdated equipment. The Proposed Project plans to upgrade technologies that are more energy efficient, which would result in less GHG emissions overall.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Impacts to hazards and hazardous materials would be avoided under the No Project Alternative. No construction or use of hazardous materials would occur under the No Project Alternative. Therefore, no impact would occur in this regard.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Hydrology and Water Quality impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. No ground disturbing activities would occur and there would not be a change in resident staff population. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Land Use Planning

Land Use Planning impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The site would remain a library and the Project would not change the land uses currently existing at the site or create an incompatible use.

Mineral Resources

Mineral Resource impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. There are no proposed mineral extraction areas. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Noise

Noise impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would be reduced compared to the Proposed Project. The No Project Alternative would not result in construction noise or noise associated with traffic during construction and therefore would have substantially reduced noise impacts associated with construction. Operational noise volumes would remain the same.

Population and Housing

DRAFT

Population and housing impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is not expected to increase resident or faculty capacity.

Public Services

Public services impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project site would remain a library and provide the same services, therefore no impacts associated with public services would occur.

Recreation

Recreation impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. There are no proposed construction or demolition of recreational facilities, therefore, no impacts associated with recreation would occur.

Transportation

Transportation impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impact as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is not a transportation project, there is no expansion of capacity, and there will be no expansion of average daily trips or VMT impacts.

Tribal Cultural Resources

Tribal Cultural Impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would avoid the need for AB52 consultation with the Tribes. Additionally, no construction or ground disturbance would occur. Impacts would be the same as the Proposed Project because no Tribes requested consultation. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Utilities and Service Systems

Utilities and service system impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project will utilize the existing utilities and services.

Wildfire

Wildfire impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is not located in a Non-Very High Fire Hazard Safety Zone (VHFHSZ), and the t Project site is located in an established and built-out urban community that is at low risk for wildfire.

Conclusion and Relationship to Project Objectives

The No Project Alternative would not change existing conditions at the Project site. The No Project Alternative is environmentally superior in the areas of air quality, cultural resources, noise, hazards and hazardous materials, transportation, and TCRs; however, the No Project Alternative would not contribute to the attainment of any of the Project Objectives identified in Section 4.2. The No Project Alternative does not help the District meet the objective to support upgrades to the library and would not provide improved facilities to improve health, safety, security, ADA accessibility improvements, technology improvements, and flexible spaces. Additionally, the No Project Alternative would result in the continued deterioration over time of the library facilities.

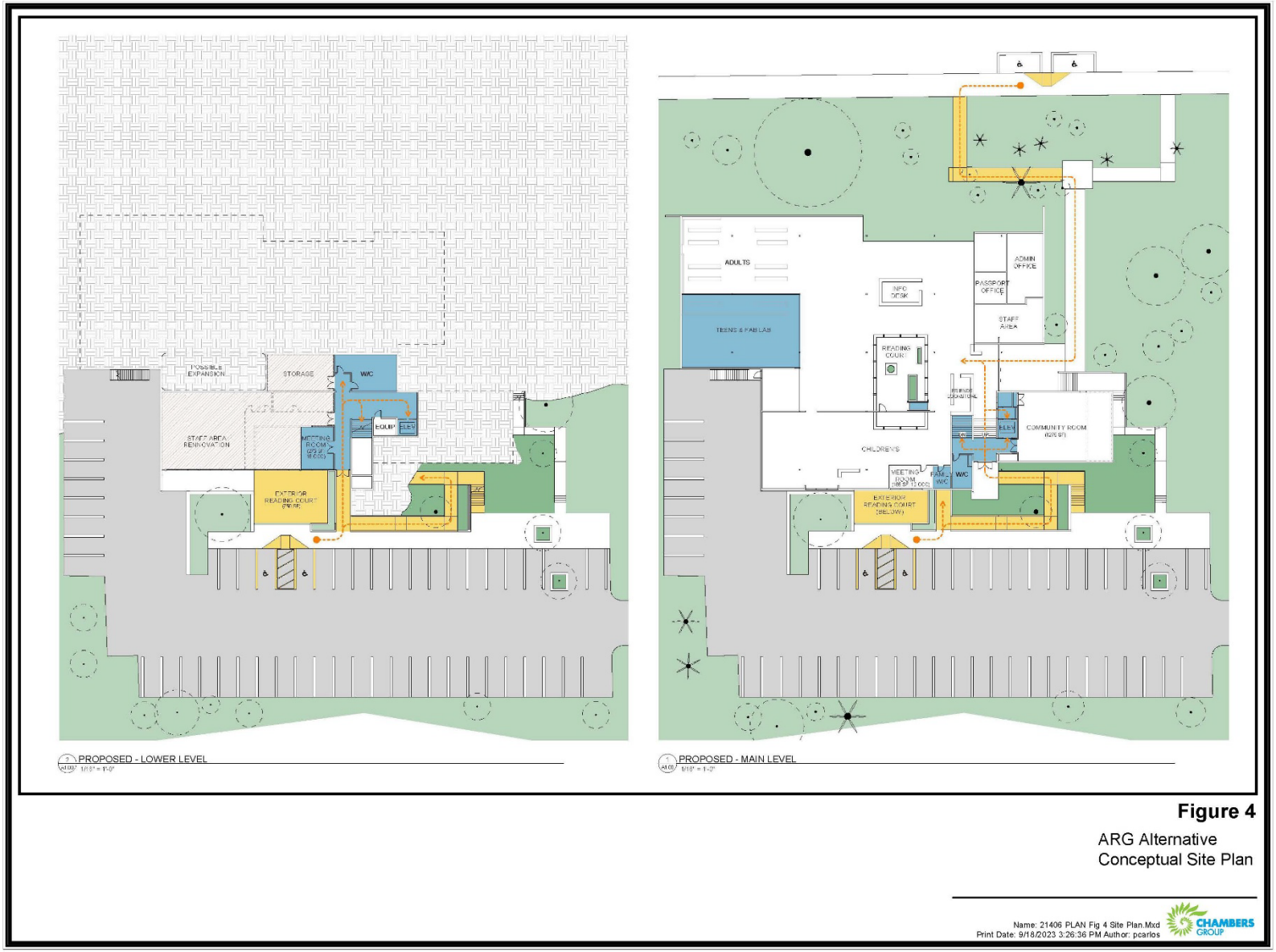
DRAFT

4.4.2 ARG Design

This alternative was proposed by ARG in their 2020 Master Plan. This design includes ADA upgrades on the exterior of the building, and expansion of the staff area on the lower level. The design also addresses seismic upgrades, fire and life safety upgrades, and hazardous materials abatement. This design includes exterior ramp work to comply with ADA requirements, however, it has minimal impact to the building's exterior compared to the Proposed Project. The alternative project's interior is impacted to a lesser degree than the Proposed project, but does alter spatial relationships (i.e. the openness of the main level).Figure 4 below includes a conceptual site plan for the ARG Alternative.

DRAFT

Figure 4 – ARG Alternative Conceptual



Aesthetics

Aesthetic impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in reduced impacts compared to the Proposed Project. In the ARG alternative, minimal impact to the building exterior is proposed and therefore would result in reduced impacts compared to the Proposed Project.

