

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING  
CONSIDERATIONS  
ALTADENA MAIN LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT  
ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA  
Pursuant to Section 21081 of the Public  
Resources Code and  
Sections 15091 and 15093 of the State  
CEQA Guidelines**

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## SECTION 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 ORGANIZATION OF CEQA FINDINGS OF FACT

The content and format of this California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings of Fact (findings) is designed to meet the current requirements of CEQA and the *CEQA Guidelines*. The Final Focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Altadena Main Library Renovation Project (Proposed Project) identified significant environmental impacts which will result from its implementation. Although, Los Angeles County (County) finds that the inclusion of certain mitigation measures will reduce most potential significant effects to a less than significant level, Cultural Resources impacts will remain Significant and Unavoidable. The Regional Planning Commission (Commission), in adopting these findings, must also adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations and a Mitigation Monitoring Plan (MMRP) for the Proposed Project. The Commission finds that the MMRP, which is incorporated by reference and made a part of these findings, meets the requirements of Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21081.6 by providing for the implementation and monitoring of measures intended to mitigate potentially significant effects of the Proposed Project. In accordance with CEQA and the *CEQA Guidelines*, the County adopts these findings as part of the certification of the Final EIR for the Proposed Project. Pursuant to PRC Section 21082.1 (c)(3), the County also finds that the Final EIR reflects the County’s independent judgment as the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project.

The content and format of the CEQA Findings of Fact is designed to meet the current requirements of CEQA and the *CEQA Guidelines*. The Findings of Fact is organized into the following sections:

- **Chapter 1, Introduction** outlines the organization of this document and identifies the location and custodian of the record of proceedings.
- **Chapter 2, Environmental Setting and Project Description** describes the location and characteristics of the project site, project overview, project design standards, project objectives and benefits, and the required permits and approvals for the Proposed Project.
- **Chapter 3, CEQA Review and Public Participation** describes the steps the County has undertaken to comply with the *CEQA Guidelines* as they relate to public input, review, and participation during the preparation of the Draft and Final EIRs.
- **Chapter 4, No Environmental Impacts** provides a summary of those environmental issue areas where no impacts would occur.
- **Chapter 5, Less Than Significant Environmental Impacts** provides a summary of less than significant impacts and a finding adopting the Final EIR’s conclusions.
- **Chapter 6, Less Than Significant Environmental Impacts With Mitigation Incorporated** provides a summary of potentially significant environmental effects for which implementation of identified mitigation measures would avoid or substantially reduce the environmental effects to less than significant levels.
- **Chapter 7, Significant and Unavoidable Environmental Impacts** provides a summary of potentially significant environmental effects for which no mitigation measures are identified, or

for which implementation of feasible mitigation measures would not avoid or substantially reduce the environmental effects to less than significant levels.

- **Chapter 8, Findings Regarding Project Alternatives** provides a summary of the alternatives considered for the Proposed Project.
- **Chapter 9, Findings on Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan** provides a brief discussion of the Proposed Project's compliance with the *CEQA Guidelines* regarding the adoption of a plan for reporting and monitoring.
- **Chapter 10, Findings on Changes to the Draft EIR and Recirculation** provides a brief overview of reasons for changes to the Draft EIR and why it is not necessary to re-circulate the Draft EIR.
- **Chapter 11, Statement of Overriding Considerations** provides a summary of all the project's significant and unavoidable adverse impacts. In addition, this section identifies the project's substantial benefits that outweigh and override the project's significant unavoidable impacts, such that impacts are considered acceptable.

## 1.2 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The CEQA (PRC Section 21081 *et seq.*), and the *CEQA Guidelines* (the Guidelines) (14 Cal. Code Regulations, Section 15091 *et seq.*), require that:

- (a) No public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified which identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings for each of those significant effects, accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding. The possible findings are:
  - (1) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.
  - (2) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
  - (3) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR.

In short, CEQA requires that the lead agency adopt mitigation measures or alternatives, where feasible, to avoid or mitigate significant environmental impacts that would otherwise occur with implementation of the Proposed Project. Project mitigation or alternatives are not required, however, where they are infeasible or where the responsibility for modifying the Proposed Project lies with another agency [*CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15091 (a)].

For those significant effects that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, the public agency is required to find that specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the

Proposed Project outweigh such significant effects (see, Pub. Res. Code Section 21081 (b)). The Guidelines state in Section 15093 that:

- If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of a proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered 'acceptable.'

### **1.3 LOCATION AND CUSTODIAN OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

The documents and other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the County's project approval are located at 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The record of proceedings is provided in compliance with PRC Section 21081.6(a)(2) and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 15091(e).

### **1.4 CERTIFICATION OF FINAL EIR**

Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15090, the County further finds and certifies that:

- (a) The Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA;
- (b) The Final EIR has been presented to the Commission, which constitutes the decision-making body of the lead agency, and the Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR and in the record of proceedings for the Proposed Project prior to approving the project; and
- (c) The Final EIR reflects the Commission's independent judgment and analysis.

## **SECTION 2.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The Altadena Main Library 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.

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 intended objectives of the Proposed Project include:

#### **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
- 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

### **2.1.1      Location**

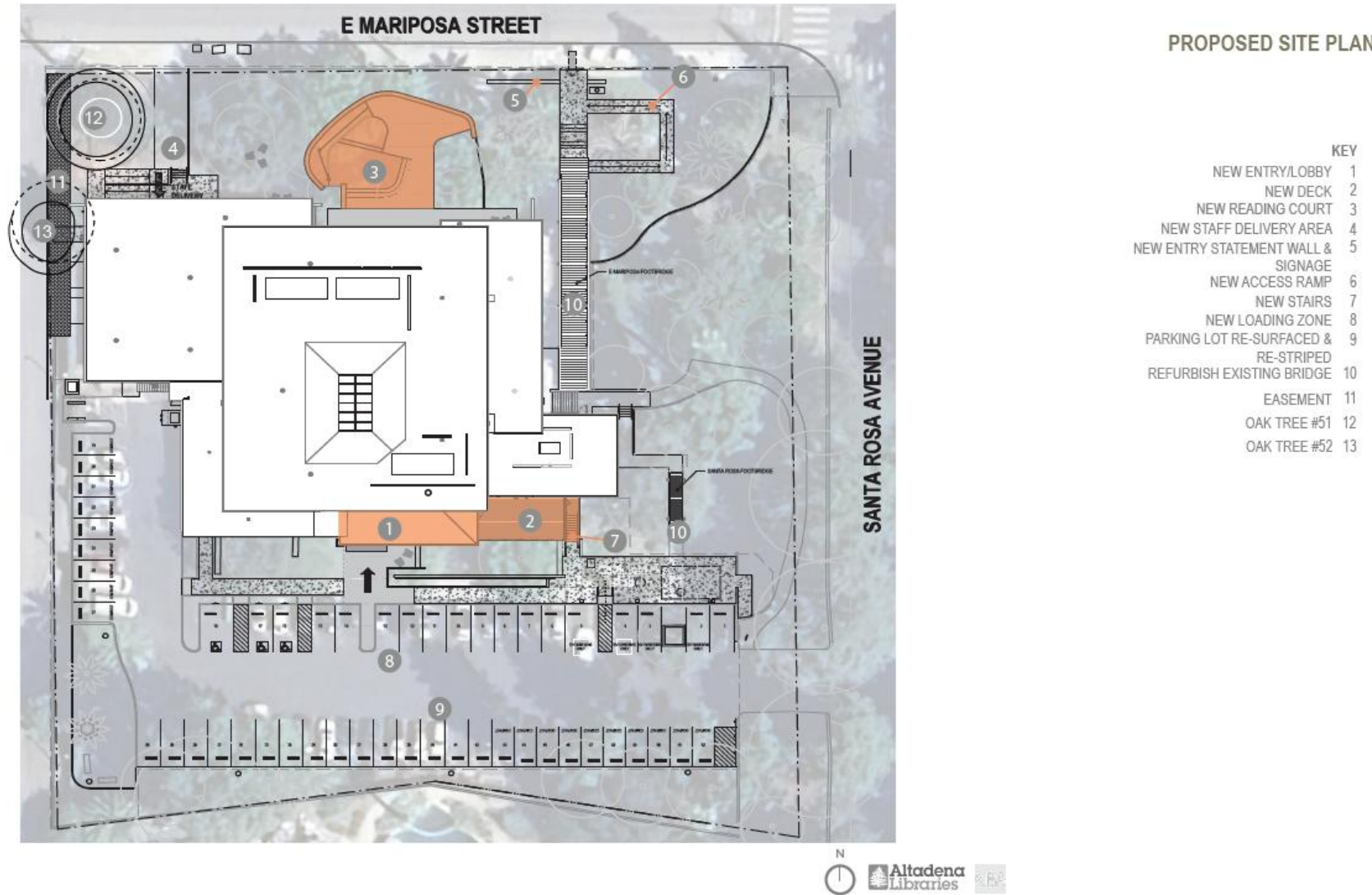
The Main Library (the Main) is located at 600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena, CA 91001 (Assessor's Parcel Number 5840-010-900), at the southwest corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and Mariposa Street. The community of Altadena is in unincorporated Los Angeles County at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. The 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.

