

4.11 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section evaluates the effects of the proposed project on public services by identifying anticipated demands on existing and planned service availability. For purposes of this EIR, public services consist of: (1) fire protection; (2) police protection; (3) schools; and (4) libraries. Parks, although described as a public service in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, are analyzed separately in Section 4.12 (Recreation) of this EIR. Similarly, impacts related to emergency access are analyzed in Section 4.13 (Transportation/Traffic) of this EIR.

Data used to prepare this section were taken from various sources, including contacts with the City of Huntington Beach Police and Fire Departments, the City libraries, as well as the appropriate school districts. Full bibliographic entries for all reference materials are provided in Section 4.11.6 (References) at the end of this section.

FIRE PROTECTION

4.11.1 Existing Conditions

Fire protection and emergency services in the vicinity of the proposed project are provided by the Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD). Two of the eight HBFD stations operate in the vicinity of the proposed project site and would serve the site (McBride 2005). These stations are listed below in Table 4.11-1 along with staffing and equipment at each station.

<i>Station Number</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Area Served</i>	<i>Equipment/Staffing</i>
Station 4	21441 Magnolia Street Huntington Beach, CA 92646	Southeast portion of the City including Huntington State Beach area, the Orange County Sanitation Plant, and the AES Plant .	1 Paramedic Engine Company
Station 5	530 Lake Street Huntington Beach, CA 92648	Downtown area, including the City beach and pier.	1 Paramedic Engine Company 1 Truck Company 1 Advanced and Basic Life Support Ambulance

SOURCE: McBride 2005

Station 4 is located less than 0.6 mile east of the project site, and would provide first-response service. Station 5 is located approximately 1.8 miles northwest of the project site, and would provide second-response service.

Criteria for evaluating acceptable levels of service and for determining the thresholds of significance associated with service levels are based on HBFD criteria. 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 five minutes, 80 percent of the time. The non-emergency response time

goal is 15 minutes, 85 percent of the time. According to the HBFD, the department currently responds to all emergency calls in the City in less than five minutes three seconds. In 2004 the fire department responded to 12,800 incidents including 8,628 medical incidents and 329 fires in addition to other miscellaneous events (McBride 2005). The HBFD has a total of 131 safety personnel, 41 suppression personnel, and 8 ambulance personnel on duty each day.

Additional staff is available to the City, as needed, through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with Orange County and other cities including Westminster, 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.

Water service for domestic use and fire flows are provided to the project area 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. In accordance with the California Fire Code (described below under Regulatory Framework), minimum fire flows are generally achieved and maintained.

4.11.2 Regulatory Framework

■ Federal

There are no federal fire protection regulations applicable to the proposed project.

■ State

Uniform Fire Code

The Uniform Fire Code contains regulations relating to construction and maintenance of buildings and the use of premises. Topics addressed in the code include fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and use, provisions intended to protect and assist first responders, industrial processes, and many other general and specialized fire-safety requirements for new and existing buildings and premises. The code contains specialized technical regulations related to fire and life safety.

California Health and Safety Code

State fire regulations are set forth in Sections 13000 *et seq.* of the *California Health and Safety Code*, which include regulations concerning building standards (as also set forth in the *California Building Code*), fire protection and notification systems, fire protection devices such as extinguishers and smoke alarms, high-rise building and childcare facility standards, and fire suppression training.

■ Local

City of Huntington Beach Municipal Code

Fire Code

The California Fire Code, discussed above under State regulations, is adopted by the City under Chapter 17.56 of the City’s Municipal Code. The Fire Code includes regulations concerning building standards, fire truck and apparatus access to structures, fire protection devices such as extinguishers and smoke alarms, and fire suppression training.

General Plan Public Facilities and Public Services Element

The City of Huntington Beach Public Facilities and Public Services Element is concerned with identifying, maintaining, and enhancing fire protection services. Applicable goals and policies of this element include the following:

- Goal PF 2** Ensure adequate protection from fire and medical emergencies for Huntington Beach residents and property owners.
- Objective PF 2.1** Provide fire protection and paramedic services to all parts of the city of Huntington Beach.
- Policy PF 2.1.3** Maintain adequate facilities and personnel by periodically evaluating population growth, response time and fire hazards.
- Objective PF 2.3** Attempt to achieve “built in” fire protection for all structures.
- Policy PF 2.3.1** Continue to require all structures to follow all State and nationally recognized fire codes.
- Policy PF 2.3.2** Ensure that new construction is designed with fire and emergency access and safety in mind.

