

## 4.11 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section of the EIR analyzes the potential environmental effects on public services from implementation of the proposed project. For purposes of this EIR, the public service analysis is divided into four subsections: (1) fire protection and emergency response, (2) police protection, (3) schools, and (4) libraries. Cumulative impacts associated with fire protection and emergency response, police protection, schools, and libraries are addressed at the end of each respective subsection.

### Fire Protection and Emergency Response

This section describes the current status of fire protection and emergency response services in the City of Huntington Beach, including a discussion of current staffing levels, equipment, response times, performance standards that apply to these services, and the ability of the City's fire protection and emergency response services to meet the current needs of the City.

Data used to prepare this section were taken from various sources, including contacts with the City of Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD), Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan (BECSP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and online resources. Full reference list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.11.5 (References).

#### 4.11.1 Environmental Setting

Fire protection and emergency services for the proposed project site are provided by the HBFD. One of the eight HBFD stations operates in the vicinity of the proposed project site. The station is listed below in Table 4.11-1 (Fire Stations Serving Project Site) along with staffing and equipment at the station. Fire Station 2, the Murdy Station, is located approximate 1 mile northwest of the project site, and would provide first-response service. The station is staffed with two Captains, two engineers, two firefighters, two paramedics, and two ambulance operators. In addition, the station has a two-person Basic Life Support ambulance.<sup>30</sup>

<i>Station No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Area Served</i>	<i>Equipment/Staffing</i>
Station 2	16221 Gothard Street	Northeast Portion of the City, Bella Terra Mall, Golden West College and the San Diego Freeway	1 Truck Company 1 Paramedic Engine Company 1 Advanced and Basic Life Support Ambulance

SOURCE: Huntington Beach, City of. 2010. Fire Stations. [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Fire/Fire\\_Operations/FireStations/](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Fire/Fire_Operations/FireStations/) (accessed August 24, 2010).

<sup>30</sup> Verbal communication between Maresh, Darin (City of Huntington Beach Fire Department), and Medel, Rosemary (City of Huntington Beach Planning and Building Department) (December 2010).

HBFD has 131 safety personnel and 24 ambulance operators/fire interns. There are at least 41 fire suppression personnel on duty each day and at least 8 ambulance personnel on duty each day.<sup>31</sup> In 2010, Huntington Beach had a population of 203,484.<sup>32</sup> The associated firefighter-to-population ratio of 0.76 firefighters per 1,000 residents is considered acceptable by the HBFD. However, this number is not reflective of on-the-ground conditions with respect to evaluating a firefighter-to-population ratio because the population changes seasonally as well as daily, with busy summers and nights all year long with crowds that rely on the HBFD services. Consequently, the HBFD does not consider a firefighter-to-population ratio as an appropriate tool for determining levels of service.<sup>33</sup> Instead, criteria for evaluating acceptable levels of service are generally based on response times. Additional staff is available to the City, as needed, through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with Orange County and other cities including Santa Ana, Newport Beach, Fountain Valley, and Costa Mesa. The City receives and provides staffing assistance from and to other fire agencies on a countywide and statewide basis through the Office of Emergency Services when a large fire or disaster occurs.

Criteria for evaluating acceptable levels of service and for determining the thresholds of significance associated with service levels are based on HBFD criteria. According to the City's General Plan Growth Management Element, the HBFD's emergency response time objective, including participation by other cities in the automatic aid agreement, is for the first fire or paramedic unit to arrive within 5 minutes, 80 percent of the time. The non-emergency response time goal is 15 minutes, 90 percent of the time.<sup>34</sup> In 2010, the average response time to the project location was less than 5 minutes 64 percent of the time.<sup>35</sup>

Water service for domestic use and fire flows is provided to the project site by the City of Huntington Beach. The local water main system is a combined domestic and fire protection water grid system. This system provides adequate water pressure and volume to the area surrounding the proposed project site for purposes of fire suppression and domestic water use. Each city hydrant provides 4,000 gallons per minute at 20 pounds per square inch.<sup>36</sup> In accordance with the California Fire Code (described below under Section 4.11.2 [Regulatory Framework]), minimum fire flows are generally achieved and maintained.

## **4.11.2 Regulatory Framework**

Refer to Section 4.11.2 (Regulatory Framework) of the BECSP Program EIR, for applicable federal, state, and local regulations that would apply to the proposed project. No new regulations have been implemented since the certification of the Program EIR.

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<sup>31</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Fire Stations, [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Fire/Fire\\_Operations/FireStations/](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Fire/Fire_Operations/FireStations/) (accessed August 24, 2010).

<sup>32</sup> California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2010, with 2000 Benchmark (Sacramento, California, May 2010).

<sup>33</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Section 4.11 (Public Services), *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan EIR* (August 2009).

<sup>34</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Fire Operations, [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/fire/fire\\_operations/](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/fire/fire_operations/) (accessed August 24, 2010).

<sup>35</sup> Darin Maresh, email communication between Darin Maresh and Rosemary Medel, Subject: Fire Department Comment (December 22, 2010).

<sup>36</sup> Darin Maresh, email communication between Darin Maresh and Rosemary Medel, Subject: Fire Comments Warner Beach EIR (December 02, 2010).

The BECSP Development Code, which includes development standards, development regulations, and guidelines, governs all development actions with the BECSP area, including the proposed project site. The proposed project would be subject to development standards specific to the proposed project site's BECSP designations of Neighborhood Centers, included as BECSP Section 1.4.1-1 (Neighborhood Centers).