### **2.1.2      Adjacent Land Uses**

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



Figure 2: Site Plan



## **2.2 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 include the following:

- New Entry/Lobby
- New Deck (adjacent to the existing community room)
- New Outdoor Reading Court
- New Staff Delivery Area
- New Loading Zone
- New Entry Wall and Signage
- New Access Ramp
- New Stairs
- Parking lot Re-surfaced and Striped
- Refurbished Existing Footbridges

### **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 of facility. Clearing and grubbing will occur at the new outdoor reading court and the new entry/lobby, near the path to the bridge on the north side. 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 nine trees would be removed (no oaks). 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 coast live oak trees will be planted onsite along with other landscape shrubbery and vegetative groundcover.

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 new Reading Court will accommodate daily functions such as children's storytimes and book club meetings and includes terraced seating. The new southern edge of the building will provide parking for approximately six short-term and two long-term bicycle parking spaces, 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 52 total parking spaces, including three ADA accessible spaces, three electric vehicle (EV) parking spaces, and one combined ADA/EV parking space.

#### **2.2.1 Construction**

The Project is expected to occur in a single phase and be completed within 14 to 18 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.

## **2.3 STATEMENT OF PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The intended objectives of the Proposed Project include:

### **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
- 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

## **2.4 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS**

As required by the *CEQA Guidelines*, this section provides, to the extent the information is known to the County, the CEQA Lead Agency, a list of the agencies that are expected to use this EIR in their decision making and a list of permits and other approvals required to implement the Project.

### **2.4.1 Lead Agency Approval**

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 list of agencies that will review this Draft Focused EIR and be used in their decision-making process. The following lists County entitlements and permits that may be required for the Proposed Project prior to construction and operation:

- 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 Focused EIR must be certified by the Lead Agency's decision-making body as to its adequacy in compliance with CEQA prior to any actions being taken on the Proposed Project. The analysis of this Draft Focused 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.

### **2.4.2 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

## **2.5 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 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 several 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 15064(h)(4), 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.”

Project-related impacts are anticipated to occur only during the temporary construction phase and would not extend beyond the construction period. The long-term operation of the Project site would remain consistent with existing conditions, resulting in no incremental contribution to cumulative impacts. Therefore, when considered in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the region, the Project would not result in significant cumulative environmental effects.

### SECTION 3.0 – CEQA REVIEW AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The County has complied with the *CEQA Guidelines* during the preparation of the Draft EIR for the Proposed Project. The Draft EIR, dated September 2025, was prepared following input from the public, responsible agencies, and affected agencies through the EIR scoping process. The “scoping” of the EIR was conducted utilizing several of the tools available under CEQA. In accordance with Section 15063 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, a Notice of Preparation (“NOP”) and Initial Study (“IS”) were prepared and distributed to the State Clearinghouse, responsible agencies, affected agencies, and other interested parties on December 9, 2024. The NOP was posted in the Los Angeles County Clerk’s office for 30 days. Information requested and input provided during the 30-day NOP comment period regarding the scope of the EIR were included in the Draft EIR. Notices informing the community of the public review periods for the NOP/IS and Draft EIR were distributed using three methods: a NOP, a Notice of Availability (“NOA”), and newspaper publication. The NOP and NOA included information on where to view the NOP/IS and Draft EIR and how to comment on the IS and Draft EIR. The public review period and scoping for the NOP/IS was from December 18, 2024 to February 4, 2025, and the public review period for the Draft EIR was from September 25, 2025 to November 20, 2025.

#### 3.1 NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INITIAL STUDY

Per *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15082, an NOP for the Draft EIR was prepared. The IS/NOP was sent to the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse for distribution to State agencies and directly to regional and local agencies. The NOP was published in December 2024. During the public scoping period, the IS/NOP was made available for review at the following location:

- Altadena Main Library – 600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena, CA 91001

In addition, the NOP/IS was made available online at <https://planning.lacounty.gov/environmental-review/public-notice/>

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

**Table 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

### **3.2 NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

In accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15087(a), a Notice of Availability/Notice of Completion (“NOA/NOC”) of the Draft EIR was prepared. The Draft EIR and the NOA/NOC was sent to the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse for distribution to State agencies and directly to regional and local agencies. The NOA/NOC was published on September 25, 2025. During the public scoping period, the Draft EIR and the NOA/NOC was made available for review at the following locations:

- Altadena Main Library– 600 E. Mariposa Street
- Altadena One-Stop Permit Center – 464 W Woodbury Rd. Suite 210, Altadena

In addition, the Draft EIR and NOA/NOC were made available online at: <https://bit.ly/PRJ2023-000474>

## **SECTION 4.0 – NO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Based on the Initial Study and the Record of Proceedings, the Commission finds that the Proposed Project would have no impacts associated with:

- Agricultural Resources (Convert Farmland, Williamson Act Contract, Forest Lands or Timberland, Conversion of Farmland)
- Biological Resources (Riparian Habitat, Wetland, Migratory Species, Habitat Conservation Plan)
- Geology and Soils (Septic Systems and Paleontology)
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Hazardous materials site, Airport land use plan, Wildland fire)
- Hydrology and Water Quality (Flood flows, Project inundation)
- Land Use and Planning (Divide community, Conflict with plan)
- Mineral Resources (Loss of regional or locally important mineral resources)
- Population and Housing (Unplanned growth, Displacement)
- Public Services (Parks, Other facilities)
- Recreation (Increased use, Expansion)
- Transportation (Emergency access)
- Wildfire (Emergency plan, Pollutants, Maintenance)

Because the Findings of No Impact were made in the Initial Study, these environmental issues areas were not carried forward for analysis in the EIR.

### **4.1 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES (CONVERT FARMLAND, WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACT, FOREST LANDS OR TIMBERLAND, CONVERSION OF FARMLAND)**

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 and surrounding area is zoned R-1 (Single Family Residence). Implementation of the Project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. 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.