General Plan Growth Management Element

The City of Huntington Beach Growth Management Element addresses police services. Applicable goals and policies of this element include the following:

- Goal GM 2** Provide adequate fire and paramedic services to meet the needs of the City’s population.
- Objective GM 2.1** Provide adequate fire and paramedic facilities and personnel to correspond with population and service demands for the entire City.
- Policy GM 2.1.2** Provide a 5-minute response time for emergency fire services at least 80% of the time.
- Policy GM 2.1.4** Ensure that new development site design incorporates measures to maximize fire safety and prevention.

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 goals and policies related new construction and site design. Additionally, the HBFD has indicated that it can provide adequate service to the project site within the established response time of five minutes. The proposed project is, thus, consistent with the General Plan policies related to adequacy of facilities, staffing, and response time.

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 might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The HBFD has established objectives for response times for emergency and non-emergency events. The following analysis considers the potential impacts of the proposed 204 residential units on the HBFD's objective for emergency response of within five minutes. The HBFD's response time could be affected by inadequate staffing levels caused by increases in demands.

■ Thresholds of Significance

The following threshold of significance is based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. For purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on fire protection if it would do the following:

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

■ Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered fire 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 fire protection?
-----------	---

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 maintain acceptable fire flows.

Development of the proposed project would result in the construction of 204 residential units. The proposed project site would receive first response from Station 4, which is located approximately 0.6 miles east of the project site, and second response from Station 5, located approximately 1.8 miles northwest of the project site. These stations together have two Paramedic Engine Companies, one Truck Company, and one Advanced and Basic Life Support Ambulance. The HBFD has established objectives for providing response in approximately five minutes. As stated previously, the HBFD currently maintains this response time with existing facilities, equipment, and staffing. The HBFD has indicated that implementation of the proposed project would not significantly impact the level of service delivery to the project area. In fact, as indicated by the HBFD, Station 4 by itself is adequately staffed and equipped to provide service response times within established objectives (McBride 2005). It is, therefore, not anticipated that development of the proposed project would require new, expanded, or altered fire protection services or facilities to maintain the current level of service.

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. Typically, all development plans are reviewed by the Fire Department prior to construction to ensure that adequate fire flows would be maintained, and that an adequate number of fire hydrants would be provided in the appropriate locations in compliance with the CFC. Therefore, although the site is not currently equipped with water distribution infrastructure, adequate fire flows would be required by law prior to construction. As such, impacts associated with the provision of fire protection services are considered *less than significant* and no mitigation is required.

POLICE PROTECTION

4.11.4 Existing Conditions

The Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) provides police protection services within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Huntington Beach. The Main Station, located at 2000 Main Street, is approximately 3.5 miles from the project site and is responsible for providing first-response service to the project area. In addition, the Downtown Substation, located at 204 Fifth Street, is

approximately two miles from the project site. The Downtown Substation, staffed by volunteers, serves as a convenient stop-station for the City's beat officers but is not a fully-functioning police station.

The City of Huntington Beach has an approximate population of 200,763 persons. Currently, approximately 220 sworn officers are employed by HBPD, representing an estimated ratio of 1.1 officers per 1,000 residents. Currently, the average emergency response time within the City is approximately seven minutes, while the average non-emergency response time is variable and generally longer than seven minutes. The HBPD indicated that they currently provide at least a minimum level of service to the City (Junginger 2005).

The HBPD utilizes the "beat cop" system, which is a new and innovative approach initiated by the City in 2000. The City is divided into twelve beat areas, and each beat is assigned an officer to provide the beat area with 24 hours per day, 7 days per week coverage. Under the Beat Command System, each beat officer is assigned the responsibility of Community Oriented Policing, which is a philosophy of working and communicating with the community to identify services needed, and problem solving in their respective beat areas. Each beat is also assigned a sergeant to supervise and assist in the Community Oriented Policing activities within the beat area. The proposed project site is located in Area 4 of the City's Beat Command System. 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.

Law enforcement services require certain equipment, in addition to staff, in order to maintain an acceptable level of service. Existing HBPD equipment includes vehicles, radios, and mobile data terminals. HBPD has indicated that they are currently at acceptable equipment levels (Junginger 2005). In an attempt to expand the force, the City Council recently approved the filling of 11 positions that had been previously unfunded (Junginger 2005).