Agricultural and Forestry Resources

Agricultural and forestry resource impacts associated with the No Project Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Project site is not located in an agricultural or forested area and no impacts to agricultural and forestry resources would occur.

Air Quality

Air quality impacts from construction would be similar to the air quality impacts under the Proposed Project because both designs include grading and similar construction activities. Operational air quality impacts would be similar to the Proposed Project, as both would include technology upgrades and would operate as a library.

Biological Resources

Biological resource impacts associated with the ARG alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The site is developed, and no sensitive habitat exists on-site, therefore, no impacts to biological resources would occur.

Cultural Resources

Adverse cultural resource impacts associated with the ARG alternative would be similar but not as adverse as the Proposed Project. This alternative would not result in any ground-disturbing activities that might result in unearthing of human remains or archaeological resources. The AGR alternative includes some exterior ramp work but would have minimal impact on the building exterior. The interior is impacted to a lesser extent than the Proposed Project. This alternative is considered environmentally superior to the Proposed Project with respect to cultural resources.

Energy

The ARG Alternative and the Proposed Project would result in similar impacts associated with energy resources. The Proposed Project and the ARG Alternative would install more efficient technologies that will contribute to a more efficient consumption of energy.

Geology and Soils

Impacts to geology and soils associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. Although the Project site is in a seismically active region in Southern California, it is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo special Study Zone. The No Project Alternative would not include interior and exterior upgrades. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

GHG Emissions

GHG Emission impacts from construction would be similar to the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project and the ARG alternative plans to upgrade technologies that are more energy efficient, which would result in less long-term GHG emissions.

DRAFT

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Impacts to hazards and hazardous materials under the ARG Alternative would be the same as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project and the ARG Alternative include demolition and construction activities that could result in the release of hazardous materials. The library is approximately 0.4 miles from Altadena Arts Magnet school.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Hydrology and Water Quality impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would be the same as the impacts under the Proposed Project.

Land Use Planning

Land Use Planning impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The site would remain a library and the Project would not change the land uses currently existing at the site or create an incompatible use.

Mineral Resources

Mineral Resource impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. There are no proposed mineral extraction areas. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Noise

Noise impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would be similar to the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project and the ARG Alternative involve upgrades to the Altadena Library and would use similar equipment that would create similar noise levels.

Population and Housing

Population and housing impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is not expected to increase population in the area.

Public Services

Public services impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project site would remain a library and the same public services would continually service the site, however, under the ARG Alternative less services defined by the project objectives would be available to the public.

Recreation

Recreation impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. There are no proposed construction or demolition of recreational facilities, therefore, no impacts associated with recreation would occur.

Transportation

Transportation impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impact as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is not a transportation project, there is no expansion of capacity, and there will be no expansion of average daily trips or VMT impacts.

Tribal Cultural Resources

Tribal Cultural Impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would be the same as the Proposed Project. Impacts would be the same as the Proposed Project because no Tribes requested consultation. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Utilities and Service Systems

Utilities and service system impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project will utilize the existing utilities and services.

Wildfire

Wildfire impacts associated with the ARG Alternative would result in the same impacts as the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is not located in a Non-Very High Fire Hazard Safety Zone (VHFHSZ), and the library campus is located in an established and built-out urban community that is at low risk for wildfire.

Conclusion and Relationship to Project Objectives

The ARG Alternative would address ADA and some functional needs, seismic upgrades, fire and life safety upgrades, and hazardous materials abatement. The ARG Alternative is not environmentally superior to the Proposed Project. Additionally, the ARG Alternative would not contribute to the project objectives including centralizing staff work areas, providing after-hours access to certain spaces of the library including passport services, and the ARG alternative would only partially support the CEQA Project Objectives to repair deteriorated historic features rather than replace them, and retain and preserve historic character.

4.5 Environmentally Superior Alternative

Of the alternatives analyzed in the EIR, the No Project Alternative is considered the environmentally superior alternative as it would avoid or reduce most of the potential impacts associated with construction and operation of the Proposed Project. However, this alternative would not change the deteriorated condition of the Library and the demand for upgraded public services. Furthermore, the No Project Alternative would not meet any of the Project Objectives of the Proposed Project.

CEQA Guidelines require that, if the No Project Alternative is determined to be the environmentally superior alternative, an environmentally superior alternative must also be identified among the remaining alternatives. As such, the ARG Alternative would result in the fewest environmental impacts as compared to the Proposed Project and is considered the Environmentally Superior Alternative. However, this alternative would not meet all the Project Objectives. The ARG Alternative does not meet the project Universal Design objectives. The ARG Alternative does include access to all three levels; however, the accessible path of travel is not as convenient or intuitive as the design of the Proposed Project. Also, the ARG Alternative would not provide adequate physical acoustical separation, centralize staff work areas, and provide after-hours access to certain spaces of the library. Additionally, the ARG alternative would only partially retain and preserve the historic character of the Library.

In conclusion, the ARG Alternative is the Environmentally Superior Alternative; however, it does not meet all the Project Objectives.

CHAPTER 5.0 – OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

This chapter presents the evaluation of other types of environmental impacts required by CEQA that are not covered within the other chapters of this Draft EIR. The other CEQA considerations include irreversible environmental changes, growth-inducing impacts and significant and unavoidable adverse impacts.

5.1 EFFECTS NOT FOUND TO BE SIGNIFICANT

The IS for the Proposed Project, completed in February 2024, is included in Appendix A. The IS determined that the Proposed Project would result in no impact or less than significant impact to 16 of the 20 environmental issue areas. However, the other environmental issue areas (Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazards Material, and Tribal Resources) also have topics that resulted in less than significant impacts that are included in this Section. The IS for the Proposed Project discusses why the Project would have no impact or less than significant impacts for these issue areas, which are subsequently not discussed in detail in this focused Draft EIR. The issue areas determined to have all topics resulting in no impact or less than significant impact in the IS analysis include the following:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities/ Service Systems
- Wildfire

This section includes information from the Initial Study that was prepared by Chambers Group in September 2024, which can be found in Appendix A: Initial Study. In addition to the environmental impact thresholds analyzed in detail in this EIR, the County has determined through the preparation of an Initial Study that the development and operation of the Project would not result in potentially significant impacts to the environmental impact topics discussed below. Section 15128 of the CEQA Guidelines requires a brief description of any possible significant effects that were determined not to be significant and were not analyzed in detail within the environmental analysis. Therefore, this section has been included in this Draft EIR as required by CEQA.

The discussion below presents the analysis of the effects not found to be significant. Any thresholds or topics not addressed in this section are addressed in Section 4.0: Environmental Impact Analysis of this Draft EIR.

5.1.1 Aesthetics

Threshold a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site is located in an urbanized residential area in the unincorporated community of Altadena. The Project site is fully developed and is surrounded by residential uses. The San Gabriel Mountains ridgelines are in close proximity to the Proposed Project site and are recognized as significant ridgeline within the Los Angeles County General Plan (County 2022). The proposed library expansion, interior upgrades, and exterior improvements would largely occur within the footprint of the existing facility. Some of the upgrades would include alterations to the exterior of the existing building; however, these upgrades would have no impact on scenic vistas, as the library will remain a two-story structure built into the existing slope of the Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with scenic vistas.