The Project site does not include any forest land. Even though ornamental trees exist on the Project site, the proposed facility renovation, library expansion, amphitheater and reading court would only result in removal of existing turf, planters, 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.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to the agriculture issues discussed above.

### **4.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (RIPARIAN HABITAT, WETLAND, MIGRATORY SPECIES, HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN)**

The Proposed Project site is an existing library in an urbanized area of unincorporated Altadena, with vegetation limited to ornamental landscaping. No riparian habitat, wetlands, or other sensitive natural communities are present on-site (USFWS 2023). The area does not support native or migratory wildlife species, wildlife corridors, or nursery sites. Additionally, the site is not within a Significant Ecological Area, wildlife linkage, or any adopted habitat or natural community conservation plan (County 2022). Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in no impacts to biological resources or habitat conservation plans.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to biologic resources discussed above.

### **4.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS (SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND PALEONTOLOGY)**

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.

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. Further, ground disturbance of any undisturbed native soils would not occur as part of the Proposed Project, thus resulting in no impacts associated with unique paleontological resources or site or a unique geologic feature.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to geologic resources discussed above.

### **4.4 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITE, AIRPORT LAND USE PLAN, WILDLAND FIRE)**

The Proposed Project site is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (SWRCB 2023; DTSC 2023); therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with known hazardous materials sites. The Proposed Project site is located approximately 9.5 miles northwest of San Gabriel Valley Airport. Therefore, the implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with a public airport. The Proposed Project site 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.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to hazards discussed above.

### **4.5 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (FLOOD FLOWS, PROJECT INUNDATION)**

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 2022). The Proposed Project mostly involves interior and exterior upgrades with approximately 0.23 acres of ground-disturbing activities. Implementation of Project Design Features (PDF)-2 would ensure that the Project incorporates low impact development (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.

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.

**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.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to hydrology and water quality issues discussed above.

### **4.6 LAND USE AND PLANNING (DIVIDE COMMUNITY, CONFLICT WITH PLAN)**

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.

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). 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.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to land use and planning issues discussed above.

#### **4.7 MINERAL RESOURCES (LOSS OF REGIONAL OR LOCALLY IMPORTANT MINERAL RESOURCES)**

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, 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.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to mineral resource issues discussed above.

#### **4.8 POPULATION AND HOUSING (UNPLANNED GROWTH, DISPLACEMENT)**

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.

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.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to population and housing issues discussed above.

#### **4.9 PUBLIC SERVICES (PARKS, OTHER FACILITIES)**

The Proposed Project activities do not involve the construction of any new recreational facilities which could result in a short- or long-term impact on parks and recreation facilities in the vicinity. 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.

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

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to public services discussed above.

#### **4.10 RECREATION (INCREASED USE, EXPANSION)**

The Proposed Project would not result in any impacts to recreational facilities. There are several parks within one mile of the site, including Altadena Triangle Park, Mount Lowe Park, Five Corners Park, and Charles White Park. However, because the Project would not increase population or lead to additional demand for recreational spaces, it would not contribute to the deterioration or overuse of these parks.

Additionally, the Project would not require the construction or expansion of any off-site recreational facilities. The Altadena Main Library site, located approximately 0.26 mile from Altadena Triangle Park, would continue to function as a library and would not generate additional users or recreational needs. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in no impact related to recreation.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to recreation issues discussed above.

#### **4.11 TRANSPORTATION (EMERGENCY ACCESS)**

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.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to transportation issues discussed above.

#### **4.12 WILDFIRE (EMERGENCY PLAN, POLLUTANTS, MAINTENANCE)**

The Proposed Project would have no impact related to emergency response, evacuation, or wildfire risk. The Main Library site is not located within a State or local Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and is surrounded by a fully developed urban environment (CAL FIRE 2023). The Project would not block or interfere with emergency access routes or conflict with any adopted emergency response or evacuation plans.

Because the site is in a non-hazard area and the Project would comply with all Los Angeles County Fire Department standards, including brush clearance, vegetation management, and erosion control, it would not exacerbate wildfire risks or expose occupants to pollutants from a potential fire.

Additionally, the Project would not involve the construction or maintenance of new infrastructure such as roads, fuel breaks, or emergency water sources that could increase fire danger. All work would occur within the existing developed campus. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in no impact related to wildland fire hazards or emergency preparedness.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in no impact relating to wildfire issues discussed above.

## **SECTION 5.0 – LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Based on the Final EIR and the Record of Proceedings, the Commission finds that the Proposed Project would have less than significant environmental effects associated with the following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics (Scenic Vistas, Scenic Resources, Visual Character, Light or Glare)
- Air Quality (Conflict with Air Quality Plan, Cumulative Net Increase of Pollutants, Sensitive Receptors, Odors)
- Biological Resources (Sensitive Species)
- Cultural Resources (Archaeological, Human Remains)
- Energy (inefficient consumption of energy, conflict with local energy efficiency plan)
- Geology and Soils (Alquist-Priolo fault zone, seismic ground shaking, liquefaction, soil erosion, unstable soil, expansive soil)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG environmental impact, Conflict with policy)
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Routine transport, Release, Emit near school, Emergency plan)
- Hydrology and Water Quality (Water quality standards, Groundwater supplies, Erosion, Flooding, Water quality or groundwater plan)
- Noise (Ambient noise levels, Groundborne vibration, Airport land use plan)
- Public Services (Fire protection, Police Protection, Schools)
- Transportation (Circulation system, Vehicle miles travelled, Hazards)
- Utilities and Service Systems (Water Supplies, Capacity, Installation of new utilities, Solid waste facility capacity, Solid waste reduction, Solid waste services, Reduction statutes)
- Wildfire (Landslides/Flooding)

### **5.1 AESTHETICS (SCENIC VISTAS, SCENIC RESOURCES, VISUAL CHARACTER, LIGHT OR GLARE)**

The Proposed Project, located in an already urbanized residential area of Altadena, would undergo upgrades and expansion primarily within the existing library footprint, preserving the two-story structure built into the slope and maintaining views of the nearby San Gabriel Mountains. No scenic vistas or scenic highway resources would be affected, as the Project site is over a mile from the nearest eligible scenic highway segment (Caltrans 2018). Project improvements, including a new amphitheater, landscaping, and exterior upgrades, would be compatible with existing zoning and surrounding residential character. 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. Additionally, lighting improvements would comply with Altadena Community Standards to minimize glare and light spillover. The Proposed Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to the aesthetic issues discussed above.

### **5.2 AIR QUALITY (CONFLICT WITH AIR QUALITY PLAN, CUMULATIVE NET INCREASE OF POLLUTANTS, SENSITIVE RECEPTORS, ODORS)**

The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), the only applicable air quality plan in the Project area. The Proposed Project would not 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. Based on the air quality modeling and analysis conducted, short-term regional construction air emissions would not result in significant impacts based on SCAQMD regional thresholds of significance or local thresholds of significance. The ongoing operation of the Proposed Project would generate air pollutant emissions that are less than significant in a regional context and would therefore not result in significant impacts based on SCAQMD thresholds of significance. The analysis for long-term local air quality impacts showed that local pollutant concentrations would not be projected to exceed the air quality standards established by SCAQMD. Therefore, a less than significant long-term impact would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

The Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts related to exposure of sensitive receptors to air pollutants. The nearest sensitive receptors are the surrounding single-family residences. Construction-related emissions, including localized criteria pollutants such as NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, would not exceed SCAQMD significance thresholds. Emissions of toxic air contaminants (TACs), primarily diesel particulate matter (DPM) from construction equipment, would be temporary and minimal due to the limited duration of construction and compliance with California regulations limiting idling and requiring cleaner equipment (CCR Title 13, Section 2449). Potential asbestos emissions from demolition would be managed under SCAQMD Rule 1403, which requires certified inspection, notification, and safe removal procedures. During operation, the library's activities would not generate pollutant concentrations beyond existing conditions. Therefore, both construction and operational phases would result in less than significant impacts to sensitive receptors.

