

**SANTA CRUZ LIBRARIES
FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY BOARD
(LFFA)**

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular meeting of the Facilities Financing Authority Board of the Santa Cruz City-County Libraries System scheduled for October 1, 2020 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be convened on December 3, 2020.

Dated: September 23, 2020

Helga Smith, Clerk of the Board

PUBLIC ADVISORY REGARDING COVID-19 AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, and the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Shelter In Place Public Health Order dated March 31, 2020, the regular meetings of the:

LIBRARIES FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY (LFFA) AND THE LIBRARY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (LJPA) BOARD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 2020 AT 6:00 PM

This meeting will be held via Zoom teleconference ONLY

Board Members and Library Staff Members will be participating remotely via videoconference.

Public Participation:

The meeting will be broadcast through the Santa Cruz Libraries YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaCruzPL> which you can access through the Santa Cruz Libraries website by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on the YouTube icon.

For those wishing to participate via Zoom you can join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device by entering or clicking on the following

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/98510837296?pwd=cmFFczVNakN6RUN4YlBiU2VjY1V2Zz09>

Passcode: 967245

For those joining using a telephone only, please call:

833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16699006833,,98510837296#,,,,,0#,,967245# or

+12532158782,,98510837296#,,,,,0#,,967245#

Slowly enter the Webinar ID: 985 1083 7296

The meetings will be recorded and posted for viewing after the meetings on the

Santa Cruz Public Libraries website www.santacruzpl.org

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/98510837296?pwd=cmFFczVNakN6RUN4YlBiU2VjY1V2Zz09>

How to comment on agenda items via email before the meeting:

Members of the public may provide public comment by sending comments via email to the Library Board Clerk at clerk@santacruzpl.org

- Identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email.
- Emailed comments should be a maximum of 500 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time.
- Each emailed comment will be read aloud for up to three minutes.
- Emails received by clerk@santacruzpl.org outside of the comment period outlined above will not be included in the record.

How to comment on agenda items via Zoom, during the meeting and prior to the close of public comment on an item:

- Using the Q&A feature of the Zoom teleconference participant panel identify the agenda item and then type your comment. (For example: "Item #2 - I think this plan is an excellent use of resources")

How to comment on agenda items via telephone, during the meeting and prior to the close of public comment on an item:

- Call 831-427-7713
- Identify the agenda item
- The representative will type your comment
- Your comment will be read aloud

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



**SANTA CRUZ CITY/COUNTY LIBRARIES
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Board Members Jamie Goldstein, Carlos Palacios, Martin Bernal and Tina Friend

2. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Additional information submitted after distribution of the agenda packet.

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Any member of the audience may address the Board on any matter either on or off the agenda that is within the Board's jurisdiction. Note, however, that the Board is not able to undertake extended discussion or act on non-agendized items. Such items can be referred to staff for appropriate action which may include placement on a future agenda. If you intend to address a subject that is on the Agenda, please hold your comments regarding that item until it is before the Board so that we may properly address all comments on that subject at the same time. In general, 3 minutes will be permitted per speaker during Oral Communication; A MAXIMUM of 30 MINUTES is set aside for Oral Communications at this time.

5. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

- A. Library Director's Report – October 2020 (PG.7-11)
- B. Library Director's Facilities Report – October 2020 (PG.12-14)

6. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A. Friends of SCPL – Report (oral)

7. REPORT BY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)

A. Commissioners' Report (oral)

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed in the "Consent Calendar" will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the action unless members of the public or the Board request specific items to be discussed for separate review. Items pulled for separate discussion will be considered following General Business.