Threshold b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Less Than Significant Impact. The nearest State of California (State) highways in the vicinity of the Proposed Project site are Interstate 210 (I-210) and California State Highway 134 (Google Earth 2023). I-210 is located approximately 2 miles west of the site, Highway 134 is located 2.7 miles southwest of the site. Although portions of Interstate I-210 are classified as eligible for State scenic highway designation, the highway section closest the Proposed Project site is not officially designated (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2018). Due to the 2 mile distance of the Proposed Project from an undesignated highway, and no change in the existing height of the building, a less than significant impact would occur.

Threshold c) Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project activities include reconfiguration of the library, interior and exterior improvements, and the addition of an exterior reading court for the library. The Project site is zoned as R-1-10,000 (Single Family Residence – 10,000 Square Feet Minimum Lot Area) under the County of Los Angeles Zoning Map (County 2023). The immediate surrounding areas are zoned as Residential. While construction of the exterior upgrades and landscaping would impact the visual character and public views of the Project site, these impacts would be localized and short-term in nature. The Project activities as proposed would not conflict with existing zoning or applicable regulations; they would include interior work within the existing building along with landscaping improvements and exterior upgrades. The visual character of the Proposed Project site would be minimally altered to retain the existing design features of the building and original landscaping. The exterior of the buildings would not degrade public view of the site and its surroundings as a result of the improvements and modification. The intent of the Project is to retain the visual character of the library, repair and modernize infrastructure, include additional community spaces, and improve access. Thus, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with visual character or quality.

Threshold d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site currently contains security lighting, parking lighting, indoor lighting, and adjacent street lighting. Lighting at the Main is currently installed to minimize glare for pedestrians and drivers, and to minimize spillover light. The District would be required to implement Altadena Community Standards District design standards established to ensure that expanded structures are compatible with the characteristics of surrounding residential neighborhoods, protecting the light, air, and privacy of existing single-family residences from negative impacts while providing certain flexibility within residential areas (County 2024). These standards would be applied towards lighting improvements associated with the Project activities. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with new sources of light or glare.

5.1.2 Agriculture & Forestry Resources

Threshold a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?

No Impact. The Project site has been identified as Urban and Built-up Land as shown on the Department of Conservation's (DOC's) Important Farmland Finder (DOC 2018). The Project site is zoned R-1-10,000 (Single Family Residence – 10,000 Square Feet Minimum Lot Area). Implementation of the Project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Threshold b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. As noted in previous response a), no areas are zoned for agricultural use on or near the Project site. The immediate surrounding areas are zoned as Residential. Additionally, Los Angeles County does not contain any areas that participate in Williamson Act contracts (DOC 2022). Therefore, implementation of the Project would not result in an impact associated with Williamson Act lands or agricultural zoning.

Threshold c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

No Impact. No forest land or timberland is present in or around the Project site of the Main. The proposed building expansion, building upgrades, and addition of an exterior reading court and delivery loading zone would result in removal of existing turf, planters, and shrubs. However, exterior renovations would not conflict with existing zoning for forest land. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Threshold d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The Project site does not include any forest land. The proposed facility renovation, library expansion, and exterior reading court would result in removal of existing turf, planters, non-native landscape trees, and shrubs on-site. However, the Project would add additional

landscaping and would use drought-tolerant landscaping. Therefore, implementation of the Project would not result in an impact related to forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

Threshold e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. As noted in the previous responses 5.1.2 a) through d), the Project site and surrounding properties do not contain any farmland of importance or forest land. Therefore, implementation of the Project would not result in any impact associated with conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest land.

5.1.3 Biological Resources

Threshold a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Main is located in an urbanized neighborhood in the unincorporated community of Altadena and was originally built in 1967. Due to the developed nature of the site and surrounding area, no candidate, sensitive, or special status species exist on or around the site. While the Proposed Project site is not suitable habitat, it is possible that birds may be using the existing vegetation and trees for nests within the site and its immediate vicinity. The majority of facility repairs and upgrades would occur in the interior of existing buildings. However, the landscaping improvements, the addition of four bicycle parking spaces, exterior reading court, and a new delivery loading zone lot would result in some ground-disturbing activities. Since Project activities would remove nine landscape trees, and the construction timeline (Spring 2025 into Summer 2026), construction activities might pose a risk to nesting birds. Implementation of PDF-1 (described in the Project Description Section 1.4.2) prevents impacts to nesting birds and would comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which prohibits the removal of listed migratory birds or their parts, such as eggs and nests, from private property. Therefore, impacts either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as candidate, sensitive or special status species would be less than significant.

Threshold b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. As noted above, the Proposed Project site is an existing library campus located in an urbanized area of the unincorporated community of Altadena. On-site vegetation is limited to ornamental landscaping. No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities exist on the Proposed Project site (United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 2023). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts associated with riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

Threshold c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal,

etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site, Main Library, is located in an urbanized area in the community. Onsite vegetation is ornamental landscaping. A review of the USFWS records reveal that no known wetlands exist on-site (USFWS 2023). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with wetlands.

Threshold d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact. As noted above, the Main is located in an urbanized area, and no native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, established wildlife corridors, or native wildlife nursery sites exist on the Proposed Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with native migratory species or nursery sites.

Threshold e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinance protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less than Significant with Mitigation. Under the Proposed Project, 48 trees would be protected in place, and 9 trees would be removed. Of the trees to be protected in place, two are coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia).* Although the coast live oak trees would not be removed, proposed encroachments within the tree's protected root zones will require discretionary approval of an Oak Tree Permit pursuant to Chapter 22.174 of the County Code. Approval of the Oak Tree Permit will require measures such as preservation of the tree in place, relocation of the tree, replacement of the tree, or payment into the Oak Forests Special Fund.

All other trees and shrubbery proposed for protection in place or removal are non-native ornamental species not protected under the County Code. As part of the proposed landscape plan, three non-invasive drought-tolerant oak trees (two coast live oaks and one Holly oak) will be planted onsite along with other landscape shrubbery and vegetative groundcover.

Six new trees are currently proposed, including large specimens at the North Patio and Community Plaza. However, the County Municipal Code for Altadena Community Standards (Municipal Code 22.306(3)(d)) requires that mature trees are preserved as part of a CUP that would be required for the Proposed Project. This could result in a significant impact associated with conflicting with a local ordinance. The Project shall comply with County Fire Department standards and requirements as it pertains to the County Tree Ordinance. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would reduce the impact associated with conflicting with local ordinances to less than significant.

MM BIO-1 Tree Replacement. The District shall retain a certified arborist to conduct a tree survey and complete a report on the trees subject to removal. The report shall contain the type, size, and condition of the trees proposed for removal. The Tree report shall be submitted to the County to determine the replacement requirements for the trees to comply with County ordinances.