Temporary odors from diesel equipment, paints, and solvents may occur during construction but would be short-term, infrequent, and would dissipate quickly. No extensive grading or demolition is proposed that would generate substantial emissions. During operation, the library use would not produce odors or emissions affecting nearby residents. Therefore, the Project would not adversely affect a substantial number of people through odor generation. The Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts related to odor emissions.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to air quality issues discussed above.

### **5.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (SENSITIVE SPECIES)**

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 construction activities might pose a risk to nesting birds. Implementation of PDF-1 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.

**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 County within five days after the survey.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to biological resources discussed above.

### **5.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES (ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HUMAN REMAINS)**

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 best management practices (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.

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.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to cultural resource issues discussed above.

### **5.5 ENERGY (INEFFICIENT CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY, CONFLICT WITH LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN)**

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 energy impact.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to energy issues discussed above.

### **5.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS (ALQUIST-PRIOLO FAULT ZONE, SEISMIC GROUND SHAKING, LIQUEFACTION, SOIL EROSION, UNSTABLE SOIL, EXPANSIVE SOIL)**

The Proposed Project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and the nearest fault (Raymond Fault) is approximately 4.7 miles south (DOC 2021). Construction and renovation activities, including seismic retrofits such as shear wall installation and structural reinforcement, would comply with the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and County regulations to minimize seismic risks. The site is not in a liquefaction or landslide-prone area, and its soils have low expansiveness (DOC 2021; USDA 2022). Ground-disturbing activities would be limited, and BMPs and submittal of permits would be implemented as needed to control erosion. Because the site is already developed, and all work would adhere to

applicable safety standards, the Project would result in less than significant impacts related to fault rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, unstable or expansive soils, and soil erosion.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to geology and soil issues discussed above.

### **5.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, CONFLICT WITH POLICY)**

The Proposed Project is expected to produce a total of 62.3 metric ton per year (MT/year) carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) during construction. More specifically, the Proposed Project is expected to produce approximately 49 MT/year CO<sub>2</sub>e during the initial phase of construction, and approximately 14 MT/year CO<sub>2</sub>e during subsequent phase of construction. SCAQMD has a recommended 3,000 MT/year CO<sub>2</sub>e 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<sub>2</sub>e 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.

The Proposed Project would not conflict with any plans or policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions. It aligns with the SCAQMD Air Quality-Related Energy Policy (2011) and the Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (CAP 2045), which aims to achieve carbon neutrality through energy efficiency and emission reduction strategies. Because the library would continue operating in the same capacity after renovations and would incorporate energy-efficient upgrades, the Project would not result in a substantial increase in GHG emissions. Construction-related emissions would be short term and minimal. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact regarding GHG plans, policies, or reduction targets.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to greenhouse gas issues discussed above.

### **5.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (ROUTINE TRANSPORT, RELEASE, EMIT NEAR SCHOOL, EMERGENCY PLAN)**

The Proposed Project would not involve the production or use of substantial quantities of hazardous materials. During construction, standard materials such as fuels, paints, and solvents would be used and managed in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations to prevent risks to the public or environment. These materials would be handled, stored, and disposed of according to product labeling and Safety Data Sheets. Their use would be temporary and limited to the construction period. During ongoing library operations, only small amounts of cleaning agents, fuels for maintenance, and landscaping chemicals would be used, posing minimal risk. Therefore, the Project would result in less than significant impacts related to the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Because the library was originally built in 1967, asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) and lead-based paint (LBP) may be present. All renovation activities would comply with federal and state regulations governing asbestos and lead abatement, including notification to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and California OSHA. Certified contractors would conduct testing, removal, or containment of any hazardous building materials, and an operations and maintenance plan would ensure that undisturbed materials are managed safely. Worker and visitor safety measures, such as protective procedures, air quality controls, and hazard awareness training, would further minimize exposure. Compliance with these standards would reduce potential risks to a less than significant level.

Nearby schools, including Pasadena Waldorf High School (0.12 mile away) and Altadena Arts Magnet School (0.33 mile away), would not be adversely affected. Construction emissions from equipment use would be temporary, and operational use of minor cleaning and landscaping chemicals would comply with all applicable safety regulations. As a result, the Project would not pose hazards to nearby schools.

Project's upgrades such as a new ADA-accessible entrance, loading zone, and improved pathways would not interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans. In fact, these improvements may enhance site accessibility and safety during emergencies. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts related to hazardous materials, nearby schools, and emergency response or evacuation plans.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to hazards issues discussed above.

### **5.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY (WATER QUALITY STANDARDS, GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES, EROSION, FLOODING, WATER QUALITY OR GROUNDWATER PLAN)**

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on water quality, groundwater supplies, and drainage patterns. The Altadena Main Library site is already developed and compliant with existing water quality and discharge standards. Construction activities—such as the creation of an outdoor reading court and delivery loading zone—would cause limited soil disturbance on about 0.28 acre of the 1.72-acre site. While this could temporarily increase the potential for erosion or pollutants entering the storm drain system, the Project would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and comply with County standards for erosion and watershed management. Finished grading would direct runoff away from structures, ensuring continued compliance with water quality regulations once construction is complete.

The Project would not substantially deplete groundwater or interfere with groundwater recharge. Although the building footprint would slightly expand, the Project would incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) measures (PDF-2) to reduce impervious surface area overall, improving water infiltration. Water use is not expected to increase, as staffing and visitation levels would remain similar to existing conditions, and new irrigation systems would use water more efficiently. Therefore, the Project would not hinder groundwater sustainability.

The Project would also have less than significant impacts on site drainage and runoff. The area is urbanized and already features extensive impervious surfaces. With BMPs and LID strategies in place, the Project would maintain stormwater runoff rates similar to undeveloped conditions, prevent pollutants from leaving the site, and comply with County Building and Safety Division requirements for proper drainage

and flood prevention. No streams or rivers occur near the site, and grading would improve existing drainage by sloping towards onsite features. Implementation of BMPs, LID measures, and regulatory compliance would ensure that the Project is aligned with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Commission's Basin Plan and does not result in erosion, flooding, or water quality degradation during construction or operation.

**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.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to hydrology and water quality issues discussed above.

### **5.10 NOISE (AMBIENT NOISE LEVELS, GROUNDBORNE VIBRATION, AIRPORT LAND USE PLAN)**

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to noise and vibration during both construction and operation. Construction activities, including building expansion, seismic retrofits, and infrastructure replacement, would temporarily increase noise levels in the area. However, these activities would comply with the Los Angeles County Noise Ordinance, which prohibits construction between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., on Sundays, and on holidays. Noise modeling showed that neither stationary equipment (below 60 dBA) nor mobile equipment (below 75 dBA) would exceed County thresholds at nearby residential receptors.

To further minimize noise, the Project would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) required by Los Angeles County Public Works, including proper equipment maintenance, functioning mufflers, strategic equipment placement away from sensitive receptors, and the appointment of a public liaison to address community concerns. With these measures in place, construction noise would remain below County standards, resulting in less than significant impacts.