The City is not identified as a particularly high crime area. The California Department of Justice maintains data on the number of major crimes for cities and counties for a given year, including violent crimes, and offenses such as burglary and motor vehicle theft. In 2003, Orange County experienced a violent crime rate of 274 per 100,000 residents. This represents a slight increase in the County's violent crime rate in 2002 by approximately 1.4 percent. Despite this increase, Orange County experienced a much lower violent crime rate in 2003 than neighboring Los Angeles and San Diego counties, who experienced violent crime rates of 843 per 100,000 residents and 469 per 100,000 residents, respectively. In 2003, the City of Huntington Beach experienced a total of 411 violent crimes (Bureau of Justice Statistics 2005). This is comparable to the level of crime for the cities of Irvine, Orange, Buena Park, and other comparably sized cities in Orange County, and in keeping with the crime level expected for a city of its size.

4.11.5 Regulatory Framework

■ Federal

There are no federal police services regulations applicable to the proposed project.

■ State

There are no state police services regulations applicable to the proposed project.

■ Local

General Plan Public Facilities and Public Services Element

The City of Huntington Beach Public Facilities and Public Services Element is concerned with identifying, maintaining, and enhancing police services. Applicable goals and policies of this element include the following:

- Goal PF 1** Protect the community from criminal activity, reduce the incidence of crime and provide other necessary services within the City.
- Objective PF 1.1** Provide adequate police facilities and personnel to correspond with population and service demands, and provide protection for the community from illicit activities and crime.
- Policy PF 1.1.1** Enhance and maintain personnel and facilities in the City's Police Department necessary to provide response times at standards determined by the Growth Management Element.

General Plan Growth Management Element

The City of Huntington Beach Growth Management Element addresses police services. Applicable goals and policies of this element include the following:

- Goal GM 1** Provide adequate police services to meet the needs of the City's population.
- Objective GM 1.1** Provide adequate police facilities and personnel to correspond with population and service demands for the entire City.
- Policy GM 1.1.2** If feasible, provide for a target ratio of a minimum of 1.2 officers per thousand population.

Consistency Analysis

Existing police protection services that are currently provided to the project area would continue to be used, and the level of service would not diminish as a result of project implementation. In addition, implementation of the proposed project would not require additional officers for the HBPD to maintain the existing response time standards. Consequently, the proposed project would not conflict with the applicable goals and policies in the Public Facilities and Public Services Element of the City's General Plan.

4.11.6 Project Impacts and Mitigation

■ Analytic Method

Although a target ratio is discussed in the Growth Management Element, 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. Alternatively, 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 threshold of significance is based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. For purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on police protection services if it would do the following:

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

■ Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection?
-----------	---

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.

As discussed in Section 4.11.2 (Existing Conditions), the HBPD currently provides an approximate emergency response time of seven minutes as well as an estimated ratio of 1.1 officers per 1,000 residents. The HBPD has indicated that it currently has the appropriate personnel and equipment to continue to maintain an acceptable level of service and that any potential increase in residential population caused by the proposed project would not cause the HBPD service level to drop (Junginger 2005).

Implementation of the proposed project would not alter the current personnel-to-population ratio. The proposed project would result in a direct population increase of 241 persons, and would not result in a decrease in the service ratio of 1.1 officers per 1,000 residents. As previously discussed, the HBPD has

recently received funding to add an additional 11 officers to the police force, giving the City a total of 231 sworn officers and increasing the service ratio to 1.15 per 1,000 residents.

The number of calls from the project in the context of the entire City with a population of more than 200,000 residents would not substantially affect the level of police protection and service provided by the HBPD. Although the HBPD has indicated that it has the appropriate personnel and equipment to continue to maintain an acceptable level of service and that it can adequately provide service to the proposed project, the addition of the proposed project could affect the Department resources. However, the City is not considered a high crime area that experiences a disproportionately large number of crimes in comparison to other areas in the region. Persons on-site or elsewhere in the City would not be exposed to increased risks as a result of the additional demands on the police department. In addition, although not necessary to maintain sufficient levels of police service, the addition of eleven officers to the HBPD would help ensure that the levels of service in the City does not substantially change. No new or physically altered facilities would be required to maintain the current level of service. Impacts would be *less than significant* and no mitigation is necessary.