## ■ General Plan and BECSP Consistency Analysis

The proposed project is required to follow all applicable state and local laws with respect to fire safety. Compliance with the regulations of the California Fire Code pertaining to fire protection systems and equipment, general safety precautions, and many other general and specialized fire-safety requirements for new and existing buildings and premises, would ensure consistency with the General Plan Policy PF 2.3.1 and Policy GM 2.1.4. The City determines funding allocations to the Fire Department during the City's annual budgetary process. As required by BECSP MM4.11-1, the City uses the City's General Fund to allocate funding for the Fire Department's staffing and equipment needs in order to maintain an acceptable level of fire service, consistent with General Plan Policy PF 2.1.3, which requires the City to maintain adequate and facilities and personnel and Policies GM 2.1.2 and GM 2.1.3, which establish response time standards. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with applicable General Plan policies.

### 4.11.3 Project Impacts and Mitigation

#### ■ Analytic Method

Impacts on fire protection services are considered significant if an increase in population or building area would result in inadequate staffing levels, response times, and/or increased demand for services that would require the construction of new fire protection facilities or the expansion of existing fire protection facilities that may have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The HBFD has established objectives for response times for emergency and non-emergency events.

#### ■ Thresholds of Significance

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the 2010 CEQA Guidelines. For purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on public services if it would do the following:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered fire protection and emergency response facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection and emergency response

#### ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

No Effects Not Found to Be Significant have been identified with respect to fire protection.

## ■ Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold	Would the proposed project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered fire protection and emergency response facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection and emergency response?
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**Impact 4.11-1      Implementation of the proposed project could increase the demand for fire protection services, but would not require the construction of new or physically altered facilities to accommodate the increased demand and to maintain acceptable fire flows. This impact would be *less than significant*.**

Implementation of the proposed project would result in a maximum of 279 dwelling units, 29,600 sf of new retail, and 6,000 sf of new restaurant uses. Development of 279 dwelling units would result in an estimated population increase of approximately 745 persons.<sup>37</sup> An increase in development at the proposed project site would require a proportionate increase in the amount of public safety staff, fire station facilities, fire apparatus, and equipment. The proposed project site would receive first response from Station 2, the Murdy Station, located approximately 1 mile northwest of the project site at 16221 Gothard Street. In addition Station 1, the Gothard Station, located approximately 1.42 miles southwest of the project site could respond to the project site. The Gothard Fire Station has one command vehicle, one paramedic engine company and one advance and basic life support ambulance (ALS/BLS). The Murdy Station has one truck company, one paramedic engine company, and one advanced and basic life support ambulance.<sup>38</sup> The Gothard Fire Station has one command vehicle, one paramedic engine company and one advance and basic life support ambulance (ALS/BLS). The HBFD has established objectives for providing response in approximately 5 minutes, 80 percent of the time. As identified in the BECSP EIR, the HBFD generally maintains this response time with existing facilities, equipment, and staffing across the BECSP area and the City as a whole. As such, per BECSP EIR Section 4.11(Public Services), it would likely be quite some time before the HBFD requires additional personnel and/or equipment in order to maintain an adequate level of service (as defined by the emergency response time goal). However, in 2010, the average response time from the responding fire station to the proposed project site was less than 5 minutes only 64 percent of the time. In order to ensure that an adequate service ratio is maintained throughout full build-out of the BECSP, including the proposed project mitigation measure BECSP MM4.11-1 shall be implemented. Implementation of mitigation measure BECSP MM4.11-1 would ensure that the HBFD receives adequate staffing and/or equipment to maintain acceptable levels of service. Additionally, the equipment and personnel available at Gothard Station (a secondary responding station within the project vicinity) combined with that at the Murdy Fire Station would help to adequately serve the project site.

<sup>37</sup> Based on the existing average household size of 2.67 persons for the City of Huntington Beach. California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2010, with 2000 Benchmark (Sacramento, California, May 2010).

<sup>38</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Fire Stations, [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Fire/Fire\\_Operations/FireStations/](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Fire/Fire_Operations/FireStations/) (accessed August 24, 2010).

*BECSP MM4.11-1 Subject to the City's annual budgetary process, which considers available funding and the staffing levels needed to provide acceptable response time for fire and police services, the City shall provide sufficient funding to maintain the City's standard, average level of service through the use of General Fund monies.*

The quantity of water required for fire protection (i.e., fire flows) varies and is dependent upon many factors that are specific to each particular building, such as the floor area, type of construction, expected occupancy, type of activities conducted within the building, and the distance to adjacent buildings. All development plans are reviewed by the HBFD prior to construction to ensure that adequate fire flows would be maintained. Adequate fire flows would be required by law prior to construction and the proposed project will be equipped with water distribution infrastructure.

Future development under the proposed project would not significantly impact the level of service delivery for the project area. The person-to-population ratio of sworn positions in the HBFD per every 1,000 residents is 0.76. Future development of the proposed project (worst-case population increase scenario) would result in a direct population increase of up to 745 persons, and person-to-population ratio would remain the same. The City has a total of 131 sworn personnel and 24 ambulance operators/fire interns, and the addition of the new residents generated by the project would reduce the present firefighter personnel-to-population ratio by less than 1 percent. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not require any new or physically altered fire facilities to maintain adequate response times and staffing, the construction of which could result in significant environmental impacts. This impact would be *less than significant*.