Construction-related vibration impacts would also be minimal. Although heavy equipment can generate groundborne vibration, the County prohibits vibration exceeding a motion velocity of 0.01 inches per second at property lines. The Project's activities would not surpass this threshold, and compliance with County regulations would ensure that vibration does not affect nearby residences.

During operation, the library would continue functioning in the same capacity as it currently does and would not involve any activities generating substantial noise or vibration. Additionally, the site is located approximately 9.5 miles from San Gabriel Valley Airport and would not be affected by airport-related noise. Therefore, both construction and long-term operation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts related to noise and vibration.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to noise issues discussed above.

### **5.11 PUBLIC SERVICES (FIRE PROTECTION, POLICE PROTECTION, SCHOOLS)**

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. 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.

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. 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.

Construction would occur in one phase spanning an 18-month period (unless funding is delayed and then an additional temporary closure may occur), 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.

### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to public service issues discussed above.

### **5.12 TRANSPORTATION (CIRCULATION SYSTEM, VEHICLE MILES TRAVELLED, HAZARDS)**

The Proposed Project would generate minor, short-term increases in traffic during construction due to worker commutes and equipment. These temporary increases would not significantly affect traffic flow on nearby roadways, including Lake Avenue, as no roadwork or lane closures are proposed.

During operation, the Project would not impede bicycle, pedestrian, or transit facilities, since all improvements would occur within the existing library campus and are designed to enhance accessibility. The Project is also located near existing transit stops and would not induce population growth or generate

additional vehicle trips. Therefore, it would not conflict with any circulation plans or transportation policies, and impacts would be less than significant.

The addition of a new driveway for staff and delivery parking along Mariposa Street would be designed to maintain safe access and would not create new traffic hazards. Because the improvements are consistent with surrounding land uses and do not involve major roadway changes, the Project would result in less than significant impacts related to transportation safety or design.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to transportation issues discussed above.

### **5.13 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS (WATER SUPPLIES, CAPACITY, INSTALLATION OF NEW UTILITIES, SOLID WASTE FACILITY CAPACITY, SOLID WASTE REDUCTION, SOLID WASTE SERVICES, REDUCTION STATUTES)**

The Proposed Project would not substantially increase library usage or local population and therefore would not significantly affect water or wastewater systems. Although the interior renovations include the addition of restrooms for accessibility and a new kitchen, these features would not substantially increase water demand. The kitchen is intended for staging catered food rather than cooking or dishwashing for events. The project site already has existing connections for water, wastewater, electricity, and telecommunications, and no new utility extensions or relocations would be required. With the inclusion of water-efficient plumbing and irrigation upgrades, overall water usage at the site may improve compared to existing conditions.

Water service to the Altadena Main Library is provided by the Lincoln Avenue Water Company, which supplies water from a mix of groundwater, surface water, and imported sources. Because the project would not increase staffing or patronage, water supply demands would remain consistent with current levels. The District would comply with all local and state water conservation requirements and implement BMPs to minimize consumption. Accordingly, the project would have a less than significant impact on water supply and wastewater infrastructure.

Similarly, the proposed restroom and kitchen additions would not generate a substantial increase in wastewater since the facility's usage would remain consistent. Wastewater would continue to be treated by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts through existing service connections. The project would also comply with County requirements for solid waste management, sending nonrecyclable materials to the Scholl Canyon Landfill. While the new kitchen may generate a minor increase in packaging or disposable materials, this would not exceed landfill capacity. During construction, solid waste such as lumber, concrete, and fixtures would be recycled in accordance with CalRecycle's requirement that at least 65% of construction and demolition debris be diverted from landfills. Overall, impacts to utility and solid waste systems would be less than significant.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to utilities and service system issues discussed above.

#### **5.14 WILDFIRE (LANDSLIDES/FLOODING)**

The Project site is not located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2023). The topography of the site slopes gradually to the south. The Altadena Main Library is built onto the existing slope of the library grounds. 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.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to wildfire issues discussed above.

#### **5.15 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 characteristics 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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to growth-inducing impacts.

## SECTION 6.0 – LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Based on the Final EIR and the Record of Proceedings, the Commission finds that the Proposed Project would have less than significant environmental effects with mitigation incorporated associated with the following environmental issues:

- Biological Resources (Tree Policy)
- Tribal Cultural Resources (Substantial change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource)

### 6.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (TREE POLICY)

Under the Proposed Project, 48 trees would be protected in place, and nine trees would be removed. Of the trees to be protected in place, two are coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*), which are protected under the County Oak Tree Permit Ordinance. 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 native coast live oak trees will be planted onsite along with other new landscape shrubbery and vegetative groundcover. The proposed utility undergrounding and landscaping work would encroach into the protected zone of the two existing oak trees. Furthermore, routine tree maintenance including cutting of dead branches or overgrown branches on any ordinance-sized oak trees are also expected to occur during project operation. Any future tree maintenance shall be limited to medium pruning of branches not to exceed two inches in diameter in accordance with guidelines published by the International Society of Arboriculture intended to ensure the continued health of a protected tree. The Project shall comply with applicable County standards and requirements as it pertains to the County Oak Tree Permit 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 Survey, Protection, and Maintenance.** Prior to the issuance of any building permits, the Altadena Library District shall retain a certified arborist to conduct a tree survey and complete a report identifying all trees proposed for removal. The report shall include, at a minimum, the species, size (diameter at breast height), health condition, and location of each tree. The Tree Survey and Report shall be submitted to the County for review and approval to determine applicable tree replacement requirements in accordance with County ordinances. The Altadena Library District shall implement all required replacement measures as determined by the County. Any new or replacement oak trees shall consist of native oak species to avoid hybridization with non-native species.

Any pruning of oak trees shall be conducted in accordance with County Code Chapter 22.174, which states that maintenance of oak trees shall be limited to medium pruning of branches not exceeding two (2) inches in diameter, unless otherwise approved by the County, and shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the International Society of Arboriculture to ensure the continued health of protected trees. The protection, maintenance, and care of all oak trees, regardless of size, shall be conducted

in accordance with: (1) the recommendations of the certified arborist or County Forester; (2) applicable County guidance documents, including the Oak Trees: Care and Maintenance Guide; and (3) the oak tree reports prepared for Oak Tree Permit No. RPPL2025003986. All such measures shall be implemented throughout construction and for any post-construction maintenance period required by the County.

Therefore, implementation of MM BIO-1 would reduce impacts associated with a tree preservation policy to less than significant.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to biological resources discussed above with incorporation of the above mitigation measure.

### **6.2 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES (SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE)**

In compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 52 and CEQA requirements, consultation with the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians was conducted. No known tribal cultural resources were identified within the Project area. However, since ground-disturbing construction activities could potentially uncover previously unidentified tribal resources, mitigation measures (TCR-1 through TCR-3) have been incorporated to ensure that any discoveries are properly handled in consultation with tribal representatives. With these measures in place, potential impacts to tribal cultural resources would be reduced to less than significant levels.

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

A. The Altadena Library District 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.

## **FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts relating to tribal cultural resource issues discussed above with incorporation of the above mitigation measures.

## **SECTION 7.0 – SIGNIFICANT AND UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS**

This Section describes the environmental issue areas on which the Proposed Project would have significant and unavoidable impacts. Section 8 discusses the degree to which the Proposed Project Alternatives (including the recommended Proposed Project Alternative) reduce or increase these significant and unavoidable impacts.