- A. Consider the August 6, 2020 LIPA Board Meeting Minutes
Staff Recommendation: Approve the LIPA August 6 2020 Board Meeting Minutes (PG.15-17)
- B. Recent Articles about Santa Cruz Public Libraries.
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Recent Articles about SCPL (PG.18-30)
- C. Holiday Closure Schedule for 2020
Staff Recommendation: Approve holiday closure schedule for 2020 which is different than the holiday policy #108 adopted in 2019. (PG.31-33)
- D. Additional Monies for Added Scope of Work for Capitola Branch Building Project
Staff Recommendation: Approve \$50,000 from the Friends of the Libraries for Solar Panels for the Capitola Branch Library. (PG.34)

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Other Business items are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion of each item listed. The following procedure is followed for each Business item: 1) Staff explanation; 2) Board questions; 3) Public comment; 4) Board deliberation; 5) Decision.

- A. FY 20/21 Budget Update
Staff Recommendation: Review and discuss Budget Update #2 (PG.35-36)
- B. Library Operational Recommendations under COVID-19
Staff Recommendation: Review and Approve Library Operational Recommendations under Covid-19 (PG.37-40)

11. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 3, 2020		Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items:
Virtual Meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FY 20/21 Budget Update #3• Library Operational Recommendations• MOE Discussion• 1st Qtr. Reports• Annual Meeting Schedule for 2021
Start: 9:00 am		

12. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the LJPA to be held on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 9:00 am [immediately following the LFFA meeting] via Zoom teleconference.

The Santa Cruz City-County Library System does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment please call the Library Administration Office at (831)427-7706 at least five days in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance, or email library_admin@santacruzpl.org

October 2020



Library Director's Report to the JPA

August and September have proven challenging. The Library has been operating five curbside locations (Aptos, Downtown, Live Oak, Felton and Scotts Valley) and had an aggressive expansion of service plan until the fires in the Santa Cruz Mountains. As evacuation orders were issued, SCPL closed services at the Felton and Scotts Valley branches. About 1/3 of our staff was displaced, living outside of their homes during this period. One staff person lost a home. Many still are living elsewhere due to infrastructure issues and smoke damage. Staffing remaining services has been difficult. As evacuation orders were lifted, we reopened curbside services at the Felton Branch after the Labor Day Weekend. During the crisis, the Library Director signed an MOU turning the Scotts Valley Branch over to CalFire for the length of the incident. The building has been returned and is scheduled to reopen next week.

I really need to acknowledge the amazing work of the first responders. All three San Lorenzo Valley branches remained safe. The fire got incredibly close to our Boulder Creek Branch. Firefighters were able to save the facility. We are not finding internal smoke damage in the buildings.

The Library provided staff for the Emergency Operations Centers and laptops/ charging stations to Evacuation Shelters.

SCPL faced additional difficulties with air quality issues in the region during and after the fire. Continued air quality pollutants in the unhealthy range over 150 on the EPA air quality index requires employers to provide respiratory protection and have a written respiratory protection program that addresses: proper selection of respiratory equipment; employee training; medical evaluation of an employee's ability to wear a respirator; ensuring proper fit of the respirators; and proper respirator use, storage, and cleaning. As a result, libraries around Northern California began closing curbside pickup on days when pollutants exceeded 150. I have included an article from Library Journal that discusses how libraries around the Bay Area are dealing with the issues.

I have also attached an invitation to a Friends' Author Event to support SCPL digital collections and an invitation to the Aptos Branch Open House.

Library Journal Article

Libraries Largely Spared, Considering Safety of Curbside Service During Worst California Wildfire Season in State 's History by Lisa Peet Sep 09, 2020 | Filed in News

California's 2020 wildfire season is one of the worst on record, with fires causing extensive damage to homes, businesses, and forestland. California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on August 18, and more than 1.5 million acres have burned so far. Response and evacuations have been complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a record-breaking heat wave. The Santa Clara Unit (SCU) and Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit (LNU) Lightning Complex fires, sparked by lightning storms on August 16 and 17, are currently the second- and third-largest fires, respectively, in California history. Libraries across the state have largely escaped severe fire or smoke damage. However, harsh smoke conditions have curtailed many libraries' curbside or front-door pickup services, and the resources they have offered patrons in past wildfire seasons, such as assistance filing claims and in-library computer use, are impossible to provide safely because of COVID-19 related library closures. Nearly 1,500 structures have been destroyed in the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit (CZU) Lightning Complex fires, including a number

