

I. Overview and Introduction

A. Project Overview

The Community Needs Assessment and the Library Plan of Service are the foundation used to define these Building Program requirements for a new 22,278 square foot Library to serve the current and future library needs of the citizens of North Natomas and the students and faculty of Inderkum High School and The American River College Natomas Center.

This co-located, Sacramento Public Library Branch will function as the heart of the *North Natomas Town Center Education Complex*, collaboratively serving the library needs of three distinct user groups—the community of North Natomas, the students and faculty of Inderkum High School, and the students and faculty of the American River College Natomas Center.

The high-level of joint-use and shared responsibility envisioned for this branch library provides a unique and exciting opportunity for synergistic leveraging of resources to provide library services for this community. The community of North Natomas is particularly well situated to take full advantage of this opportunity because it is a **planned** urban community with clearly defined, cooperative, community-wide goals. An important part of this Community Plan is the development of the *Town Center Education Complex*, which includes a shared library.

The rapidly growing service population of North Natomas is projected to reach 62,549 by the year 2020. This planned urban community was developed to appeal to a range of age groups, including young families, more mature empty nesters, and seniors. At this time, with a population of 21,210, the community is at only 34% of its build-out size. Inderkum High School, a partner in the co-located library, is projected to be completed in the summer of 2004, and will serve a student population of 2,000. The American River College Natomas Center will provide service for more than

North Natomas is a “wired” community with a fiber optic infrastructure that provides all residents with access to high-speed data services. Most households own computers and subscribe to Internet service. Residents are well educated—over 61% have attended college, with 15% of the population holding a post-baccalaureate graduate or professional degree. Though not a wealthy community, the median income of the area is higher than in the City of Sacramento as a whole. Fifteen percent of housing in the developing community is earmarked to meet the “Affordable Housing Standard” so as to be affordable to very low and low-income residents.

As evidenced by information gathered during the community needs assessment, North Natomas residents, community planners and leaders are enthusiastic about the potential of a shared library. The current and future residents of this planned community are committed to the concept of, and benefits derived from, cooperative partnerships in the provision of community services.

Many of these residents have chosen North Natomas as their community because of the high-level of intelligently planned community services and amenities, particularly the Library and Town Center.

The proposed co-located facility is planned and designed to provide collections, spaces, technology, staffing, and services to serve both the needs of the community and the needs of students and faculty of Inderkum High School and American River College Natomas Center.

- A collection of 140,585 books and audiovisual materials and generous electronic resources.
- 103 public computers including: 49 open access computer stations; 14 OPAC stations; 4 express checkout stations; a computer lab/classroom with 36 computer stations; and a mobile lab with 20 wireless notebooks on a charging/storage cart.
- 163 reader seats plus 11 seats in a dedicated quiet study room, plus 8 seats total in 2 small group study/tutoring rooms.
- A multi-purpose meeting and program room to seat up to 75
- A distinct and separate children's area.
- A distinct and separate Teen area.
- Space dedicated to quiet, focused study.
- Staff work areas to meet the needs of public and school librarians.
- Design flexibility to accommodate facility and technology changes over the coming decades.