The potentially adverse effects of the Proposed Project are identified in the Final EIR. After implementation of the mitigation measures, the Proposed Project will have a significant and unavoidable impact on the following environmental resource area: Cultural Resources (Historic).

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, this Statement of Overriding Considerations has been prepared to substantiate the County's decision to accept these significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impacts because of the benefits afforded by the Proposed Project.

### **7.1 CULTURAL RESOURCES (HISTORIC)**

The Proposed Project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact to historical resources. The Altadena Main Library has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, and as a Los Angeles County Landmark for its Mid-Century Modern architectural design by Boyd Georgi and its association with Altadena's postwar civic development. While some landscape features and exterior elements would be repaired or replaced in kind, the Project's proposed alterations, such as changes to the building's façade, removal of character-defining materials, and reconfiguration of interior spaces, would not conform to several Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOI Standards). These changes would result in a loss of historic integrity in materials, design, workmanship, and spatial relationships.

Because the Project would remove or alter several character-defining features, resulting in a loss of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling, the Altadena Main Library would likely no longer retain the historic integrity required for eligibility in the NRHP, CRHR, or County Landmark designation. Consequently, despite mitigation efforts to preserve certain features, the Project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, constituting a significant and unavoidable impact under CEQA.

The Proposed Project will implement the following mitigation measures 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.

**FINDINGS**

- 1) The Commission finds, based on the Final EIR and the whole of the record, that the Proposed Project would result in significant and unavoidable historic resource impacts, and that, despite the incorporation of all feasible mitigation measures, these impacts remain significant. The Commission further finds that these unavoidable impacts are overridden by the project benefits as set forth in the accompanying Statement of Overriding Considerations.

## **SECTION 8.0 – FINDINGS REGARDING PROJECT ALTERNATIVES**

The Final EIR discussed several alternatives to the Proposed Project in order to present a reasonable range of options. The alternatives evaluated include:

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

### **8.1 NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE**

Section 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.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1) While the No Project Alternative would not result in any significant environmental impacts, the Commission finds this alternative to be infeasible and less desirable than the Proposed Project. The Commission rejects this alternative, because it would not achieve the following Project Objectives:
  - Meet and exceed ADA requirements
  - Seismic and safety upgrades
  - 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
  - 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.
  - Upgrade building systems to replace end of life equipment and materials
  - Provide technology infrastructure to meet current and future library needs

### **8.2 ARG DESIGN**

This alternative was proposed by ARG in their 2020 Altadena Library 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.

Under the ARG plan, the lower level is primarily used for staff spaces, and public areas are accessed through a less direct path using interior stairs or an elevator. This layout would make it harder for visitors to find and access key services and does not provide a clear, visible public entrance.

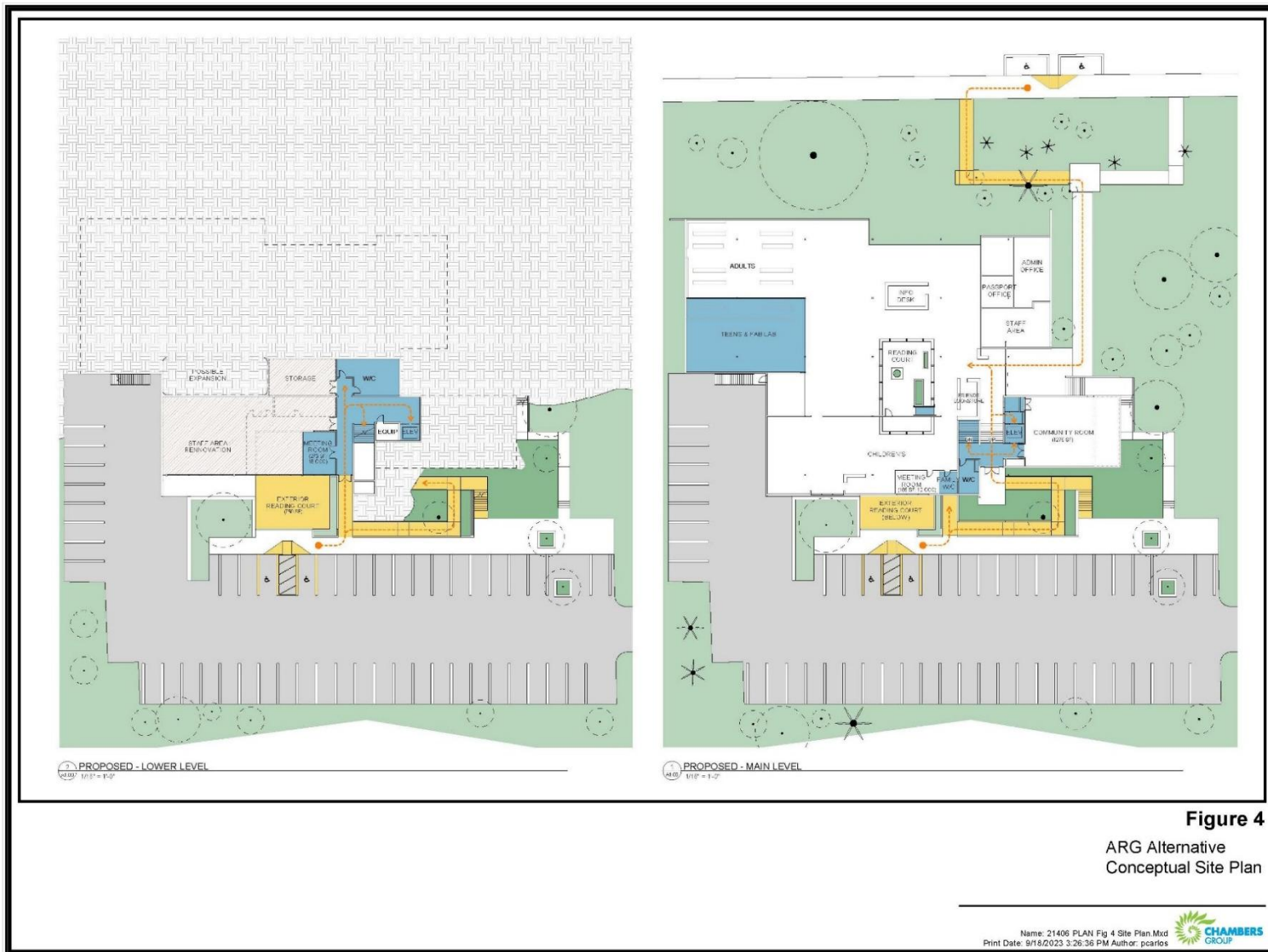
The Project's objectives include providing accessible and well-organized public spaces, such as passport services, meeting rooms, the fabrication lab, and the bookstore. Because the ARG alternative does not place these uses in prominent, easily accessible locations, it would be less effective in meeting these goals.

The ARG alternative would also be less consistent with the objective of allowing after-hours public access while keeping staff and library collections secure. The less direct circulation and lack of a clearly defined entry point could make it more difficult to separate public and restricted areas.

The ARG alternative would result in similar impacts as the Proposed Project with respect to historic resources. While the ARG alternative would result in less intensive interior and exterior modification than the Proposed Project, it would still likely result in the Main being ineligible for listing in the CRHR, NRHP, or County Landmark designation because it would alter some character-defining features and remove/destroy historic materials. These alterations would result in an overall loss of integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and feeling.

Under this alternative, the 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). The figure below includes a conceptual site plan for the ARG Alternative.