Threshold f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. No adopted habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans exist for the County of Los Angeles or the surrounding area, nor is the Proposed Project located in a recognized Significant Ecological Area, or Wildlife habitat linkage (County 2022). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts associated with an applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

5.1.4 Cultural Resources

Threshold b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Less than Significant Impact. As noted above in the Environmental Setting, the results of the records search indicate that no previous cultural resources studies have been conducted within the Project area and that no previously identified cultural resources have been located within the Project area. In addition, if any archaeological resources are encountered during construction activities, the construction BMPs related to cultural resources would be followed. Further, ground disturbance of any native soils or soils not previously disturbed would not occur as part of the Proposed Project. Due to the low potential to encounter archaeological resources, a less than significant impact would occur.

Threshold c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project site is located in a residential area, previously disturbed by past activities. No known human remains are known to be in the Project area. Thus, the disturbance of human remains is not expected in conjunction with project grading and excavation activities. While no formal cemeteries, other places of human internment, or burial grounds sites are known to occur within the immediate Project site, human remains could always possibly be encountered during construction. Should human remains be encountered unexpectedly during grading or construction activities, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resource Code (PCR) Section 5097.98. No further excavation or disturbance of the Project site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains would occur until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, if the remains are human. In the event human remains are discovered, a less than significant impact would occur.

5.1.5 Energy

Threshold a) Would the project a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project involves interior and exterior improvements including interior space reconfigurations, access and parking improvements, seismic retrofit, replacement of aged building infrastructure (HVAC, elevator, plumbing, and electrical) and landscaping activities, and other improvements. The Proposed Project would, at a minimum, implement California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24 Part 6: California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. In addition, the proposed repairs and improvements include the installation of energy-efficient systems. The Proposed Project would, therefore, result in a less than significant impact.

Threshold b) Would the project Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would comply with the CCR Title 24, which regulates the amount of energy consumed by a new development for heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting – all of which would apply to the renovation of the Main. The Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts.

5.1.6 Geology and Soils

Threshold a)i) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site is not identified to be located within a State-designated Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone. The nearest designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is the Raymond Fault Zone located approximately 4.7 miles south of the Project site (DOC 2021). Further, all construction activities for the Project would be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Building Code as well as County regulations and ordinances, pertaining to the mitigation of potential geologic and seismic impacts. Some improvements include increasing the seismic resilience of the facility. Implementation of the Project would not exacerbate the existing conditions of the library or result in risk of loss, injury, or death involving a rupture of a known fault. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with earthquake fault rupture.

Threshold a)ii) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?

Less than Significant Impact. The most significant seismic hazard potentially affecting the Project site is ground shaking from a major earthquake. The Project site is an existing library that would be undergoing upgrades and renovation. Seismic retrofit includes a new full height shear wall at the South elevation, larger columns to replace the existing smaller ones to address performance issues with the glass panels between the low and high roofs, reinforcing in existing masonry wall to increase shear strength. As noted in the previous response, the Project site is not located within a fault zone, and the closest fault is approximately 4.7 miles south. The interior and exterior upgrades proposed as a part of the Project would be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC), as well as local regulations and ordinances pertaining to the mitigation of potential geologic and seismic impacts. Therefore, implementation of the Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with strong seismic ground shaking.

Threshold a)iii) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less than Significant Impact. The Department of Conservation's EQZapp Program identifies the Project site as not being located within a liquefaction zone (DOC 2021). The Project site is an existing library that would be undergoing interior and exterior upgrades. Additionally, all Project activities would be conducted in accordance with the UBC, as well as County regulations and

ordinances, pertaining to the mitigation of potential geologic and seismic impacts. Therefore, implementation of the Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with seismic-induced ground failure, including liquefaction.

Threshold a)iv) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

Less than Significant Impact. Although the Project site has a slight slope in the topography, it is not identified by the Department of Conservation's EQZapp Program as an area prone to seismically induced landslide (DOC 2021). Therefore, implementation of the Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with landslides.

Threshold b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project activities include removal of concrete, pavement, and removal of existing turf, trees, planters, and shrubs. Areas of pavement and concrete removal include area for the new entry/lobby along much of the south side of the Main and walkways to bridge on north side of facility. Exterior demolition would require approximately 0.28 acres of ground disruption activities. The majority of work associated with implementation of the Proposed Project involves upgrades within the interior of the existing building. If more than 50 cubic yards of grading would be necessary, a County Grading Permit would be required (County 2017). BMPs to manage soil erosion on the site would be required and if grading occurs after November 1 Erosion and Sediment Control Plans would need to be submitted to the County Building Official (County 2017). Furthermore, the Project would be required to comply with County Fire Department requirements and standards as it pertains to erosion control. Due to past development of the area, the limited amount of ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Project, and County required BMPs, the potential for soil erosion or loss of topsoil would be minimal. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

Threshold c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Less Than Significant Impact. As noted in Impact a) iii, the Proposed Project site is not located within a liquefaction zone, and the soil is not prone to liquefaction (DOC 2021, USDA 2022). Further, the Proposed Project site has been previously graded and developed, and all Project-related activities would be conducted in accordance with the UBC and County regulations and ordinances pertaining to the mitigation of potential geologic and seismic impacts. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

Threshold d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Less than Significant Impact. Expansive soils possess clay particles that react to moisture changes by shrinking when dry or swelling when wet. These types of soils have the potential to crack building foundations and, in some cases, structurally distress the buildings themselves.

Minor to severe damage to overlying structures is possible. However, the Proposed Project is located on Urban Land-Sobaba-Tijunga complex, which has low expansive properties (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2022). The work associated with implementation of the Proposed Project would involve minor ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, the Project would not expose people or the library to adverse effects associated with expansive soils resulting in less than significant impacts.

Threshold e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site relies on existing wastewater infrastructure to accommodate wastewater disposal requirements. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with soils incapable of supporting septic systems.

f) **Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?**

No Impact. No known paleontological resources are located on the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project site is located in an urbanized area disturbed by past activities. In addition, if any paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, the construction BMPs related to cultural resources noted in Section 1.4.2 of the initial study (Appendix A) would be followed. Further, ground disturbance of any native soils or soils not previously disturbed would not occur as part of the Proposed Project resulting in no impacts associated with unique paleontological resources or site or a unique geologic feature.

5.1.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Threshold a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less than Significant Impact. As a library site, the Project would not involve the production or use of a significant amount of hazardous materials. During construction, the Proposed Project would involve the use of equipment that would emit emissions associated with internal combustion engines, (i.e., diesel and gasoline). In addition, other hazardous materials that would be used (e.g., petroleum-based products, paints, solvents, sealers, oils, grease, and cleaning fluids) would be transported, used, stored, and disposed of according to existing regulations, including the manufacturer's product labels and Safety Data Sheets, safeguarding against significant hazards to the public or the environment. The use of these materials would be short term and would occur in accordance with standard construction practices. The use of hazardous materials during library operations would include minimal amounts of cleaning solvents and fuel for janitorial purposes and chemicals associated with landscaping maintenance. Limited amounts of these types of hazardous materials would be transported or disposed of during routine day-to-day operations. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Threshold b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not include any significant structural renovations that would result in the accidental release of hazardous materials to the environment. Due to the time of original construction (1967) it is possible that the Main contains both asbestos-containing materials (ACM)/asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) and lead-based paint (LBP).