of historic buildings in Big Basin Redwoods State Park, and they have caused at least one fatality. The University of California, Santa Cruz completely evacuated its campus on the night of August 22; the evacuation order was lifted on August 31, although some buildings remain closed. “We have been lucky in regard to the CZU and SCU lightning complex fires,” San José City Librarian Jill Bourne told LJ. “We did have some branches that were impacted by smoke and poor air quality for a few days” at San José Public Library, she added. “There have been some power outages, and some staff were told to evacuate their homes at one point, but otherwise, our express services have continued.”

Sacramento has also seen extreme smoke conditions. Out of concerns for staff safety, “we closed curbside for a couple of days to allow us to develop protocols for the new normal,” Sacramento Public Library Director Rivkah Sass told LJ at the beginning of September. “Right now, since our libraries are closed, we believe staff is quite safe with minimal time outside.” Because the library’s service area covers a thousand square miles, decisions about when staff can work vary widely among the 28 branches. “We had larger concerns about our delivery drivers who, of course, do jobs that require a lot of in and out as well as physical exertion. We’re comfortable now that we can do the right thing, including closing different libraries in different areas of the county,” said Sass. “What works in our North Highlands—Antelope Library doesn’t necessarily work in our tiny Delta branches.”

PREPARED IN SONOMA

In Napa, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, and parts of San Mateo County, the multiple fires of the LNU Lightning Complex have been burning since August 17. Initial evacuation orders in Sonoma County were lifted by late August but then reinstituted on September 7; as of press time evacuation orders for most residents have been lifted again. Because Sonoma County Library (SCL) buildings are closed to the public due to the pandemic, the library can’t provide services such as charging stations, helping people locate the services they need, or entertaining local children that they offered during previous wildfire seasons. “We’re doing as well as we can,” said Director Ann Hammond. “It’s definitely been a challenge. With COVID, that was bad enough, and then you throw a fire on top of that—it’s hard to know how to respond.” The library has nearly 1,000 hotspots—a critical community need, as the hilly terrain means that many residents can’t connect with broadband—and Chromebooks checked out. It is also providing curbside service; workers wear cloth masks inside buildings and N-95 masks to take materials outside and place them on tables for customers to pick up, said Hammond. To date SCL has only needed to close one branch, the Guerneville Regional Library, because of its proximity to one of the fire sites, although September has seen short-term closings because of power shutoffs. When the 2019 Kincade Fire forced SSCL to close all 14 branches briefly—with only three able to reopen after the first week—Hammond told LJ, “We’re going to get through this, and we’ll be stronger as a result.” Hammond also made good on last year’s vow to be prepared, which she believes helped avoid smoke damage and poor air quality in the buildings in 2020. “After the big fires last year, we put in super high-quality air filters, and we have air scrubbers at most of our locations,” she told LJ in August. “We’ve been able to keep things safe inside the buildings, so that the staff and the collections did not suffer in that regard.”

The library also has a partnership in the works with PG&E, the state’s largest power provider, which will install generators in several branches in return for being allowed to use them as community emergency centers in case another major fire causes evacuations. And in 2019, the library began providing remote story times live on Facebook for children who had been evacuated or whose branches were closed—getting a jump start on programming that would become business as usual during the COVID-19 shutdown. The air filters will likely come in handy after the library reopens its branches, which closed in March (the air scrubbers—which are portable and can be moved among locations—clean particulates, so would not be as effective in

countering aerosolized coronavirus). “We’re learning to be prepared,” Hammond told LJ. “The fall is fire season in northern California, and that’s not going to change any time soon.”