#### 4.11.4 Cumulative Impacts

Threshold	Would the proposed project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered fire protection and emergency response facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection and emergency response?
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As additional development occurs in the City, there may be an overall increase in the demand for fire protection services, including personnel, equipment, and/or facilities. The provision of adequate fire protection services is of critical importance to the City, and funds are allocated to these services during annual monitoring and budgeting processes to ensure that fire protection services are responsive to changes in the City. Funds collected in the form of increased ongoing property tax revenues and one-time plan check fees are deposited into the General Fund and allocated (in part) to City services, such as fire protection services. In addition, staffing levels are evaluated by the HBFD during the annual budgetary process, and personnel are hired, as needed, to ensure that adequate fire protection services are provided. The cumulative impact, therefore, on fire services in the City would be less than significant, as new development in the City would be required to mitigate potential impacts before issuance of building permits and result in increased general fund revenues that are used, in part, to maintain existing service levels for public services. In addition, the incremental effect of the proposed project on this impact would not be cumulatively considerable as (1) the project site is anticipated to be served within the established response times for the HBFD, while providing adequate fire flows, (2) adequate staffing

levels exist to serve the proposed project and (3) no new or physically altered fire facilities would need to be constructed to accommodate the proposed project. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the project on fire protection services would be *less than significant*.

### 4.11.5 References

California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2010, with 2000 Benchmark. Sacramento, California, May 2010.

Huntington Beach, City of. Annual Response Statistics. <http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/fire/annual-report-2009.pdf> (accessed August 24, 2010).

———. Fire Operations. [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/fire/fire\\_operations/](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/fire/fire_operations/) (accessed August 24, 2010).

———. Fire Stations. [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Fire/Fire\\_Operations/FireStations/](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Fire/Fire_Operations/FireStations/) (accessed August 24, 2010).

———. Section 4.11 (Public Services). *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan EIR*, 2009.

Kennedy, Lisa. Verbal phone communication between HBFD and Jennifer Lee, PBS&J, November 22, 2010.

Maresh, Darin. Email communication between Darin Maresh and Rosemary Medel, Subject: Fire Comments Warner Beach EIR. December 2, 2010.

Maresh, Darin, and Jennifer Villasenor. Verbal communication, October 2010.

## **Police Protection**

This section describes the current status of police protection services in the City of Huntington Beach, including a discussion of current staffing levels, equipment, staffing standards, number and types of calls received, crime prevention programs available, and the ability of the City’s police protection services to meet the current needs of the City.

Data for this section were taken from previous environmental documents from the City, communication with the City of Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) and online resources. Full reference-list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.11.10 (References).

### 4.11.6 Environmental Setting

The HBPD provides police protection services within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Huntington Beach. The Police Department operates out of its Main Station, located at 2000 Main Street, approximately 2.76 miles southwest of the project site. The Main Station is responsible for dispatching first-response service throughout the City.

The HBPD utilizes the “beat cop” system, which the City initiated in 2000. The City is divided into thirteen beat areas.<sup>39</sup> Under the Beat Command System, beat officers are assigned the responsibility of Community Oriented Policing, which is a philosophy of working and communicating with the

<sup>39</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Divisions, <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/divisions/> (accessed August 24, 2010).

community to identify services that are needed, and problem solving in their respective beat areas. Sergeants are assigned to supervise and assist in the Community Oriented Policing activities within the beat areas. The proposed project site is located in Beat 9.<sup>40</sup> Depending on the time of day and year, this beat system allows for quick response time and specific beat coverage unless officers are called upon by nearby beat officers for backup.

The HBPD is authorized for 235 sworn officers and currently employs a total of 215 sworn officers.<sup>41</sup> With an estimated 2010 City population of 203,484 residents,<sup>42</sup> the current officer-to-population ratio is 1.05 officers per 1,000 residents.<sup>43</sup> While the HBPD does not use a police officer per population ratio to determine their staffing needs, the Growth Management Element of the General Plan establishes a target ratio of 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents as a minimal standard.<sup>44</sup> Therefore, the City is slightly below recommended staffing levels.

Calls for service are categorized into priorities based on the type of call received. However, a call for service does not necessarily indicate that a crime has occurred; calls for service could be associated with medical assists, patrons locked out of vehicles, or other non-emergency related incidents. Priority 1 calls are in-progress crimes that are serious in nature. Officers are dispatched immediately to these calls. Priority 2 calls are less serious incidents, but still require an immediate response. Guidelines require that the HBPD dispatch officers to Priority 2 calls within 5 minutes. Priority 3 calls are generally burglary alarm calls, and officers are generally dispatched within 15 minutes. Priority 4 calls are generally report calls and incidents that are less pressing. Officers are dispatched to these calls as soon as a beat officer is available. Response times for Priority 4 calls are heavily dependent on daily activity. On high-activity days some calls can be held for up to an hour, while on slow days Priority 4 calls may be dispatched as soon as they are received.<sup>45</sup> Priority 5 calls are non-emergency report calls that are generally responded to within 1.5 hours. Table 4.11-2 (Average Police Response Times in the Beach and Edinger Area from 7/01/07 to 6/30/08) shows the average police response times within the project area.

Law enforcement services require that certain equipment, in addition to staff, be provided in order to maintain an acceptable level of service. Existing HBPD equipment deemed essential includes vehicles, radios, and mobile data terminals. The City receives and provides staffing assistance from and to other police departments on a citywide and countywide basis for law enforcement services. Additional staff is available to the City, as needed, through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with the county and state.

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<sup>40</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Beat Map, [http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/crime\\_info/BeatMap.cfm](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/crime_info/BeatMap.cfm) (accessed August 24, 2010).

<sup>41</sup> City of Huntington Beach, About Us, [http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/about\\_us/](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/about_us/) (accessed August 22, 2010).

<sup>42</sup> California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2010, with 2000 Benchmark (Sacramento, California, May 2010).

<sup>43</sup> Jan Thomas, City of Huntington Beach Police Department, Project Implementation Recommendations Memorandum (October 10, 2010).

<sup>44</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Growth Management Element, *City of Huntington Beach General Plan* (2002), [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/planning/growth\\_management\\_element.pdf](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/planning/growth_management_element.pdf).

<sup>45</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Section 4.11 (Public Services), *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report* (August 2009).