SCHOOLS

4.11.7 Existing Conditions

The City of Huntington Beach is served by the following four elementary/junior high school districts: Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD); Westminster School District; Ocean View District; and, Fountain Valley School District. Additionally, the City is served by one high school district, the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD), which operates six high schools and serves the entire City and extends slightly into the Westminster and Fountain Valley areas.

The project site is located within the HBCSD service boundary. The schools that would receive students from the proposed residences include John H. Eader Elementary School (Eader), Isaac L. Sowers Middle School (Sowers), and Edison High School (Edison).

Each school that receives students from the proposed project has an open enrollment policy in which students can petition to transfer both in and out of the school district. Current enrollment for the schools located closest to the project site is shown in Table 4.11-2. The HBCSD currently does not have any plans to expand their facilities nor do they expect overcrowding as a result of natural population growth. In addition, the HBUHSD has a strategic plan in place to address its need for increased capacity for learning.

Table 4.11-2 Enrollment and Capacity for Schools Serving the Project Site

<i>School</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Current Enrollment</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>% of Capacity</i>
John H. Eader Elementary School	9291 Banning Avenue Huntington Beach, CA 92646	571	720	79.3%
Isaac L. Sowers Middle School	9300 Indianapolis Avenue Huntington Beach, CA 92646	1,260	1,260	100%
Edison High School	21400 Magnolia Street Huntington Beach, CA 92646	2,509	2,509	100%

SOURCES: Linzey 2005; Sowers 2005

4.11.8 Regulatory Framework

■ Federal

There are no federal regulations pertaining to schools applicable to the proposed project.

■ State

California State Assembly Bill 2926 (AB 2926)—School Facilities Act of 1986

In 1986, AB 2926 was enacted by the state of California authorizing entities to levy statutory fees on new residential and commercial/industrial development in order to pay for school facilities. AB 2926, entitled the “*School Facilities Act of 1986*,” was expanded and revised in 1987 through the passage of AB 1600, which added Section 66000 *et seq.* of the Government Code. Under this statute, payment of statutory fees by developers would serve as total CEQA mitigation to satisfy the impact of development on school facilities.

California Government Code Section 65995—School Facilities Legislation

The School Facilities Legislation was enacted to generate revenue for school districts for capital acquisitions and improvements. This legislation allows a maximum one-time fee of \$2.05 per square foot of residential development and \$0.33 per square foot of commercial development. This fee is divided between the primary and secondary schools and is termed a “Level One” fee.

California Senate Bill 50 (SB 50)

The passage of SB 50 in 1998 defined the Needs Analysis process in Government Code Sections 65995.5–65998. Under the provisions of SB 50, school districts may collect fees to offset the costs associated with increasing school capacity as a result of residential developments. Level Two fees require the developer to provide one-half of the costs of accommodating students in new schools, while the state would provide the other half. Level Three fees require the developer to pay the full cost of accommodating the students in new schools and would be implemented at the time the funds available from Proposition 1A (approved by the voters in 1998) are expended. School districts must demonstrate to the state their long-term facilities needs and costs based on long-term population growth in order to

qualify for this source of funding. However, voter approval of Proposition 55 on March 2, 2004, precludes the imposition of the Level Three fees for the foreseeable future. Therefore, once qualified, districts may impose only Level Two fees, as calculated according to SB 50.

■ Local

Huntington Beach City School District and Huntington Beach Unified High School District

The school districts collect a school fee of \$2.24 per square foot of habitable development. The fee is divided and two thirds is given to the elementary/middle school district that serves the project site and one third goes to the high school that serves the project site (Masters 2005a).

General Plan Public Facilities and Public Services Element

The City of Huntington Beach Public Facilities and Public Services Element is concerned with identifying, maintaining, and enhancing public school facilities. Applicable goals and policies of this element include the following:

- Goal PF 4** Promote a strong public school system which advocates quality education. Promote the maintenance and enhancement of the existing educational systems facilities, and opportunities for students and residents of the City to enhance the quality of life for existing and future residents.
- Objective PF 4.2** Monitor new development activities within the city and coordinate with local school districts to meet future educational needs in the undeveloped areas of Huntington Beach.
- Policy PF 4.2.2** Require new development projects to pay appropriate school impact fees to the local school districts.
- Policy PF 4.2.3** Ensure that development shall not occur without providing for adequate school facilities.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed project developer would be required to meet with the school districts with the intent to mitigate the impact on school facilities, prior to project approval. This ensures that the development is not undertaken without consideration of the school facilities that must serve the site. Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with the applicable policies of the Public Facilities and Public Services Element of the General Plan.