MONITORING AIR QUALITY

In the San Francisco Bay Area and parts of the California Central Valley, the SCU fires have burned more than 390,000 acres and destroyed 82 structures. As of September 7, they were at 94 percent containment, but smoke conditions continue to impact the area. San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) had only opened two locations in mid-August and had instituted SFPL-toGo, its front-door version of curbside pickup— “but it was only a matter of days before we had unhealthy air in San Francisco,” said Tom Fortin, chief of the main library. SFPL monitors the local air quality through the Environmental Protection Agency website AirNow.gov, and when the air quality index (AQI) reaches a threshold of 150 or higher, the library cancels SFPL-to-Go. “It’s essentially an outdoor service, so we can’t have our staff outside when it reaches an unhealthy level,” Fortin told LJ on September 4. “It’s happened in the past couple of weeks maybe five or six times.” Cal/OSHA, the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health, mandates that government employees must wear N-95 masks to perform any work outside when the AQI reaches 150 and should not work outdoors in any capacity when it hits 200. Although jurisdictions across the state have varying rules, SFPL abides by OSHA and union regulations. “The city is very cautious and we’re keeping our staff safe, so we are suspending service when the air quality index hits 150 or higher. It might only be a matter of hours, and then we reopen again,” explained Fortin. Customers may see it as a disruption, he added, “but when we put it in context and remind our patrons that we want them to be safe and stay home when the air quality is not healthy, they understand.” As Sonoma County Library continues to provide curbside service, a number of workers have objected to the fact that they’re required to bring books out for pickup when the air quality is poor, despite the availability of masks. When staff members are unable to work under 2020 California wildfires conditions, SCL requires them to take sick or vacation time, they stated, rather than being offered paid leave. Some employees have taken to Twitter, asking supporters to email library administration to request that they close branches in evacuation zones. Hammond has heard the criticisms, and “I appreciate having the concerns brought forward. We take that very seriously. We have made sure that we have good procedures in place and plenty of PPE [personal protection equipment] for the staff,” she said. “If anyone has an underlying condition we’re only too happy to work with them to come up with an accommodation.” She realizes that this has been difficult for staff, Hammond added. “It was already stressful with COVID, it’s made more stressful with the fires, and I’m really proud of them for their dedication.” At the time of publication, California and parts of the Pacific Northwest region are still fighting what the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has declared the largest wildfire season recorded in California history, compounded by record-breaking high temperatures and dangerous fire conditions. The small town of Malden, in eastern Washington state, was destroyed over the Labor Day weekend—including the library, a branch of the Whitman County Rural Library District. Residents across the state are urged to keep a close eye on reports for their area.

Special virtual event with writer Susan Orlean on October 1 at 4 pm.

The Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries is pleased to announce a new partnership with Santa Cruz County Schools for a campaign to put electronic resources in the hands of our teachers and students. This year, we anticipate much greater need for digitally accessed materials and it is critical to ensure that all Santa Cruz Schools are well equipped to handle the unique challenge of learning at home in unprecedented times.

In conjunction with this campaign, The Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries is thrilled to announce a very special virtual event with writer Susan Orlean. This event will take place on October 1st at 4PM. All donors who contribute \$100 or more to our Ebooks Campaign will receive an invitation. Susan Orlean will be interviewed by Santa Cruz's own Nikki Silva of Peabody-Award-Winning NPR duo The Kitchen Sisters.

Author info: Orlean is a longtime staff writer for *The New Yorker*. Her work has appeared in *Vogue*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, and more. She is also the author of *The Orchid Thief*, which was made into the metafictional movie *Adaptation* (2002) in which Meryl Streep won an Oscar for her portrayal of Orlean. Orlean's most recent work is *The Library Book*, an account of the mysterious LA Public Library fire of the 1980s.

We hope to see you at this very special event. Donate today to ensure our school year in Santa Cruz County is one of accomplishment: <https://bit.ly/33WzVZU>

A new Aptos Branch Library is on the way!

The Santa Cruz Public Library, County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works, Anderson Brule Architects (ABA), Bogard Construction and Second District Supervisor Zach Friend invite you to the Aptos Branch Library Virtual Open House on October 5, 2020 from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. Learn about the design, ask questions and share comments.