**Table 4.11-2 Average Police Response Times in the Specific Plan Area from 7/01/07 to 6/30/08**

Priority	Response Time	
	Beach Boulevard	Edinger Avenue
1	5:45	7:32
2	11:10	11:25
3	13:33	13:29
4	25:52	22:34
5	27:46	26:04

SOURCE: Huntington Beach, City of. 2009. Section 4.11 (Public Services). *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan EIR*.

The City also operates an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which provides emergency management and preparedness services to the City in the event of a major disaster or incident. In the event of emergencies involving earthquakes, tsunamis, civil disturbances, energy crises, nuclear power plant emergencies, terrorism and acts of war, the EOC (located at City Hall) assures central coordination, public official alerting, care and shelter, evacuation, search and rescue, resource mobilization and recovery operate effectively. Activation of the EOC is required by the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) under the following conditions:

- On the request by a local government or county agency
- Two cities proclaiming a local emergency
- County Emergency Proclamation and a City Local Emergency Proclamation
- Request by any member of the Orange County Operational Area (OA) for Governor's Proclamation
- State of Emergency proclaimed in Orange County or the state of California
- Request for Outside Resources by a member of the OA

In addition, the Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Management Bureau provides secondary emergency management and preparedness services to the Orange County OA, including the City of Huntington Beach.

The City of Huntington Beach maintains crime statistics for "Part One Crimes," which include; homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assaults, burglary, vehicle theft, larceny and arson. Crime statistics have been organized by beat and broken down by types of Part One Crimes. Beat 9 experienced 631 Part One Crimes in 2008; and had the third highest crime rates in the City out of thirteen beats. Beat 9 includes the proposed project site. The City of Huntington Beach experienced a total of 5,725 Part One Crimes in 2008.<sup>46</sup> Crimes that occurred in Beat 9 represent approximately 11 percent of the total crimes committed within the City. However, it is important to note that each Beat covers far more than just the proposed project area, as each Beat covers a wide range of territory.

<sup>46</sup> City of Huntington Beach, 2008 Crime Statistics, [http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/crime\\_info/crime\\_statistics.cfm](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/crime_info/crime_statistics.cfm) (accessed August 24, 2010).

### 4.11.7 Regulatory Framework

Refer to Section 4.11.5 (Regulatory Framework) in the BECSP Program EIR, for applicable federal, state, and local regulations that would apply to the proposed project. No new regulations have been implemented since the certification of the Program EIR.

The BECSP Development Code, which includes development standards, development regulations, and guidelines, governs all development actions with the BECSP area, including the proposed project site. The proposed project would be subject to development standards specific to the proposed project site's BECSP designations of Neighborhood Centers, included as BECSP Section 1.4.1-1 (Neighborhood Centers).

#### ■ General Plan and BECSP Consistency Analysis

Police protection services that are currently provided to the project site would continue to be used, and plan check fees associated with development of the proposed project would be paid prior to issuance of building/occupancy permit. These fees could then be allocated by the City to the HBPD in order to compensate the Police Department for growth within their jurisdiction that may require enhanced facilities or additional personnel to provide response times within established standards, as required by BECSP MM4.11-1. The level of service would not diminish as a result of project implementation. Additionally, appropriate design measures will be included in the development of the proposed project to maximize policing and safety and security, as required by General Plan Policy GM 1.1.7. Consequently, the proposed project would not conflict with the applicable goals and policies of the City's General Plan.

### 4.11.8 Project Impacts and Mitigation

#### ■ Analytic Method

Although a target ratio is discussed in the Growth Management Element of the General Plan, the HBPD does not use a police officer per population ratio to determine their staffing needs. The HBPD does not have any standard criteria for assessing the significance of impacts to service levels, or emergency response times. The following analysis considers the potential impacts of the proposed project, including a maximum of 279 dwelling units, 29,600 sf of retail and 6,000 sf of restaurant uses, on the HBPD's ability to respond to a call for required services. Impacts on police protection services are considered significant if an increase in population or building area would result in inadequate staffing levels (as measured by the ability of the HBPD to respond to call loads) and/or increased demand for police services that would require the construction or expansion of new or altered police protection facilities.

#### ■ Thresholds of Significance

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the 2010 CEQA Guidelines. For purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on public services if it would do the following:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant

environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection

■ **Effects Not Found to Be Significant**

No Effects Not Found to Be Significant have been identified with respect to police protection.

■ **Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection?
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**Impact 4.11-2            Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the need for new or physically altered police facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios. This impact would be *less than significant*.**

The Growth Management Element of the General Plan has established a target ratio of 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents as a minimal standard. As discussed above, there are 215 sworn personnel currently protecting 203,484 residents in the City. Implementation of the proposed project could result in up to 745 new residents.<sup>47</sup> Using the worst-case population increase scenario, the additional 745 residents generated by the proposed project would increase the existing population of the City of Huntington Beach from 203,484 residents to 204,229 residents. This increase in population would result in a ratio of 1.05 officers per 1,000 residents. With the implementation of the proposed project, the police officer per population ratio would be below the recommended staffing level of 1.2 officers per 1,000 as established in the Growth Management Element of the General Plan.

The HBPD dispatches all calls from the Main Station regardless of the Beat the crime has occurred in. Therefore, it is assumed that response times to the project site and the vicinity would be consistent with the City’s average response time of six minutes for Priority One Calls, and unknown for all other call types. The project would raise the total population of the City by 745 residents to 204,229 residents. However, the relative low increase in the number of calls from the project site would not substantially affect the level of police protection and service provided by the HBPD.