Figure 3: ARG Alternative



## **FINDINGS**

- 1) While the ARG design would not result in any significant and unavoidable environmental impacts, the Commission finds this alternative to be infeasible and less desirable than the Proposed Project. The Commission rejects this alternative, because it would not achieve the following Project Objectives:
  - Centralize staff work areas
  - 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.

### **8.3 CONCLUSION**

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.

CEQA Guidelines requires 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 Design would result in the fewest environmental impacts as compared to the Proposed Project, while still achieving some of the objectives of the Proposed Project. 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.

## **SECTION 9.0 – FINDINGS ON MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN**

### **9.1 INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with CEQA, Los Angeles County is acting as the Lead Agency for this Proposed Project. Pursuant to CEQA and *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15091(d) and 15097, the Lead Agency must adopt a program for monitoring or reporting mitigation measures identified in the EIR, if the Lead Agency makes findings of significant impacts during the process of certifying the EIR.<sup>1</sup> The primary purpose of the MMRP is to ensure that the mitigation measures identified in the EIR are implemented thereby reducing or avoiding identified environmental impacts.

### **9.2 PURPOSE OF MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

The purpose of the MMRP is to ensure the effective implementation of the mitigation measures imposed by the County for the Proposed Project. In addition, this MMRP provides a means for identifying corrective actions, if necessary, before irreversible environmental damage occurs. This plan includes:

- A brief description of each impact expected to occur from the Proposed Project;
- Mitigation measure(s) associated with each impact;
- Responsible monitoring party;
- Responsible implementing party;
- Implementation phase (i.e., pre-construction, construction, prior to occupancy, post occupancy); and
- Complete date/initials of reviewing party.

As the project applicant for the Proposed Project, the District will be required to comply with all applicable plans, permits, and conditions of approval for the Proposed Project, in addition to implementation of this MMRP. The County will provide oversight of MMRP actions taken by the District. The mitigation measures presented in Table 1 will be implemented as indicated to avoid or minimize environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.

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<sup>1</sup> CEQA. Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 21081.6. 2007.

**Table 2: Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Level of Significance After Mitigation	Verification of Compliance		
					Initial	Date	Remarks
<b>Biological Resources</b>							
<p><b>BIO-1: Tree Survey, Protection, and Maintenance.</b> Prior to the issuance of any grading, the Altadena Library District shall retain a certified arborist to conduct a tree survey and complete a report identifying all trees proposed for removal. The report shall include, at a minimum, the species, size (diameter at breast height), health condition, and location of each tree. The Tree Survey and Report shall be submitted to the County for review and approval to determine applicable tree replacement requirements in accordance with County ordinances. The Altadena Library District shall implement all required replacement measures as determined by the County. Any new or replacement oak trees shall consist of native oak species to avoid hybridization with non-native species.</p> <p>Any pruning of oak trees shall be conducted in accordance with County Code Chapter 22.174, which states that maintenance shall be limited to medium pruning of branches not exceeding two (2) inches in diameter, unless otherwise approved by the County, and shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the International Society of Arboriculture to ensure</p>	Pre-construction, Construction, and Operation	Pre-construction, Construction, and Operation	Los Angeles County	Less than Significant			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Level of Significance After Mitigation	Verification of Compliance		
					Initial	Date	Remarks
the continued health of protected trees. The protection, maintenance, and care of all oak trees, regardless of size, shall be conducted in accordance with: (1) the recommendations of the certified arborist or County Forester; (2) applicable County guidance documents, including the Oak Trees: Care and Maintenance Guide; and (3) the oak tree reports prepared for Oak Tree Permit No. RPPL2025003986. All such measures shall be implemented throughout construction and for any post-construction maintenance period required by the County.							
<b>Cultural Resources</b>							
<b>CUL-1: Historic American Buildings Survey-like Documentation.</b> 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 filed with the Altadena Library and nonarchival copies may be deposited in the collections of the Long Beach Public Library and Long Beach	Pre-construction	Pre-construction	Los Angeles County	Significant and Unavoidable			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Level of Significance After Mitigation	Verification of Compliance		
					Initial	Date	Remarks
Heritage Museum, if requested, and in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC).							
<b>CUL-2: Salvage and Use of Salvaged Materials:</b> 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 that would be salvaged during demolition and a salvage plan which may include architectural history monitoring during demolition.	Pre-construction	Pre-construction	Los Angeles County	Significant and Unavoidable			
<b>Tribal Cultural Resources</b>							
<b>TCR-1: Retain a Native American Monitor Prior to Commencement of Ground-Disturbing Activities.</b>  A. The Altadena Library District 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	Pre-construction	Construction	Los Angeles County	Less than Significant			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Level of Significance After Mitigation	Verification of Compliance		
					Initial	Date	Remarks
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>							

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Level of Significance After Mitigation	Verification of Compliance		
					Initial	Date	Remarks
<p>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.</p>							
<p><b>TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resource Objects (Non-Funerary/Non-Ceremonial).</b></p> <p>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.</p>	Construction	Construction	Los Angeles County	Less than Significant			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Level of Significance After Mitigation	Verification of Compliance		
					Initial	Date	Remarks
<p><b>TCR-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains and Associated Funerary or Ceremonial Objects.</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>C. Human remains and grave/burial goods shall be treated alike per California Public Resources Code section 5097.98(d)(1) and (2).</p> <p>D. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) is the preferred manner of treatment for discovered human remains and/or burial goods.</p> <p>E. Any discovery of human remains/burial goods shall be kept confidential to prevent further disturbance.</p>	Construction	Construction	Los Angeles County	Less than Significant			

## SECTION 10.0 – FINDINGS ON CHANGES TO THE DRAFT EIR

### 10.1 CHANGES TO DRAFT EIR

Minor revisions have been made to the Project site plans since publication of the Draft EIR. The updated site plans reflect a slightly reduced Project footprint and less intensive modification of the existing Altadena Main Library building. Additional revisions, unrelated to the Project Description, clarify findings, mitigation, and improve the accuracy of the Draft EIR and do not alter the impact determinations. Based upon review of the minor corrections and additions identified in Section 3, Table 3 (Revisions of Draft EIR) of the Final EIR document, the minor corrections and additions result in a reduced development footprint and do not result in any new or substantially increased significant impacts. Therefore, the County has concluded that recirculation of the Draft EIR is not required.

The revisions are reflected in the errata included in the Final EIR document, which provides a marked-up version of the Draft EIR showing changes using underline and strike-through formatting. Table 3 of the Final EIR identifies all revisions made to the Draft EIR.

The Final EIR consists of the Draft EIR together with the comments received and the written responses provided.

### 10.2 FINDINGS

Pursuant to CEQA, on the basis of the review and consideration of the Final EIR, the Commission finds:

- There are no factual corrections nor minor changes to the Draft EIR since its publication. Thus, no changes have been made that would:
  - Deprive the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment on a substantial adverse environmental effect of the Proposed Project or any Proposed Project Alternative, a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect, or a feasible Proposed Project alternative.
  - Result in new significant environmental effects or substantially increase the severity of the previously identified significant effects disclosed in the Draft SEIR.
  - Involve mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the Draft EIR that would substantially reduce one or more significant effect(s) on the environment.
- The Draft EIR is not fundamentally inadequate and/or so conclusionary in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

Thus, based on the Draft EIR, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, none of the conditions set forth in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088.5 requiring recirculation of a Draft EIR have been met.