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would require compliance with federal and State laws that regulate construction activities which might involve interaction with ACM or LBP. Regulations require that, prior to demolition, alteration, or renovation, (1) proper notification is given to the SCAQMD (who regulates airborne pollutants) and the local California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) office; (2) the District will certify that ACMs have been removed or mitigated by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor certified by the State of California Contractors Licensing Board; and (3) the District will institute an operations and maintenance (O&M) program so that ACMs that are not damaged or LBP that will remain in place are properly managed to prevent exposure to them. These permitting requirements automatically apply to all development associated with the Proposed Project and are standard conditions for approval of the Proposed Project.

Library staff and contractors conducting on-site construction work would be informed of the type of ACBMs that they may encounter and the location of the ACBM. The appropriate employers/contractors and certified Hazardous Materials oversight consultants will implement specific work practices to protect workers, staff, and students from airborne asbestos exposures. Control measures will be implemented that will address worker, staff, and visitor safety during the proposed upgrades.

Compliance with these regulations and implementation of the required safety measures would reduce potential impacts during construction and operation to a level below significant.

Additionally, as noted in previous response a), the construction phase of the Proposed Project would involve the use of equipment during construction that would emit emissions associated with internal combustion engines (i.e., diesel and gasoline); however, the use of fuels is regulated by the State and would be in compliance with all State regulations during construction. Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with the release of hazardous materials.

Threshold c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less than Significant Impact. The implementation of the Proposed Project includes facility repairs and upgrades, exterior repairs, and access and landscaping upgrades to the Main. The schools closest to the Proposed Project site are the Pasadena Waldorf High School and the Altadena Arts Magnet School, located approximately 0.12 mile southwest and 0.33 mile southeast respectively from the Proposed Project site. As noted in the previous responses, the Proposed Project would involve the use of construction equipment that would emit emissions associated with internal combustion engines (i.e., diesel and gasoline). Once operational, the Proposed Project would involve minimal amounts of cleaning solvents and fuel for janitorial purposes and chemicals for landscaping maintenance which would be subject to federal, State, and local health and safety requirements. Adherence to all local, County, State, and federal policies and regulations would reduce impacts to a level less than significant. Therefore, implementation of

the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

Threshold d) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB] 2023; Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC] 2023); therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with known hazardous materials sites.

Threshold e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan had not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is located approximately 9.5 miles northwest of San Gabriel Valley Airport (Google Earth 2023). Therefore, the implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with a public airport.

Threshold f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project involves a new entrance with ADA compliant pathways, a new delivery loading zone, interior and exterior upgrades, expansion of the facility, and exterior landscaping. These activities would not interfere with established emergency response or emergency evacuation plans and may improve entry and exit in the case of an evacuation. These changes may require an update to the evacuation plan as there would be more options for evacuation. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur associated with physically interfering with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan.

Threshold g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site at the Main is not located within a State or locally classified very high fire hazard severity zone (Cal Fire 2023). Furthermore, the Proposed Project shall comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows and fire hydrants. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with wildland fires.

5.1.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

Threshold a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Less than Significant Impact. As noted previously, the Main is an existing developed site and is currently in compliance with water quality standards, discharge requirements and is not

degrading surface or groundwater quality. Implementation of the Proposed Project involves expansion of the building from approximately 22,000 square feet to a building footprint of approximately 22,700 square feet. The creation of the outdoor reading court and constructing a new delivery loading zone along with other outdoor construction would result in soil disturbance. The site is approximately 1.72 acres with 0.28 acre being disturbed for improvements.

Soil from ground disturbance, along with pollutants from construction activities, has the potential to enter the storm drain system and result in short-term impacts to site drainage during construction periods. However, the Proposed Project would also employ BMPs required by the County for approval of the CUP which would reduce the potential for erosion by implementing erosion and sediment control measures that regulate the amount and quality of runoff from the construction site. Furthermore, the Project would be required to comply with County Fire Department requirements and standards as it pertains to erosion control and watershed management. After construction the finished grading would slope walking paths, landscapes, and other surfaces away from buildings towards onsite drainage features to improve management of runoff, and the Main would operate as it is currently. Therefore, implementation of the BMPs during the Proposed Project activities and incorporating grading design to manage runoff would result in less than significant impacts associated with water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

Threshold b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less than Significant. The Proposed Project involves facility repairs and upgrades, landscaping upgrades, and expansion at the Main. The Proposed Project site is currently developed, and the majority of ground cover is an impervious surface. The Proposed Project would potentially increase the amount of impervious surfaces with the building expansion, exterior reading court, and new delivery loading area. The footprint of the building is being increased by approximately 700 square feet. However, PDF-2 (described in the Project Description Section 1.4.2) ensures the Project incorporates LID standards that would result in a net decrease in impervious surface area compared to existing conditions. This measure would facilitate enhanced infiltration to groundwater. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase in the number of staff or users, and additional water resources would not be required to accommodate any such growth. In addition, new irrigation and infrastructure would be in place to use water more efficiently on the site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with groundwater recharge or groundwater depletion.

Threshold c)i) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

Less than Significant Impact. As noted previously, the Proposed Project site is in an urbanized location and is currently developed and mostly covered in impervious surfaces except for landscaped areas with turf, ornamental shrubs, and trees some that have been there since the original landscaping of the site. Implementation of PDF-2 (described in Section 1.4.2, Project Description) would ensure that the Project incorporates LID standards designed to mimic undeveloped stormwater runoff rates and volumes for any storm event up, prevent pollutants of

concern from leaving the site in stormwater during storms, and minimize hydromodification impacts to natural drainage systems.

Prior to issuance of building permits, Project plans must be approved by the County Building and Safety Division to ensure proper drainage distribution, accommodate contributory drainage from adjoining properties, eliminate the sheet overflow and ponding, and protect lots from high velocity scouring action.

Construction resulting in ground-disturbing activities would implement BMPs, identified by the County during the permitting process that would reduce any potential erosion or siltation on- or offsite. The Project would be required to comply with County Fire Department requirements and standards as it pertains to erosion control. Further, the drainage pattern of the Proposed Project site and surrounding area is well established and would be more efficient with the additional grading sloping towards existing drainage features. No streams or rivers are located on or near the Proposed Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with the existing Drainage pattern.

Threshold c)ii) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site is in an urbanized location and the site is currently developed and mostly covered in impervious surface. Further, the Proposed Project would not create or contribute significant runoff. Building expansion and the additional outdoor functional spaces would potentially result in an increase in impervious surfaces. However, implementation of PDF-2 (described in Section 1.4.2, Project Description) would ensure that the Project incorporates LID standards designed to mimic undeveloped stormwater runoff rates and volumes for any storm event up, prevent pollutants of concern from leaving the site in stormwater during storms, and minimize hydromodification impacts to natural drainage systems. Prior to issuance of building permits, Project plans must be approved by the County Building and Safety Division to ensure proper drainage distribution, accommodate contributory drainage from adjoining properties, eliminate the sheet overflow and ponding, and protect lots from high velocity scouring action.

The small amount of grading would slope towards existing drainage structures improving control of drainage on-site. The Proposed Project site does not include any streams or rivers on or near the site; the drainage pattern of the completed Project would be similar to existing conditions. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with surface runoff potentially resulting in flooding.