The Aptos Branch of the Santa Cruz County Public Library System has outgrown its current facilities. The County has completed a feasibility study, selected a design-build team, and begun the design process. The design concept has been developed based on input gathered from four community meetings during the study. Bogard Construction and ABA, the design-build team, is now ready to share the design concept, answer questions, and hear your comments.

Come see the exciting results of the hard work and collaboration of the community and the County at a virtual open house event. The discussions will focus on:

- Site and Architecture
- Interior Layout

RSVP Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewAptosBranchLibrary>

Reservations: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AptosSRC>

Library Director's Facilities Report for October

Aptos

The County Board of Supervisors approved the Aptos Library Design/Build Selection Committee's recommendation at their August 4 meeting awarding the contract to the Bogard Construction/Anderson Brule Architects team. The Design Committee has developed a recommendation that will be presented to the community (virtually) on October 5 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. for their review and comment. Construction will begin in Summer 2021 and the branch should open at the end of 2022.

Boulder Creek

The branch closed to the public on February 21. Original project bids exceeded available funding. The project was rebid this summer. The County Supervisors awarded the contract in the amount of \$1,132,754 to CRW Industries for construction of the Boulder Creek Library project and adopted a resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$175,000 from the Friends of the Boulder Creek Library. Construction will begin this autumn. The Boulder Creek branch should reopen in the summer of 2021.



Branciforte

Permits have been submitted to the City. Bidding should take place this fall and construction will begin in early 2021. The remodeled library should open in early 2022.

Capitola

Progress continues to be made on the site work, interior mechanical/electrical work, and exterior finishes. PG&E's relocated the high voltage wire during the week of September 21st. Otto will begin work installing the eaves/overhang along Wharf Road and the corner at Clares Street. The Friends have raised nearly \$750,000 and will provide a gift to add solar panels. The Grand Opening is expected in early 2021.



Downtown

The City of Santa Cruz held interviews for a project manager for the multiuse project (including the library branch). The City Council will review the recommendation and contract at their September 22 meeting.

Felton

County staff continues to finalize closeout documents but will still need to resolve some stormwater and traffic mitigation issues. The Friends provided funding for a display case and provided program funds to the branch for the next three years (\$15,000 per year). The Felton Branch Friends are also setting aside resources for improvements to the teen area and park.

Garfield

Permits are being submitted. Bidding should take place this fall and construction will begin in early 2021. The remodeled library should open in autumn 2021. An exterior book drop has been added to the Garfield Branch.



La Selva Beach

Construction continues. The Friends of the Library, having been greatly successful in their fundraising, has used this opportunity to commission a change order to replace a stationary glass wall with a Nanawall. The Grand Opening is expected in early 2021.

Live Oak

Construction documents have been completed. When construction begins, the branch will remain open with a few interruptions. The remodel should be complete in the spring of 2021.

Live Oak Annex

A team is completing the design development package. Construction documents and permitting will occupy most of autumn and winter. Construction is expected to begin in the summer 2021. The project should be complete by summer of 2022.

Scotts Valley

The branch and its grounds were closed for a period to serve as a staging area for CalFire during the most recent incident. The City is creating an advisory group to provide input on improvements. The process should begin the week of September 28.

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



**SANTA CRUZ CITY/COUNTY LIBRARIES
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
(LJPA)**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

**THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2020
9:00 A.M.**

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Tina Friend, Steve Jesberg, Martin Bernal, Carlos Palacios

STAFF: Library Director Susan Nemitz, Assistant Director Eric Howard, Regional Manager Heather Norquist

2. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

None

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Agenda of August 6, 2020 was approved by consensus.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Susan Nemitz reported on the recent activities of the Library.

6. FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES REPORT

Martin Gomez reported on the recent activities of the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries. He announced that there is a change in leadership with Marsa Greenspan leaving and Cindy Jackson's appointment to President of the Friends.

7. REPORT BY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)

Bob White, Chair, reported on the recent LAC meeting and its discussions.