The addition of the proposed project is not expected to notably affect HBPD resources given that general fund monies from increased property tax revenue associated with the proposed development as well as other fee revenues (i.e., building permit fees) may be used to augment equipment levels. Further, as discussed in the Fire Services section, Mitigation measure BECSP MM4.11-1 would be required, which would ensure that adequate staffing levels are maintained. Therefore, persons on-site or elsewhere in the City would not be exposed to increased risks as a result of the proposed project’s additional demands on the HBPD.

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<sup>47</sup> Based on the existing average household size of 2.67 persons for the City of Huntington Beach. California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2010, with 2000 Benchmark (Sacramento, California, May 2010).

Future development under the proposed project would not result in the need for additional facilities. Based on the discussion above, the proposed project would not require additional officers or resources. In addition, response times would be adequate to serve the project site. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not require any new or physically altered police facilities to maintain adequate response times and staffing, the construction of which could result in significant environmental impacts. This impact would be *less than significant*.

### 4.11.9 Cumulative Impacts

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection?
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As additional development occurs in the City, there may be an overall increase in the demand for police services, including personnel, equipment, and/or facilities. The provision of adequate police services is of critical importance to the City, and funds are allocated to these services during annual monitoring and budgeting processes to ensure that police protection services are responsive to changes in the City. Funds collected in the form of increased on-going property tax revenues and one-time plan check fees are deposited into the General Fund and allocated (in part) to City services, such as police services. In addition, staffing levels are evaluated by the HBPD during the annual budgetary process, and personnel are hired, as needed, to ensure that adequate police services are provided. The cumulative impact, therefore, on police services in the City would be less than significant, as new development in the City results in increased general fund revenues that are used, in part, to maintain existing service levels for public services. In addition, the incremental effect of the proposed project on this impact would not be cumulatively considerable as (1) the project site is anticipated to be served within the established response times for the HBPD, (2) adequate staffing levels exist to serve the proposed project and (3) no new or physically altered police facilities would need to be constructed to accommodate the proposed project. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the project on police services would be *less than significant*.

### 4.11.10 References

- Huntington Beach, City of. 2008 Crime Statistics. [http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/crime\\_info/crime\\_statistics.cfm](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/crime_info/crime_statistics.cfm) (accessed August 24, 2010).
- . Beat Map. [http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/crime\\_info/BeatMap.cfm](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/crime_info/BeatMap.cfm) (accessed August 24, 2010).
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- . Huntington Beach Police Department. [http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/about\\_us/](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/PD/about_us/) (accessed August 24, 2010).

———. Section 4.11 (Public Services). *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report*, August 2009.

California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2010, with 2000 Benchmark. Sacramento, California, May 2010.

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## **Schools**

This section describes the current status of school services in the City of Huntington Beach, including a discussion of existing school facilities, educational programs, planned improvements within the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) and Ocean View School District (OVSD), and the ability of the City’s school services to meet the current needs of the City.

Data for this section were taken from previous environmental documents from the City, communication with the HBUHSD and OVSD as well as online resources. Full reference-list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.11.15 (References).

### **4.11.11 Environmental Setting**

The City of Huntington Beach is served by one high school district, HBUHSD and four elementary/junior high school districts which include the HBUHSD, Westminster School District, (WSD) OVSD, and Fountain Valley School District (FVSD).<sup>48</sup> The proposed project site would be served by the HBUHSD and the OVSD.

The HBUHSD includes the entire City and extends slightly into the Cities of Westminster and Fountain Valley. The District operates eight high schools serving grades 9 through 12, one adult school, one community day center, and one performing arts center.<sup>49</sup> The HBUHSD has a current high school enrollment of approximately 16,125 students.<sup>50</sup> The project site would be served by Ocean View High School, which has a current enrollment of 1,549 students.<sup>51,52</sup> Per the HBUHSD, the current level of enrollment within the school district has been declining in recent years, and this decline is expected to continue for the next several years. The HBUHSD does not anticipate an immediate change in the enrollment patterns.

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<sup>48</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Section 4.11 (Public Services), *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report* (August 2009).

<sup>49</sup> Huntington Beach Union High School District, Schools, <http://www.hbuhd.org/schools.cfm> (accessed August 24, 2010).

<sup>50</sup> Education Data Partnership, District Reports, Huntington Beach Union High School District, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D06%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed August 24, 2010).

<sup>51</sup> Huntington Beach Union High School District, *School Boundaries*. [http://www.hbuhd.org/dsp.page\\_content.cfm?pid=18](http://www.hbuhd.org/dsp.page_content.cfm?pid=18) (accessed October 20 2010).

<sup>52</sup> Education Data Partnership, School Reports, Ocean View High School, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D07%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed October 20, 2010).

The OVSD currently operates 11 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 2 preschools.<sup>53</sup> The OVSD has a current enrollment of approximately 9,503 students.<sup>54</sup> The project site would be served by Oak View Elementary School (grades K–5) and Mesa View Middle School (grades 6, 7, and 8). Oak View Elementary School has a current enrollment of 829 students.<sup>55</sup> Mesa View Middle School has a current enrollment of 744 students.<sup>56</sup> Neither school located within the OVSD that serves the project site is overcrowded at this time. Per OVSD, the current level of enrollment within the school district has been declining in recent years and this decline is expected to continue for the next several years. The OVSD does not anticipate an immediate change in the enrollment patterns. Due to the expected declining enrollment, new students from this development would not result in overcrowding and would likely help offset the current declining enrollment.<sup>57</sup> There are currently no plans for the addition of new schools within the District.

### 4.11.12 Regulatory Framework

Refer to Section 4.11.8 (Regulatory Framework) in the BECSP Program EIR, for applicable federal, state, and local regulations that would apply to the proposed project. No new regulations have been implemented since the certification of the Program EIR.