Threshold c)iv) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identified 100-year flood hazard area; however, the Proposed Project is located within Zone X (minimal chance of flood hazard) (FEMA 2008). In addition, the on-site soil is not conducive to flooding (USDA 2023). The Proposed Project mostly involves interior and exterior

upgrades with approximately 0.23 acres of ground-disturbing activities. Implementation of PDF-2 (described in Section 1.4.2, Project Description) would ensure that the Project incorporates LID standards designed to mimic undeveloped stormwater runoff rates and volumes for any storm event up, prevent pollutants of concern from leaving the site in stormwater during storms, and minimize hydromodification impacts to natural drainage systems. Prior to issuance of building permits, Project plans must be approved by the County Building and Safety Division to ensure proper drainage distribution, accommodate contributory drainage from adjoining properties, eliminate the sheet overflow and ponding, and protect lots from high velocity scouring action. Grading would slope towards drainage structures. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with redirecting flood flows in a flood hazard area.

Threshold d) Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. Seiches or mudflows are not potential hazards in the Proposed Project area. Tsunamis have the potential to impact the coastal area; however, the Proposed Project site is located approximately 24 miles inland and is not located in an inundation or tsunami hazard area. The Proposed Project is not located within a FEMA identified 100-year flood hazard area (FEMA 2008). Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with inundation by flood hazard, seiche, or tsunami.

Threshold e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project lies within the purview of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan is designed to preserve and enhance water quality and protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters (SWRCB 2018). As mentioned above, the Proposed Project would employ BMPs prior to initiation of construction activities and throughout the duration of construction that prevent impacts to water quality as a result of construction activities reducing any impacts to less than significant. Although a small additional delivery loading zone would be constructed for staff, the Proposed Project would not create or contribute a significant increase to surface runoff volume during operations. The Project would be compliant with all city, state, and federal regulations. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

5.1.9 Land Use and Planning

Threshold a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Project would be located on a site that has been in use as a public library since it was originally built in 1967. The Project would continue the longstanding presence of a public facility at the Project site. Implementation of the Project includes facility repairs, expansion, and upgrades, landscaping upgrades, and additional outdoor functional spaces. The Project would not change the land uses currently existing at the site or create an incompatible use. The continued use of the site as a library would not result in a new barrier that would divide the established surrounding community; therefore, implementation of the Project would have no impact on an established community.

DRAFT

Threshold b) Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. As described above, the Project site is designated in the P- Public and Semi-Public land use category and zoned as R-1-10,000 (Single Family Residence – 10,000 Square Feet Minimum Lot Area). According to the County's zoning code, libraries are conditionally authorized land uses within the R-1 zone (Municipal Code Chapter 22.18) (County 2024). The Project does not propose a change to the existing land use or zoning designations. Therefore, implementation of the Project would not result in an impact associated with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation.

5.1.10 Mineral Resources

Threshold a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

No Impact. The Main site does not support any mineral resource extraction on-site or within the area. The Project would not result in any loss of availability of oil to the region or State. Further, the Department of Conservation (DOC) does not identify any mines in the community of Altadena (DOC 2023). Therefore, implementation of the Project would not result in an impact associated with mineral resources.

Threshold b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact. As noted previously, no existing or historic mineral resource sites are present in or around the Project site; therefore, implementation of the Project would not result in an impact associated with a mineral resource recovery site.

5.1.11 Population and Housing

Threshold a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. Implementation of the Project includes facility repairs and upgrades, landscaping upgrades, and facility expansion to Main Library. The upgrades are intended to provide improved facilities for the existing community. Therefore, the Project would not induce population growth in the surrounding areas, nor would it create the need for additional housing. Further, the Project would be located on an existing library site already served by adjacent roadways and utilities infrastructure. Therefore, the implementation of the Project would result in no impacts associated with population growth.

Threshold b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The Project site, Main Library, does not contain any residences or housing units and does not involve residential use; implementation of the Project would not result in an impact associated with the displacement of existing housing. Further, as noted previously, the Project would not induce population growth in the surrounding areas, nor would it create the need for replacement housing; therefore, no impacts would occur.

5.1.12 Public Services

Threshold a)i) Would the project result in 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 for fire protection?

Less than Significant Impact. Fire protection services are provided to the Main by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Station No. 11, located approximately 0.24 mile to the east of the site, serves as the primary responding station to the Proposed Project site (Google Earth 2023). The Proposed Project includes interior upgrades, building expansion, and other features throughout the campus. Land uses at the Proposed Project site would remain the same as under current conditions, and the Project improvements would not induce a growth in population. Thus, an increase in the demand for fire services resulting from the Proposed Project would not occur. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not result in the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities. Further, the Proposed Project site is located in an urbanized area in the community that is void of any wildlands that may create significant fire risks to the Proposed Project site. In addition, to ensure conformance with State Fire Codes, the Proposed Project would not result in street closures that would result in inadequate access to the Proposed Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with fire protection.

Threshold a)ii) Would the project result in 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 for police protection?

Less than Significant Impact. The County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department will be the provider of law enforcement services to the Proposed Project. The nearest Sheriff's Department location is the Altadena Sheriff's Station, approximately 0.27 mile east of the Project site (Google Earth 2023). As noted previously, the Proposed Project would not induce population growth resulting in the need for additional police services. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with police protection.

Threshold a)iii) Would the project result in 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 for schools?

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project involves expansion of an existing building, interior and exterior upgrades, and other features throughout the library property boundary. As noted in Section 2.5, construction would occur in one phase spanning an 18-month period (unless funding is delayed and then an additional temporary closure may occur to construct the starting in late Summer 2024, during which portions of the buildings would not be available for school use. However, the span of 18 months may be in two phases because the community room and/or amphitheater additions may be deferred for future construction if funding is not received prior to initiation of construction. The potential restrictions on use would be short term and following construction the Main would return to its fully functioning existing uses. Bob Lucas Memorial Library would be used to support Main Library users during construction, but there could be a possible overlap in construction at the two libraries if the Bob Lucas Memorial Library construction is delayed or extended; however, the overlap in construction would be short term. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with schools.

Threshold a)iv) Would the project result in 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 for parks?

No Impact. The Proposed Project activities do not involve the construction of any recreational facilities which could result in a short- or long-term impact on parks and recreation facilities in the vicinity. As noted in previous responses, the Proposed Project would not induce population growth and would not increase the number of library users. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with parks.

Threshold a)v) Would the project result in 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 for other public facilities?

No Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not impact any other public facilities not discussed above. Therefore, no impacts to government facilities would occur.

5.1.13 Recreation

Threshold a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. As noted in response 5.1.10 iv), implementation of the Proposed Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or any other recreational facilities. There are a minimum of four parks within 1 mile of the Proposed Project including Altadena Triangle Park to the east, Mount Lowe Park to the northeast, Five Corners Park to the north and Charles White Park to the west. The Project would not induce population growth or result in a substantial increase in use that might cause deterioration of these facilities. Therefore,

DRAFT

implementation of the Project would result in no impact associated with the deterioration of recreational facilities.