4.11.9 Project Impacts and Mitigation

■ Analytic Method

Impacts on schools are determined by analyzing the projected increase in the demand for schools as a result of the proposed project and comparing the projected increase with the remaining capacity of the schools to determine whether new or altered facilities would be required. Table 4.11-3 presents the students that would be generated as a result of the proposed project based on generation rates obtained from the two affected school districts.

<i>School Type</i>	<i>Generation Factor</i>	<i>Number of Households</i>	<i>Additional Students</i>
Elementary and Middle School (HBCSD)	0.29867 ^a	204	61
High School (HBUHSD)	0.1285 ^b	204	27
<i>Total</i>			<i>88</i>

^a Dana Sowers 2005
^b Based on the High School generation rate used in the Pacific City EIR.

■ Thresholds of Significance

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

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

■ Impacts and Mitigation Measures

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

Impact 4.11-3 Implementation of the proposed project could require new or physically altered facilities to accommodate additional students, the construction of which could have adverse environmental impacts.

The proposed project would increase demands on the high school district and elementary/junior high school district serving the project site. Table 4.11-3 summarizes additional students resulting from the proposed project. The HBCSD currently does not use separate generation factors for elementary and middle school students, and identified a standard student generation factor of 0.29867 for both

categories as appropriate to this type of project (Masters 2005b). The generation factor for high school is generally anticipated to be higher than that expected from the project, since this generation factor represents students resulting from single-family residential development, and the project proposes multifamily residential development. However, no specific generation rates from the HBUHSD for multifamily residential development are available, and the analysis represents a conservative estimate of the number of students that would be generated. Deviations to the generation rate that may occur for multifamily residential development would not affect the conclusions of this analysis.

As such, development of 204 multi-family residential units would result in the addition of 88 students to the two districts serving the site. Specifically, the project would generate approximately 61 elementary and middle school students and approximately 27 high school students. For the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that the 61 new elementary and middle school students generated by the proposed project would be divided evenly between elementary schools and middle schools in the HBCSD.

Based on the capacity and current enrollment of John H. Eader Elementary School, the contribution of 31 new elementary school students would put the enrollment at 602, approximately 118 students below Eader's maximum operating capacity. Moreover, additional capacity may exist at John H. Eader Elementary School as the operating capacity identified in Table 4.11-2 can fluctuate depending on the number of portable classrooms used (Masters 2005b). The HBCSD indicated that there is not an accurate prediction of how many portable classrooms will be used at any one time. As a result, the maximum capacity upon which this analysis is based represents approximately 100 fewer students than what the school could potentially accommodate.

The estimated contribution of approximately 30 students to Isaac L. Sowers Middle School would exceed the operating capacity of the school. Currently, Isaac L. Sowers Middle School is operating at capacity and could not accommodate an additional 30 students. Unlike John H. Eader Elementary School, Isaac L. Sowers Middle School already utilizes the maximum number of portable classrooms and could not further expand to accommodate additional students. However, a portion of the students currently attending Isaac L. Sowers Middle School are from outside the HBCSD's boundaries and the school district has indicated that it would, when necessary, limit enrollment of students from outside its boundaries to accommodate increased enrollment as a result of the proposed project (Masters 2005b).

With the addition of approximately 27 students from the proposed project, Edison High School would exceed its operating capacity by approximately 27 students, as it is currently operating at 100 percent capacity. According to the HBUHSD, enrollment priority is given to students within its district, although students are currently accepted from outside its district boundary. HBUHSD, similar to HBCSD, has indicated that it could, if appropriately planned for, limit students from outside its boundaries in order to accommodate for the anticipated increase in students from within district boundaries (Linzey 2005). Although both school districts that would serve the proposed project have indicated that they could adequately accommodate increased enrollment as a result of the proposed project, the estimated increase in students could result in overcrowding at both Sowers Middle School and Edison High School, which would be potentially significant. Implementation of CR 4.11-3 and MM 4.11-3 would ensure that impacts to school facilities would be reduced to *less than significant*.