The BECSP Development Code, which includes development standards, development regulations, and guidelines, governs all development actions with the BECSP area, including the proposed project site. The proposed project would be subject to development standards specific to the proposed project site's BECSP designations of Neighborhood Centers, included as BECSP Section 1.4.1-1 (Neighborhood Centers).

### ■ General Plan and BECSP Consistency Analysis

The applicant of the proposed project would be required to pay all relevant school impact fees, consistent with General Plan Policy PF 4.2.2. These fees would be distributed between the HBUHSD and OVSD and would provide funds for any additional school facilities needed as a result of development at the project site. The proposed project would not result in overcrowding of either of the school districts serving it, and therefore, would not necessitate the need for any additional school facilities. Nonetheless, code requirements BECSP CR4.11-1 and BECSP CR4.11-2 would ensure that the applicant pays development fees based on residential square footage and commercial square footage. The

<sup>53</sup> Ocean View School District, Schools, <http://www.ovsd.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Schools> (accessed August 24, 2010).

<sup>54</sup> Education Data Partnership, District Reports Ocean View School District, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D06%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed August 24, 2010).

<sup>55</sup> Education Data Partnership, Schools Reports, Oak View Elementary School, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D07%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed October 20, 2010).

<sup>56</sup> Education Data Partnership, Schools Reports, Mesa View Middle School, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D07%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed October 20, 2010).

<sup>57</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Section 4.11 (Public Services), *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report* (August 2009).

proposed project would be consistent with applicable policies of the Public Facilities and Public Services Element of the General Plan.

### 4.11.13 Project Impacts and Mitigation

#### ■ Analytic Method

Impacts on schools are determined by analyzing the projected increase in the demand for a school as a result of a proposed project and comparing the projected increase with the remaining capacity of a school to determine whether new or altered facilities would be required. Impacts on schools are considered to be less than significant according to CEQA with payment of the state Department of Education Development Fee, which was enacted to provide for school facilities construction, improvements, and expansion.

#### ■ Thresholds of Significance

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the 2010 CEQA Guidelines. For purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on public services if it would do any of the following:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, or other performance objectives for schools

#### ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

No Effects Not Found to Be Significant have been identified with respect to schools.

#### ■ Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold	Would the proposed project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, or other performance objectives for schools?
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**Impact 4.11-3      Implementation of the proposed project would not require new or physically altered school facilities to accommodate additional students. This impact would be *less than significant*.**

The HBUHSD anticipates that high school enrollment will be lower in upcoming years and will continue to decline in the future. Ocean View High School, which would serve the project site, currently maintains a constant rate of enrollment and is not overcrowded. According to a forecast conducted by the HBUHSD, the entire District would experience a 50-student decline in fiscal year (FY) 2008/09, and would decrease by an additional 250 students in FY 2009/10. Based on a student generation rate of 0.1367 high school student per housing unit, full build-out of the proposed project would generate

approximately 39 additional students in grades 9–12.<sup>58</sup> With the current decline of student enrollment at HBUHSD, the additional students could be accommodated by the school district.

The OVSD anticipates that enrollment for elementary and middle schools within the District will be lower in the upcoming years and will continue to decline in the future. Based on a student generation rate of 0.66 student per housing unit for elementary school students and 0.12 student per housing unit for middle school students, the proposed project would generate approximately 185 additional students for elementary school and 34 for middle school.<sup>59</sup> With the current decline of student enrollment at OVSD, the additional 219 students could be accommodated by the school district.

Direct population growth resulting from implementation of the proposed project would not have an impact on the capacity of schools within the HBUHSD and OVSD, as all three schools serving the project site are currently operating below maximum capacity. Additionally, both Districts anticipate that the enrollment will be lower in the upcoming years and will continue to decline in the future. Due to declining enrollment within each District, new students generated as a result of development under the proposed project would not result in overcrowding and would likely help offset the current declining population.

The State of California is responsible for the funding of public schools. To assist in providing facilities to serve students generated by new development, the governing board of any school district is authorized to levy a fee, charge, dedication, or other requirement against any construction within the boundaries of the district, for the purposes of funding the construction or reconstruction of school facilities. This is considered full mitigation under CEQA.

The following code requirements shall be implemented, as required by applicable local, state, or federal laws or regulations.

*BECSP CR4.11-1 The project Applicant shall pay all applicable development impact fees in effect at the time of building permit issuance to the Ocean View School District to cover additional school services required by the new development. These fees are currently \$1.37 per square foot (sf) of accessible interior space for any new residential unit and \$0.22 per sf of covered floor space for new commercial/ retail development.*

*BECSP CR4.11-2 The Applicant shall pay all applicable development impact fees in effect at the time of building permit issuance to the Huntington Beach Union High School District to cover additional school services required by the new development. These fees are currently \$2.97 per square foot (sf) of accessible interior space for any new residential unit and \$0.47 per sf of covered floor space for new commercial/ retail development.*

As discussed above, both the HBUHSD and the OVSD have capacity to serve students generated by the proposed project. With implementation of code requirements BECSP CR4.11-1 and BECSP CR4.11-2, fees collected under the authority of SB 50 would offset any increase in educational demand at the elementary school, middle school, and high school serving the project site. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not require any new or physically altered school facilities to serve the project,

<sup>58</sup> Huntington Beach Union High School District, *Development Fee Justification Report and School Facilities Needs Analysis* (2006).

<sup>59</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Section 4.11 (Public Services), *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report* (2009).

the construction of which could result in significant environmental impacts. This impact would be *less than significant*.