Threshold b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The Project site is located at the Main, which provides residents library facilities and is 0.26 mile from Altadena Triangle Park (Google Earth 2023). Implementation of the Project would not require the construction or expansion of off-site recreational facilities. Further, the Project would not induce population growth, which could burden any facility beyond capacity by generating additional recreational users. Therefore, no impact would occur that would construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

5.1.14 Transportation

Threshold a) Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would generate minor increases in traffic associated with the short-term construction activities by workers and equipment travelling to and from the Proposed Project. These increases would be minor and limited only to the construction period (Summer 2024–Spring 2026). The Proposed Project would not significantly interfere with the flow of traffic along Lake Avenue, the major thoroughfare in the immediate vicinity, as the Project does not propose any roadwork in the area.

Implementation of the Proposed Project involves expansion of the existing building, interior upgrades, outdoor functional areas, access and landscaping improvements, bicycle parking as well as other various improvements. It would not include activities that would impede any bicycle or pedestrian facilities, as all proposed activities would remain within the campus and would improve access for pedestrians and bicycles. Thus, implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plans, ordinances, or policies establishing measures of effectiveness for the circulation systems, and the impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold b) Would the project Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site is located within one-half mile of Altadena/Marengo and Altadena/Lake transit stops along E. Altadena Drive. Further, the Proposed Project would not induce population growth; it does not include development of land uses that would increase vehicle travel to and from the area. Thus, the impact would be less than significant as a result of implementation of the Proposed Project.

Threshold c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project includes a new driveway with delivery and staff parking from Mariposa Street. The driveway would be approximately 50 feet to the east of the Altadena Senior Center driveway and would not result in increased hazards due to design

features. The changes would occur on the Project site and do not include significant adjustments to the roadways or signals. The Proposed Project uses are compatible with the existing land uses. Less than significant impacts would occur associated with hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.

Threshold d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. All work proposed as a part of the Project would occur entirely within the Main site. There would be an additional parking area near the main entrance so access may be improved. There are no proposed changes to the roadways that would result in inadequate emergency access. No impact would occur.

5.1.15 Utilities and Service Systems

a) ***Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or expansion of which could cause significant environmental effects?***

Less than Significant Impact. As noted in previous sections, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in usage or size in population. Interior renovations do include additional restrooms for access purposes and a new kitchen. However, the volume of people using the library would not increase so there should not be a substantial increase in wastewater or water usage. The kitchen is not designed for cooking and dishwashing for events. It will mainly be used for staging catered food and hand washing. The existing facility already maintains connections for water, wastewater, electric power, and telecommunication facilities. The Proposed Project would use existing connections and would not require relocation or construction of new utility facilities. Thus, after construction, the generation of wastewater and water usage on the Proposed Project site may be improved from existing conditions with water conserving irrigation and infrastructure upgrades making the addition of the kitchen a minimal increase in water use at the facility. The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts currently service the existing Project site.

Per the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, the Project shall have an approved safe and reliable potable water source, which will be from a permitted nearby public water system that meets the water demands of the Proposed Project. The Project proponent shall submit a copy of a current (issued within the past 12 months) signed water “Will Serve” letter or a current copy of the water bill from approved public water system purveyor in the service area. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with water and/or wastewater facilities.

b) ***Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal dry and multiple dry years?***

Less than Significant. The community of Altadena including the Proposed Project site is served by the Lincoln Avenue Water Company, which receives its water supply from groundwater, surface water, and imported water from Metropolitan Water District sources (Lincoln Avenue Water Company 2021). The Proposed Project does not involve increases in staff populations at the library, and no substantial increase in water supply requirements associated with the project. In addition, the District would comply with local, regional, and State water conservation policies and would follow standard BMPs in order to reduce water consumption. The new kitchen is for staging catered events and was not designed for cooking

for large events. The additional restrooms would not significantly increase water usage at the site because there would not be an increase in library patronage. The new restrooms are being added for accessibility. Improvements to the plumbing infrastructure and landscape irrigations system would improve water use efficiency. Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with available water supplies.

c) ***Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?***

Less than Significant. The Proposed Project would be located on an existing developed site with established sewer line connections that are currently serviced by the County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts. Further, as noted previously, the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in staff or resident usage. However, a kitchen is being included in the renovations along with additional restrooms for accessibility. The additional restrooms and kitchen would not create a significant net increase in wastewater generation in the region because there will not be an increase in patronage and the kitchen is not designed for cooking for library events. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities.

d) ***Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?***

Less than Significant Impact. The County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts requires any solid waste produced in association with the Proposed Project to be sent to the Scholl Canyon Landfill in Glendale. As noted in previous responses, the Proposed Project would not result in an increase in the surrounding population; therefore, the Project would not have the potential to result in a substantial increase in waste generation once in operations. Although there is currently a small break room with a kitchenette, a slight increase in waste generation may occur due to the new kitchen. Food waste would be compostable materials that should not be disposed of in the landfill, but there may be an increase in disposal of packaging and disposable kitchen ware than with the existing kitchenette. However, this increase would not be great enough to create an excess of capacity at the local landfill.

During construction, the Proposed Project would result in the generation of solid wastes such as scrap, lumber, concrete, plastics, packaging material, and kitchen and bathroom fixtures. The County of Los Angeles complies with California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) regulations requiring 65% of all construction and demolition (C&D) materials to be recycled. Furthermore, impacts from construction activities would be short term and intermittent and would be mitigated by BMPs and compliance with existing State solid waste reduction statutes. Incorporation of these programs would result in impacts that are less than significant in association with exceeding capacity of local infrastructure or attainment of solid waste reduction goals.

DRAFT

e) ***Would the project negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?***

f) ***Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?***

e and f) **Less than Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase in solid waste generation or an increase in population and therefore would not result in an increase in operational solid waste. Thus, the operation of the Proposed Project would not result in an increase in waste generation beyond existing conditions. However, as noted in response 4.19.1 d), the construction activities would generate solid waste materials. During construction and operation of the Proposed Project, the District would comply with all County and State solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling mandates, including compliance with the county-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP). Implementation of material recovery, reuse, and recycling would result in less than significant impact associated with waste regulations

5.1.16 Wildfire

a) ***Would the project impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?***

No Impact. The Project site at Main Library is not located within a State- or locally classified very high fire hazard severity zone (Cal Fire 2023). Additionally, the Project would not result in any hindrance to emergency access routes and would not interfere with any adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. No impacts would occur associated with an adopted emergency or evacuation plan.

b) ***Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?***

No Impact. The Project site is located outside of the State and locally classified very high fire hazard severity zone. The Main is located within established and built-out urbanized environment. The Project shall comply with all County Fire Department requirements and standards as it pertains to erosion control, watershed management, brush clearance, vegetation management, fuel modification for Fire Hazard Severity Zones, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. No impact would occur associated with exacerbating wildland fire risks.

c) ***Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?***

No Impact. All proposed activities would occur within the Main campus, which is not located within a very high fire hazard severity zone. Additionally, the Project would not include any activities involving installation or maintenance of roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, or other utilities that may exacerbate a fire risk. No impact would occur that would exacerbate wildland fire risks.

d) *Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes?*

Less Than Significant. The Project site is not located within a very high fire hazard severity zone (Cal Fire 2022). The topography of the site slopes gradually to the south (Architectural Resources Group 2020). The Main is built onto the existing slope of the library grounds. As discussed in Impact 4.7.1 (a)iv) the Project site not identified by the Department of Conservation's EQZapp Program as an area prone to seismically induced landslides (DOC 2021) and would not pose a risk of post-fire induced landslides. Therefore, the impacts associated with post fire slope instability would be less than significant.