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Friend expressed her appreciation of staff and sincere satisfaction with curbside experience at the Aptos library.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approved June 4, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes;**
- B. Accepted and Filed Recent Articles about SCPL;**
- C. Accepted and Filed Community Impact Measures for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020;**
- D. Accepted and Filed Year-End Financial Report for FY 2019-2020;**
- E. Accepted and Filed Incident Report for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020;**
- F. Accepted and Filed Work Plan for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020;**
- G. Accepted and Filed Library Sales Tax Revenue Update for 4th Qtr. FY 2019-20;**
- H. Approve and amend the FY 2019-2020 operating budget to transfer monies from operating budget to capital outlay fund totaling \$70,000;**
- I. Approved a \$100,000 Friends of the Libraries grant made payable to Santa Cruz County for the La Selva Beach Branch Library building project;**
- J. 1) Approved grant funds from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation in the amount of \$300,000. 2) Approved \$100,000 of the above grant funds for the Boulder Creek Library Branch building project. 3) Approved additional funds from the Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries in the amount of \$75,000 to be used for the Boulder Creek Branch Library building project;**
- K. Reviewed and Accepted Library Audit – Annual Financial Report. [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Tina Friend
SECONDER: Carlos Palacios
AYES: Friend, Jesberg, Bernal, Palacios

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Presentation by Heather Norquist, Regional Manager: How SCPL is supporting children, families and schools during COVID-19.**

B. FY 20/21 Budget Update.

Library Director Susan Nemitz did not recommend to make any changes to the budget at the present time. She is anticipating that more information will be available at the October Board meeting.

C. Library Operational Recommendations under COVID-19

Library Director Susan Nemitz and Assistant Director Eric Howard discussed next steps in library operations. The Board reviewed the suggestions and discussed additional recommendations especially in regards to partnering with and support from the jurisdictions.

11. Adjournment

Final Adjournment of the Library Joint Powers Authority Board (LJPA) at 10:20 a.m. to the next regular meeting on October 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. [immediately following the LFFA meeting] via Zoom teleconference.

ATTEST: _____
Helga Smith, Clerk of the Board

All documents referred to in these minutes are available in the Santa Cruz Public Libraries – Library Headquarters Office, 117 Union Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 1, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Media Packet

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File the Media Packet for July 28, 2020 through September 28, 2020.

DISCUSSION

This Media packet covers the time period July 28, 2020 through September 28, 2020.

Attachment: Media Packet

Report Prepared by: Diane Cowen,
 Communications Manager

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director



SANTA CRUZ
PUBLIC LIBRARIES
CONNECT | INSPIRE | INFORM

In the News and Media:

July 28 – September 28

[Dewey Decibel Podcast: Library Architecture and Design](#)



August 17, 2020

In Episode 53, Dewey Decibel explores new ideas and issues in library architecture and design. First, Dewey Decibel host and American Libraries Senior Editor Phil Morehart speaks with Wardell Ross Jr., director of Houston operations for architectural firm Moody Nolan, who was project manager for Texas Southern University's new Library Learning Center. Morehart and Ross discuss the library's features and how its design reflects and showcases the heritage of the historically Black university.

Next, Morehart talks with Susan Nemitz, director of Santa Cruz (Calif.) Public Libraries, about how the library shifted its remodeling and rebuilding plans to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic.

The interview with Susan begins at about 18:44 minutes. Listen to the podcast here: <https://soundcloud.com/dewey-decibel-703453552/episode-53-library-architecture-and-design>



Coverage You Can Count On

The Aptos Library renovation project was featured on the 6:00 PM news on Thursday September 17th. We have not located a link to the story, which features Aptos Branch Manager Heather Pereira.



Where to find free Wifi on the Central Coast

By [Avery Johnson](#)

Published [September 1, 2020](#) 6:00 pm

This article listed SCPL branches on its WiFi map of the Central Coast.