#### 4.11.14 Cumulative Impacts

Threshold	Would the proposed project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools?
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The City of Huntington Beach is a predominantly built-out residential community. Increases in residential and nonresidential development throughout the City could generate additional demand for public school classroom seating in local schools. The degree to which this demand would be satisfied is dependent upon future enrollment trends. Schools within the service boundaries of the HBUHSD and the OVSD are currently operating below capacity. Additionally, both districts anticipate that the enrollment will be lower in the coming years and will continue to decline in the future. Due to declining enrollment within each school district, new students generated as a result of cumulative growth would not result in overcrowding and would likely help to offset the current declining school population. In addition, all new private sector development is required to pay statutory impact fees to the school districts to help fund construction of additional classrooms. Given existing capacity and the payment of fees to the City, the cumulative impact of future development, including the proposed project, on the HBUHSD and the OVSD would be less than significant. The incremental effect of the proposed project on this impact would not be cumulatively considerable for the same reasons. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the project on area schools would be *less than significant*.

#### 4.11.15 References

- Education Data Partnership. District Reports, Huntington Beach Union High School District. <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D06%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed August 24, 2010).
- . District Reports, Ocean View School District. <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D06%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed August 24, 2010).
- . Schools Reports, Oak View Elementary School. <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D07%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed October 20, 2010).
- . Schools Reports, Ocean View High School, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D07%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed October 20, 2010).
- . Schools Reports, Mesa View Middle School, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D07%26reportNumber%3D16> (accessed October 20, 2010).
- Huntington Beach, City of. Section 4.11 (Public Services). *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report*, August 2009.

Huntington Beach Union High School District. *Development Fee Justification Report and School Facilities Needs Analysis*, 2006.

———. Schools. <http://www.hbuhsd.org/schools.cfm> (accessed August 24, 2010).

———. School Boundaries. [http://www.hbuhsd.org/dsp.page\\_content.cfm?pid=18](http://www.hbuhsd.org/dsp.page_content.cfm?pid=18) (accessed October 20 2010).

Ocean View School District. Schools. <http://www.ovsd.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Schools> (accessed August 24, 2010).

## **Libraries**

This section describes the current status of library services in the City of Huntington Beach, including a discussion of existing library facilities and staffing, and the ability of the City's library services to meet the current needs of the City.

Data for this section were taken from previous environmental documents from the City, communications with library personnel and on-line resources. Full reference-list entries for all cited materials are provided in Section 4.11.20 (References).

### **4.11.16 Environmental Setting**

The Huntington Beach Library system consists of the Central Library and Cultural Center, which is located at 7111 Talbert Avenue, and four additional library branches located throughout the City as shown in Table 4.11-3 (Huntington Beach Public Library System). The Huntington Beach Public Library system is considered a medium-sized system built to serve the needs of Huntington Beach residents. The total collection consists of approximately 431,304 items distributed amongst the five branches. The Central Library and Cultural Center, located approximately 1.8 miles southwest from the project site, houses 317,004 books, 6,264 music CDs, 3,960 audio books, 7,290 video cassettes and 12,127 microfilm reels. In addition, magazines and DVDs are also available to the public. The Huntington Beach Public Library system also has a large genealogy collection and provides interlibrary loan services to help patrons obtain items not in their collection. The Central Library and Cultural Center also contains a large, 16,000 sf children's library.<sup>60</sup> The current daily attendance at the Central Library and Cultural Center is approximately 3,200 people a day.

The closest library to the proposed project site is the Oak View Branch, located approximately 0.29 miles southwest of the project site. The Oak View Branch Library caters to a Latino population and has a large collection of Spanish language books and may not suit all of the broad needs of the future project residents. At 4,300 sf, the Oak View Branch Library is home to 18,897 books. It is also a busy center for community outreach programs including literacy training. The Oak View Branch Library has an average daily attendance of 300 people and is severely understaffed and relies heavily on the assistance provided by Grant Funding and volunteers in order to meet the needs of its patrons.

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<sup>60</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Section 4.11 (Public Services), *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report* (August 2009).

<b>Library Branch</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Distance from Project Site (miles)</b>
Central Library and Cultural Center	7111 Talbert Avenue	1.8 Southwest
Main St. Branch Library	525 Main Street	3.7 South
Banning Branch Library	9281 Banning Avenue	5.1 Southeast
Helen Murphy Branch Library	15882 Graham Avenue	2.7 Northeast
Oak View Branch Library	17251 Oak Lane	0.29 Southwest

SOURCE: Huntington Beach, City of, Library Locations, [http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Library/hours\\_location/index.cfm](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Library/hours_location/index.cfm) (accessed August 24, 2010).

The next closest library to the project site is the Helen Murphy Branch Library, located approximately 2.7 miles northeast of the project site. This Branch is 1,200 sf in size and is home to a collection of 14,450 items. The library is staffed by one full-time librarian and supplemented the remainder of the time with volunteer staff. On average the daily attendance is about 75 people.

The Huntington Beach Public Library system currently has a full-time staff of 37 and approximately 100 part-time staff members (volunteers).<sup>61</sup> The City does not have a library service ratio standard and uses the state's standard to determine the level of service for libraries. According to the State of California, there should be an average service ratio of approximately 0.00036 full-time employees per resident (or 73 full-time library staff).<sup>62</sup> As part-time staff members work on a volunteer basis, there is no full-time employee equivalent to their hours spent, and the approximate, 100 part-time staff members are not considered when determining the need for full-time library staff members. Therefore, to currently meet the state standard of 73 full-time library staff members, the City of Huntington Beach would need to hire an additional 36 full-time employees to serve the current population of 203,484. Implementation of the proposed project would add 745 additional residents to the City increasing the population to 204,229. This would require 74 full-time library staff according to the state standards and the City of Huntington Beach would need to hire an additional 37 full-time employees to serve the current population of 203,484.