5.2 IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

According to CEQA Guidelines, "[u]ses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified." Therefore, the purpose of this analysis is to identify any significant irreversible environmental effects of project implementation that cannot be avoided.

Both construction and operation of the Proposed Project would lead to the consumption of limited, renewable, and non-renewable resources that future generations would not be able to use and for which impacts would be irreversible. The development of the Proposed Project will require the commitment of resources that include: (1) building materials; (2) fuel and electricity to power construction and operational use, (3) transportation of goods and people to and from the Proposed Project, (4) recycling and disposal of waste.

5.3 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

Pursuant to Section 15126.2 of the CEQA Guidelines: an EIR must address whether a project will directly or indirectly foster growth as follows:

[An EIR shall] discuss the ways in which the Proposed Project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of wastewater treatment plant, might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may further tax existing community service facilities so consideration must be given to this impact. Also, discuss the characteristic of some projects, which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

As discussed below, this analysis evaluates whether the Proposed Project would directly or indirectly induce economic, population, or housing growth in the surrounding environment.

5.3.1 Direct Growth-inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment

Direct growth-inducing impacts occur when the development of a project induces population growth or the construction of additional developments in the same area of a proposed project and produces related growth-associated impacts. Growth inducing projects remove physical obstacles to population growth, such as the construction of a new road into an undeveloped area, a wastewater treatment plant expansion, and projects that allow new development in the service area. Construction of such infrastructure projects are considered in relation to the potential development and the potential environmental impacts.

The Proposed Project consists of demolition, seismic retrofit, interior renovations, exterior renovations, and construction of the library expansion. The Proposed Project would neither directly increase the local population, nor would it indirectly induce population growth in the future.

5.3.2 Indirect Growth-inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment

Project implementation is not expected to immediately create any new employment opportunities because the Proposed Project involves upgrades to an existing library, further, the Proposed Project is not expected to increase the number of residents or staff. However, the Proposed Project could, over time, attract additional residents and commercial businesses to the area due to the modernized neighborhood character that could indirectly result in a minimal growth in population.

5.4 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The potentially adverse effects of the Proposed Project are discussed in Chapter 3.0 of this Draft EIR. Mitigation measures have been recommended that would reduce impacts to Cultural Resources, however, impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

DRAFT

CHAPTER 6.0 – REFERENCES

The following is a list of references used in the preparation of this document.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)

2023 Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Available Online at: https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

2018 Scenic Highway Mapper. Available Online at: https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa

County of Los Angeles (County)

2017 Grading Guidelines. Available Online at: https://dpw.lacounty.gov/ldd/lddservices/docs/Grading_Guidelines.pdf

2022 General Plan – Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available online at: https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/9.0_gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf

2023 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) Z-NET. Available Online at: https://lacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7700eea9d54d46b18efb615f86cba25c

2024 Los Angeles County Municipal Code. Available Online at: https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=LOS_ANGELES_CO_CODE

California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

2018 State and Regional Water Boards. Accessed on September 7, 2023 at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.html

2023 Geotracker database. Accessed September 7, 2023 at https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=altadena%2C+ca

California Department of Conservation (DOC)

2018 Important Farmland Finder. Accessed September 6, 2023 at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/.

2021 Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. Accessed September 6, 2023 at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/

2022 California Williamson Act Finder. Accessed December 18, 2023 at: https://gis.conservation.ca.gov/portal/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=18f7488c0a9d4d299f5e9c33b312f312.

2023 Mines Online. Accessed September 7, 2023 at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html.

DRAFT

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
2023 Envirostor Database. Accessed September 7, 2023 at https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=altadena%2C+ca

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
2008 National Hazard Flood Layer. Accessed September 7, 2023 at: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=altadena%2C%20ca#searchresultsanchor.

Google Earth
2023 Google Earth. Accessed September 6-8, 2023. Available Online at: https://earth.google.com/web/@33.79318301,-117.76134926,187.7518083a,387.88702212d,35y,-0h,0t,0r/data=CgRCAggBQgIIAUoNCP_____wEQAA

Lincoln Avenue Water Company
2021 Urban Water Management Plan. Accessed June 28, 2022 at: https://wuedata.water.ca.gov/public/uwmp_attachments/7398090958/FINAL%20LAWC%202020%20UWMP_2021-06-25.pdf

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
2022 Web Soil Survey. Accessed September 6, 2023 at: https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
2023 National Wetlands Inventory Mapper. Accessed September 6, 2023 at: https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/.

DRAFT

CHAPTER 7.0 – REPORT PREPARATION

Name	Project Role
Lead Agency/Reviewers	Altadena Library District County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning
CEQA Consultant – Chambers Group, Inc.	Thomas Strand Eunice Bagwan Aliya Glick
Chambers Group Subconsultant	Ldn Consulting, Inc. Kleinfelder

DRAFT

CHAPTER 8.0 – ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
ES	Executive Summary
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning
AV	Audio Visual
HABs	Historic American Building Survey
NPS	National Park Service
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
SCICC	South Central Coastal Information Center
AGR	Architectural Resources Group
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
NOP	Notice of Preparation
IS	Initial Study
CA	California
AICP	American Institute Certified Planners
LA	Los Angeles
PDF	Project Design Feature
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CO	Carbon Monoxide
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
NO_x	Nitric Oxide
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide
PM_{10}	Particulate Matter 10
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate Matter 2.5
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
TAC	Toxic Air Contaminant
CARB	California Air Resources Board
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	Southern California Air Quality Management District
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
FTIP	Federal Transportation Improvement Program
LTS	Localized Significance Thresholds
DPM	Diesel Particulate Matter
CCR	California Code of Regulations

Term	Definition
Cal/OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
SOI	The Secretary of the Interior
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BIA	Bureau of Indian Afffairs
AB	Assembly Bill
PRC	Public Resources Code
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SHRC	State Historic Resources Commissin
MLD	Most Likely Descendents
CMU	Concrete Masonry Unit
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
$MMTCO_e e$	Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CH_4	Methane
SF_6	Sulfur Hexafluoride
HFCs	Hydrofluorocarbons
PFCs	Perfluorinated Chemicals
GWP	Global Warming Potential
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
CO_2e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
UNFCCC	United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change
EO	Executive Order
MERV	Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values
SB	Senate Bill
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
CNRA	California Natural Resources Agency
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
SPU	Service Population Unit
MT/year CO_2e	Megatons Per year of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
dBA	A-weighted decibel
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
PPV	Peak Particle Velocity
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
LACPW	Los Angeles County Public Works
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled

Term	Definition
DOC	Department of Conservation
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UBC	Uniform Building Code
ACM	Asbestos Containing Materials
ACBM	Asbestos Containing Building Materials
LBP	Lead Based Paint
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
IWMP	Integrated Waste Management Plan
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change