## SECTION 11.0 – STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

The following Statement of Overriding Considerations is made pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 in connection with the consideration of the Proposed Project. CEQA requires a lead agency to provide written findings supporting the specific reasons for considering a project acceptable when significant impacts are unavoidable. Such reasons must be based on substantial evidence in the EIR or elsewhere in the administrative record. Those reasons are provided in this Statement of Overriding Considerations.

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21081(b) and *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15093, the Commission has balanced the benefits of the Proposed Project against the significant unavoidable Cultural Resource impacts associated with the Proposed Project, despite the adoption of all feasible mitigation measures. The Commission finds that the economic, social, and other benefits of the proposed project outweigh the significant and unavoidable impacts identified in the EIR and in the record, as set forth in Section 11.1, below:

### 11.1 SIGNIFICANT AND UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Based on the information and analysis set forth in the Final EIR and the record proceedings, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to Cultural Resources due to a substantial change in the significance of a historic resource. This would occur despite the implementation of the feasible mitigation measures identified in the EIR and listed above. While the mitigation measures described above have been provided to mitigate impacts to the extent feasible, impacts to Cultural Resources remain significant and unavoidable.

### 11.2 OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

The County has (i) independently reviewed the information in the Final EIR and the record of proceedings; (ii) made a reasonable and good faith effort to eliminate or substantially lessen the impacts resulting from the project to the extent feasible by adopting the mitigation measures identified in the EIR; and (iii) balanced the Proposed Project's benefits against the Proposed Project's significant unavoidable Cultural Resource impacts.

The Commission finds that the Proposed Project's benefits outweigh the Proposed Project's significant unavoidable impacts and chooses to approve the Proposed Project, despite its significant and unavoidable effects, because, in its view, those impacts are considered acceptable in light of the project's benefits. The Commission finds that each of the following benefits is an overriding consideration, independent of the other benefits, which warrants approval of the Proposed Project notwithstanding the Proposed Project's significant unavoidable Cultural Resource impacts. Substantial evidence supports the various benefits. Such evidence can be found in the preceding findings, which are incorporated by reference into this section, the Final EIR, and the documents which make up the Record of Proceedings. Implementation of the Proposed Project would provide public benefits described below.

#### 11.2.1 Project Goals and Objectives

The intended objectives of the Proposed Project include:

##### **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
- 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

## **11.3 PROJECT BENEFITS**

The Proposed Project consists of the renovation, expansion, and modernization of the Altadena Main Library, while preserving its historic Mid-Century Modern architectural character to the greatest extent feasible. Implementation of the Project would result in modifications to the original building materials and certain character-defining features of the historic building, including the open central interior space and recessed entrances. However, these changes are necessary to accommodate ADA-compliant features, interior reconfiguration and required safety and infrastructure upgrades, which may affect the original building materials. The facility has not undergone major upgrades since its original construction and requires substantial improvements to meet current safety, structural, and accessibility standards. The public benefits the Project is anticipated to bring are outlined below.

### *Health & Safety Upgrades, Seismic Resilience, and Modernization*

The Project would implement critical seismic, structural, and life-safety upgrades necessary to protect occupants in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster. These improvements are intended to ensure the safety of library users and staff while extending the functional lifespan of the facility.

The Project would mitigate any existing hazards including asbestos containing materials and replace end-of-life equipment and materials with modern, energy- and water-efficient infrastructure and also provide technology infrastructure to meet current and future library needs.

#### *Accessibility and Community Benefits*

The Project would bring the facility into compliance with current accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Improvements include the addition of accessible ramps, stairs, restrooms, and a reconfigured entry sequence that provides a clear and equitable point of access for all users, including individuals with disabilities and families with baby strollers. The new entry/lobby will provide direct and clear entrance accessible for all user types from the existing parking lot. These upgrades would eliminate existing barriers to access and ensure that the library can equitably serve all members of the community.

The reconfiguration of the interior space would create more flexible and efficient layout to support a wide range of library services and activities. A key component of the Project is the conversion of existing lower-level space, currently used for staff and utility functions, into publicly accessible areas. The reconfigured lower level would include various types of meeting and conference rooms, a call room, a maker space and fabrication lab, a bookstore, and a passport office. The updated layout would also support the reservation of meeting rooms for virtual meetings.

The library would continue to provide core services, including book collections, digital and computer access, educational and literacy programs, children’s programming, and after-hours services. Community and public organizations—such as the Altadena Historical Society, Altadena Heritage, and government agencies—would continue to have access to reserve various types of meeting rooms and other public spaces on the library premises. The library would remain a vital public resource serving individuals of all ages. These improvements would create more welcoming spaces for both individual learning and public gatherings.

#### *Outdoor and Other Site Enhancements*

The Project would expand and enhance outdoor spaces, including the addition of a new deck adjacent to the existing community room and the development of an outdoor reading court with new oak tree plantings. Additional site Improvements, including upgrades to the parking lot, wooden pedestrian footbridges, and landscaping, would enhance site circulation, safety, and overall appearance. Lastly, the re-striped and re-surfaced parking lot would include additional ADA parking spaces and electric-vehicle charging spaces.

### **11.4 CONCLUSION**

CEQA requires a public agency to balance the benefits of a proposed project against its significant and unavoidable adverse impacts in determining whether to approve the project. As discussed more fully above, the Project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact for cultural resources, specifically the significance of a historic resource. The Project has been designed to preserve the historic character of the Altadena Main Library to the greatest extent feasible while accommodating necessary safety, accessibility, and functional improvements. Although the Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to historical resources, the benefits described above, particularly those related to public safety, accessibility, modernization, and expanded community services, are substantial.

Accordingly, the Commission finds that the Project's benefits outweigh its unavoidable adverse environmental effects, and these effects are therefore considered acceptable under CEQA after balancing the specific economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the Proposed project, the Commission has determined that the identified significant and unavoidable impacts may be considered "acceptable" due to the specific considerations listed above that outweigh the significant and unavoidable impacts that would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Accordingly, the County adopts the Statement of Overriding Considerations, recognizing that significant and unavoidable impacts would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. Having (1) adopted all feasible mitigation measures, (2) rejected alternatives to the Proposed Project, and (3) recognized all unavoidable significant impacts, the County hereby finds that each of the separate benefits of the Proposed Project, as stated herein, is determined to be unto itself an overriding consideration, independent of other benefits, that warrants approval of the Proposed Project and outweighs and overrides its significant and unavoidable impacts.

## SECTION 12.0 – REFERENCES

### California Department of Conservation (DOC)

- 2018 Important Farmland Finder. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>.
- 2021 Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>
- 2022 California Williamson Act Finder. Available at: <https://gis.conservation.ca.gov/portal/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=18f7488c0a9d4d299f5e9c33b312f312>.
- 2023 Mines Online. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html>.

### California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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

### California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

- 2023 Envirostor Database. Available at: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=altadena%2C+ca>

### California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

- 2018 California Scenic Highway System Map. Available at: <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>

### California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

- 2023 Geotracker Available at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=altadena%2C+ca>

### County of Los Angeles (County)

- 2022 General Plan – Chapter 9: Conservation and Natural Resources Element. Available at: [https://planning.lacounty.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2022/11/9.0\\_gp\\_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf](https://planning.lacounty.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2022/11/9.0_gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf)
- 2025 LA County Recovers. One-Stop Permits Centers. Available at: <https://recovery.lacounty.gov/rebuilding/one-stop-permit-centers/>

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

2008 National Hazard Flood Layer. Available at:  
<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=altadena%2C%20ca#searchresultsanchor>.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

2022 Web Soil Survey. Available at:  
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

2023 National Wetlands Inventory Mapper. Available at:  
<https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>.