

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND COMPLETION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE ALTADENA MAIN LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT

Los Angeles County (“County”) Department of Regional Planning (“LA County Planning”), acting in the capacity of “Lead Agency” under the County’s Environmental Guidelines, Chapter III, Section 304, has filed a “Notice of Completion and Availability” of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (“Draft EIR”) for the Altadena Main Library Renovation Project (“Project”). This document has been prepared in accordance with, and pursuant to, the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), as amended; Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.; and the “Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act” (State CEQA Guidelines), California Code of Regulation, Title 14, Chapter 15000 et seq., (including Section 15160).

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	ALTADENA MAIN LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT		
Public Review Period:	Thursday, September 25, 2025 to Thursday, November 20, 2025		
Project Site:	Altadena Main Library 600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena, CA 91001 APN: 5840-010-900		
Project Number:	PRJ2023-000474-(5)		
Permit Number:	Conditional Use Permit No. RPPL2023000666 Oak Tree Permit No. RPPL2025003986 Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2024005464		
State Clearinghouse No.	2024120781		
General Plan	P – Public and	Zoning:	R-1-10,000 (Single Family
Land Use Category:	Semi-Public		Residence–10,000 Square Feet Minimum Required Lot Area) Zone
Applicant:	Altadena Library District		

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Altadena Main Library (the Main) is located at 600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena, CA 91001, at the southwest corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and Mariposa Street. Altadena is an unincorporated community in 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 (see Figure 1). 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 pedestrian access to the main entrance on Mariposa Avenue. Secondary pedestrian access is provided 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 2, 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.

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. Library operations will remain similar to existing conditions. Project features shown in Figure 2 include the following:

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

Demolition

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

Proposed exterior improvements include 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 irrigation systems. A majority of the existing trees, including two non-heritage-sized Coast live oak trees, will be protected in place, but approximately nine of 52 existing landscape trees will be removed. Six of the nine trees planned for removal are in poor condition. As part of the proposed landscape plan, three 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 North Patio will accommodate events and daily functions and includes a sunken reading court with terraced seating. At the building's southeast corner, the Community Room Deck extends a raised deck from the building. The new southern edge of the building will provide parking for approximately four bicycles to the east, with planted walkways moving west to the new main building entrance.

ENTITLEMENTS REQUESTED

- A Conditional Use Permits (“CUP”) to authorize the continued use and operation of an existing public library, and the renovation, seismically retrofit, access improvement, and expansion of the existing public library in the R-1-10,000 Zone.
- An Oak Tree Permit to authorize encroachment into the protected zone of two non-heritage-sized oak trees associated with the proposed landscape, utility, and other infrastructure improvements.

SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The Project would result in a significant and unavoidable environmental impact related to cultural (historic) resources. All other environmental factors, including Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire, would result in less than significant impacts or less than significant impacts with mitigation.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the proposed Project and EIR will be scheduled before the Hearing Officer or Regional Planning Commission at a time and date to be determined subsequent to the close of the Draft EIR public review period. The public hearing will be properly noticed when the hearing date is confirmed.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD & DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

To ensure public access to the Draft EIR, a paper copy of the document is available for review at the following locations during normal business hours: 1) Altadena Main Library at 600 E. Mariposa Street; 2) Altadena One-Stop Permit Center at 464 W Woodbury Rd. Suite 210, Altadena. The Draft EIR can also be viewed or downloaded at the following website:

<https://bit.ly/PRJ2023-000474>



Written comments must be received or postmarked on or before Thursday, November 20, 2025. All written comments received by the closing of the public review period will be considered in the Final EIR. Written comments can be provided in any of the following ways:

Mail: Los Angeles County Dept of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple Street, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Jolee Hui (Foothills DSA)

E-mail (*preferred method*):
jhui@planning.lacounty.gov

Should you have any questions, please call (213) 893-7011. Para asistencia en español, por favor de contactar el Departamento de Planning y comunicarse con Jolee Hui al jhui@planning.lacounty.gov.