CR 4.11-3 *The Applicant shall pay required school impact fees as required by the affected school districts, prior to issuance of building permits.*

MM 4.11-3 *The Applicant shall meet with the appropriate City school districts to address the potential for increased enrollment, with the intent to mitigate the impact on school facilities, prior to project approval. A written copy of the agreement reached shall be prepared and provided to the Planning Department prior to issuance of the first certificate of occupancy.*

While the increase in enrollment could be accommodated in both school districts, implementation of CR 4.11-3 and MM 4.11-3 would ensure that the increased growth would be adequately planned for in advance of project development. The payment of appropriate school impact fees would, in part, go toward expanding school facilities to accommodate growth in school attendance. Consequently, payment of these fees would ensure that impacts would be *less than significant*.

LIBRARY SERVICES

4.11.10 Existing Conditions

The Huntington Beach Library system consists of the Central Library located at 7111 Talbert Avenue, and four additional library branches located throughout the City as shown in Table 4.11-4. 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 439,789 books, magazine subscriptions, videotapes, compact discs, books on cassette and CD, and DVDs. In addition to items typical of a public library of its size, the 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 also contains a large, 16,000-square-foot children’s library.

Table 4.11-4 Library Resources			
<i>Library Branch</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Collection Size (Items)</i>	<i>Area (square feet)</i>
Central Library and Cultural Center	7111 Talbert Avenue	323,161	117,000
Main St. Branch Library	525 Main Street	34,231	4,500
Banning Branch Library	9281 Banning Avenue	28,359	2,400
Helen Murphy Branch Library	15882 Graham Avenue	14,555	1,200
Oak View Branch Library	17251 Oak Lane	20,353	4,300
<i>Total</i>		<i>439,789</i>	<i>129,400</i>

SOURCE: Hayden 2005

The Banning Library Branch, located approximately 1.4 miles from the project site, would serve as the nearest library to the proposed project. However, future residents could choose to use the resources at any of the City’s libraries. Currently, there are plans to demolish the Banning Library and replace it with a new, larger library. The City Council has approved funding for a feasibility/conceptual study to demolish the branch and replace it with a new building.

The service ratio currently used by the library system is based on a 1988 study approved by the City Council which stipulates a per-capita ratio of three items and 0.7 square feet per resident (Hayden 2005).

4.11.11 Regulatory Framework

There are no federal or state library service regulations applicable to the proposed project.

■ Local

The City has implemented two separate development-based fees dedicated to improving the City's library facilities. These include a "Library Enrichment Fee" which is dedicated primarily to upgrading and expanding the system's collections, and a "Library Development Fee" that is used for upgrading facilities. These are both one-time fees used to offset some of the impacts associated with development projects.

General Plan Public Facilities and Public Services Element

The City of Huntington Beach Public Facilities and Public Services Element is concerned with identifying, maintaining, and enhancing library services. Applicable goals and policies of this element include the following:

- Goal PF 5** Ensure that a high level of library services and facilities are provided to the City's residents.
- Objective PF 5.1** Provide adequate library service that responds to the needs of the community.
- Policy PF 5.1.1** Consider constructing new libraries and rehabilitating and expanding existing libraries as required to meet the needs of the library users.

Consistency Analysis

As discussed in 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 its users. The existing library facilities are reasonably adequate to accommodate the increase in users for the library. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with the applicable goal, objective and policy in the Public Facilities and Public Services Element of the City's General Plan.

4.11.12 Project Impacts and Mitigation

■ Analytic Method

Impacts on library services are considered significant if an increase in population or building area would result in inadequate staffing levels and/or increased demand for services that would require the need for new or physically altered library facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios.

■ Thresholds of Significance

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

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

■ Impacts and Mitigation Measures

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

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.

Although the Banning Street Branch Library is located closest to the project site, the project site, like all areas of the city, is served by the five branches of the Huntington Beach Public Library system. Combined, these libraries have a collection of over 439,789 items and a total area of approximately 129,400 square feet. Using the current number of items in collection, the City’s current population (200,763), and the service ratio used by the City’s library system of three items per capita, the City currently maintains a ratio of 2.19 items per capita. This ratio falls short of the library’s service ratio of three items per capita. With the City’s current population, the library would need to add 162,500 additional items to its collection to satisfy the established service ratio. In addition, the library has an established ratio for library facilities of 0.7 square feet of space per resident. Based on the City’s current population and total area of existing libraries of 129,400 square feet, the library system provides 0.64 square feet of space per resident, lower than the established service ratio. However, the library system has indicated that these established ratios do not constitute definitive indicators for level of service, but rather serve as general goals (Hayden 2005). Upon project implementation, the City’s population would increase by approximately 541 residents. Implementation of CR 4.11-4 would be required to ensure that these additional residents would not notably affect the current ratio of square feet of library space per resident or items per capita.