An expansion of the Banning Branch library from the current 2,400 sf facility to 12,500 sf is planned for the future.<sup>63</sup> This expansion will help alleviate the burden on the Central Library and Cultural Center as more patrons will be able to utilize the Banning Branch Library, and staff at the Central Library and Cultural Center would be able to assist more patrons from closer areas, including the proposed project area.

<sup>61</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Section 4.11 (Public Services), *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report* (August 2009).

<sup>62</sup> California Libraries. Based on average service ratios of ten cities in California. Full-time employees required for total population: 0.00036 full-time staff/resident x 203,484 residents = 73 full-time staff required.

<sup>63</sup> City of Huntington Beach, Banning Branch, [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Library/hours\\_location/banning\\_branch.cfm](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Library/hours_location/banning_branch.cfm) (accessed October 15, 2010).

### 4.11.17 Regulatory Framework

Refer to Section 4.11.11 (Regulatory Framework) in the BECSP Program EIR, for applicable federal, state, and local regulations that would apply to the proposed project. No new regulations have been implemented since the certification of the Program EIR.

The BECSP Development Code, which includes development standards, development regulations, and guidelines, governs all development actions with the BECSP area, including the proposed project site. The proposed project would be subject to development standards specific to the proposed project site's BECSP designations of Neighborhood Centers, included as BECSP Section 1.4.1-1 (Neighborhood Centers).

#### ■ General Plan and BECSP Consistency Analysis

As discussed below under Impact 4.11-4, it is anticipated that the proposed project would not require the development of new library facilities nor require the rehabilitation of existing library facilities in order to meet the needs of users. The existing library facilities are considered adequate to accommodate the increase in users for the library due to the proposed project. Regardless, the proposed project would comply with code requirement BECSP CR4.11-4 to ensure that these additional residents would not notably affect the current ratio of staff per resident or items per capita. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with the applicable goals, objectives, and policies in the Public Facilities and Public Services Element of the City's General Plan related to libraries.

### 4.11.18 Project Impacts and Mitigation

#### ■ Analytic Method

Impacts on library services are considered significant if an increase in population would result in inadequate staffing levels and/or an increased demand for services that would require the need for new or physically altered library facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios. The following analysis considers the potential impacts of the proposed project, which would result in a maximum of 279 dwelling units, 29,600 sf of retail, and 6,000 sf of restaurant uses, the existing capacity of the Huntington Beach Library System and its ability to serve residents.

#### ■ Thresholds of Significance

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G of the 2010 CEQA Guidelines. For purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on libraries if it would do any of the following:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for libraries

## ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

No Effects Not Found to Be Significant have been identified with respect to libraries.

## ■ Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold	Would the proposed project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for libraries?
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**Impact 4.11-4      Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the need for new or physically altered library facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, and the impact would be *less than significant*.**

The closest library to the project site is the Oak View Branch Library approximately 0.29 southwest from the site and the Central Library and Cultural Center is located 1.8 southwest of the project site. The two libraries have an extensive collection which can meet the demands of future residents of the proposed project. Additionally, the project site, like all areas of the City, is served by all five branches of the Huntington Beach Public Library system. Combined, these libraries have a collection of 431,304 items. According to California Library Statistics, there should be an average service ratio of about 0.00036 full-time employees per resident. The Huntington Beach Public Library currently has a staff of 37, which does not meet this ratio. Based on the City’s current population of 203,484 residents, an additional 36 full-time staff members would need to be hired in order to meet to this standard. The proposed project would increase the population of Huntington Beach by a maximum of approximately 745 residents. This increase in population would result in the need for just under 1 additional staff member, and, therefore, would not be substantial.

Implementation of the proposed project would place a higher demand on services provided by the Huntington Beach Library System. But as the demand for additional full-time employees would not substantially increase as a result of the increase in population, the proposed project would not negatively affect the Huntington Beach Public Library system under current conditions. Additionally, the proposed project would not result in a substantial decline in the average service ratio of full-time staff to residents based on the average service ratio maintained by the State of California. Nonetheless, implementation of the proposed project would contribute to the libraries current condition of being severely under staffed and staffing would need to be increased to meet current professional service standards for both current and new residents. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a potentially significant impact.

Upon project implementation, the City’s population would increase by a maximum of approximately 745 residents. Implementation of code requirement BECSP CR4.11-4 would be required to ensure that these additional residents would not notably affect the current ratio of staff per resident or items per capita.

*BECSP CR4.11-4    The Applicant of future individual development projects shall pay required library and community enrichment impact fees per Chapter 17.66 of the City’s Municipal Code (Library Development Fee), prior to issuance of building permits.*

While the existing library facilities will accommodate the increase in users from the proposed project, implementation of code requirement BECSP CR4.11-4 would ensure that the increased growth would be adequately planned for in advance of project development. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not require any new or physically altered library facilities to serve the project, the construction of which could result in significant environmental impacts. This impact would be *less than significant*.

### 4.11.19 Cumulative Impacts

Threshold	Would the proposed project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for libraries?
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Additional development in the City could increase the demand for library services. The City's staffing levels do not currently meet the standard established by the State of California, and there is not enough staff to serve existing and future development in the City. This represents a significant cumulative impact. However, the incremental effect of the proposed project on libraries would not be cumulatively considerable as the proposed project would not cause the staff per resident ratio to substantially decline below the current level. In addition, as described above, the proposed project would pay the required library fees. Thus, the cumulative impact of the project on library services would be *less than significant*.

### 4.11.20 References

- Huntington Beach, City of. Library Locations. [http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Library/hours\\_location/index.cfm](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Library/hours_location/index.cfm) (accessed August 24, 2010).
- . Banning Branch. [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Library/hours\\_location/banning\\_branch.cfm](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/Library/hours_location/banning_branch.cfm) (accessed October 15, 2010).
- . Section 4.11 (Public Services). *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report*, August 2009.