CR 4.11-4 The Applicant shall pay required library and community enrichment impact fees, prior to issuance of building permits.

While the existing library facilities are reasonably adequate to accommodate the increase in users from the proposed project, implementation of CR 4.11-4 would ensure that the increased growth would be

adequately planned for in advance of project development. The payment of appropriate library and community enrichment impact fees would ensure that impacts would be *less than significant*.

4.11.13 Cumulative Impacts

The geographic context for the analysis of cumulative impacts to fire and police protection services and library services is the City of Huntington Beach, while the geographic context for the analysis of cumulative impacts to schools is the Huntington Beach area because there are many school districts serving the region. The analysis accounts for all anticipated cumulative growth within this geographic area, as represented by full implementation of the *City of Huntington Beach General Plan*, as well as the specific development projects identified in Table 3-5 (List of Cumulative Projects) in Chapter 3 (Project Description).

■ Police and Fire Protection

As additional development occurs in the City, there may be an overall increase in the demand for police and fire protection services, including personnel, equipment, and/or facilities. The provision of adequate police and 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 police and fire protection services are responsive to changes in the City. Funds collected in the form of plan check fees are deposited into the General Fund and allocated (in part) to City services, such as police and fire protection services. The cumulative impact, therefore, on police and fire services in the City would be less than significant, as every development in the City is required to pay plan check fees that are used, in part, to maintain existing service levels for public services. The proposed project's contribution to this cumulative impact is also less than significant because (1) the project site is anticipated to be served within the established response times and distances for the HBFD, while providing adequate fire flows; (2) implementation of the proposed project can be accommodated within existing and future HBPD staffing capabilities; and, (3) no new or physically altered facilities would be constructed to accommodate the proposed project. Therefore, the contribution of the proposed project to cumulative impacts on fire and police protection services would not be cumulatively considerable. This is considered to be a *less-than-significant* impact.

■ Schools

Increases in residential and nonresidential development throughout the City, which is predominantly a built-out residential community, could generate additional demand for public school classroom seating capacity in local schools. The degree to which this demand would be satisfied is dependent upon future enrollment trends. However, all new private sector development is required to pay statutory impact fees to the school districts to help fund construction of additional classroom capacity. The cumulative payment of these fees to the City and the distribution of those fees to the various school districts would make the cumulative impact *less than significant*.

■ Libraries

Additional development in the City could increase the demand for library services. The City's library stock is below the desired level set by the City Council and has been below that level since the council approved that level. Since their creation, those levels have been commonly considered goals but not requirements. While the proposed project would contribute to an increase in the population of the City, this increase would not cause the item-per-capita ratio to substantially decline below the current level. With the payment of the library fees as described above, the proposed project would not contribute to any cumulative impacts on library services. Thus, the proposed project's impacts on library services would not be cumulatively considerable, and would be *less than significant*.

4.11.14 References

- California Department of Justice. Office of the Attorney General. 2003. Statistics by City and County. Website: <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/datatabs.htm>. Accessed 6 November 2005.
- Hayden, Roy. 2005. Written communication with Huntington Beach Public Libraries, 30 September.
- Huntington Beach, City of. 1996. Public Facilities and Public Services Element. *City of Huntington Beach General Plan*.
- . 2005. Website: <http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/>, 15 October.
- Huntington Beach City School District. 2005. <http://www.hbcasd.k12.ca.us/>, 11 October.
- Huntington Beach Union High School District. 2005. <http://www2.hbuhsd.org/Default.htm>, 12 October.
- Junginger, Craig. 2005. Written communication with Huntington Beach Police Department, 13 September.
- Linzey, Dave. 2005. Personal communication with Huntington Beach Union High School District, 17 October.
- Lyon, Janet. 2005. Written communication with Huntington Beach Public Libraries, 5 October.
- Masters, Dick. 2005a. Personal communication with Huntington Beach City School District, 17 October.
- . 2005b. Written communication with Huntington Beach City School District, 18 October.
- McBride, David. 2005. Personal communication with Huntington Beach Fire Department, 17 October.
- Ritter, Steve. 2005. Personal communication with Huntington Beach Union High School, 13 October.
- Sowers, Dana. 2005. Personal communication with Huntington Beach City School District, 13 October.