<https://www.kionrightnow.com/news/2020/09/01/where-to-find-free-wifi-on-the-central-coast/>



Things To Do (Virtually) in Santa Cruz: July 29 – Aug. 4

ARTS AND MUSIC

TOM NODDY'S BUBBLE MAGIC Tom has taken his uniquely warm and charming sense of wonder and delight in soap bubbles to audiences around the world. The bubbles are truly exquisite, and Tom's lively humor and engaging sense of fun leave his audiences both delighted and intrigued. Free all ages library Summer Reading Program: santacruzpl.org/pages/srp. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6741448. Thursday, July 30, 1pm.

SPEED SKETCHING Come with paper and pencil and try your hand at speed sketching: All artistic experience is welcome. Prior to beginning the program, please select an object in your home and place it in view of your computer's camera, and let's have fun together and see who can draw the silliest, stylish, true to life, or abstract interpretation of it. Every Tuesday afternoon at 2pm, take a break out of your day for some fun! Register for Zoom at: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6780189.

CLASSES

TECH TALKS: NAVIGATING NEWS AND DISINFORMATION The online information ecosystem is polluted and polarized. It seems to be contributing to social demoralization and destabilization. We'll discuss the primary types of disinformation and share the tools and strategies for critically examining sources of online information. Tech Talks are not your typical computer class. These are hands-on workshops that help us better understand our mobile devices. This event will be taking place online using Zoom. Registrants will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link immediately upon registering for the event. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6813535. Thursday, July 30, 11am.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT: GAINING GROUND FILM DISCUSSION The Santa Cruz Public Libraries continues its monthly discussion series intended to help build resiliency within our community. The next event in the series, Gaining Ground, takes place at 6pm on Thursday, July 30, via Zoom. Register here to participate: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6856867. In this event, all are invited to join Michael Watkins and Zach Friend for a discussion about the film *Gaining Ground: Building Community on Dudley Street*, available on Kanopy, the library's online video streaming service. It is not necessary to watch the film beforehand but if you'd like to check it out, follow this link: santacruzpl.kanopy.com/video/gaining-ground-building-community-dudley-street. This event is brought to you by The Friends of Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL Tales to Tails goes virtual to create a comfortable, neutral, and fun reading experience. Bring some books, a stuffed animal or your own pet, and come read with us! This is a YouTube livestream event so you might be reading to up to six animals at once. Woo hoo! Caregivers, you can post your child's first name and city in the comments section, along with the book they are reading, and we'll read off as many of those names as we can, live, during the break we need to give the dogs. Each week you register we'll send you your dog bone "punch cards." These will be dated dog bones your child can color and email to us. The following week, we'll display them live on the feed. This will also be recorded so if you can't make it live, the dogs will still be there for you. Every Wednesday, 10-11am. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6764929.

OUTDOOR

NATURALIST NIGHT: SANTA CRUZ HABITATS AND HISTORY Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History have partnered to bring you Naturalist Night! Join fellow nature enthusiasts for monthly explorations of the biodiversity of Santa Cruz County. Each month, Marisa Gomez from the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History will share the stories of a specific Santa Cruz habitat as we develop our skills as naturalists. This series will feature a presentation as well as an interactive session. This program occurs monthly on the fourth Tuesday from 6-7 pm. Registration is required for Zoom access link. Your registration confirmation email will have the Zoom link in it. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6857442.

Things To Do (Virtually) in Santa Cruz: Aug. 5-11

COMMUNITY

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL Tales to Tails goes virtual to create a comfortable, neutral, and fun reading experience. Bring some books, a stuffed animal or your own pet, and come read with us! This is a YouTube livestream event so you might be reading to up to six animals at once. Woo hoo! Caregivers, you can post your child's first name and city in the comments section, along with the book they are reading, and we'll read off as many of those names as we can, live, during the break we need to give the dogs. Each week you register we'll send you your dog bone "punch cards." These will be dated dog bones your child can color and email to us. The following week, we'll display them live on the feed. This will also be recorded so if you can't make it live, the dogs will still be there for you. Every Wednesday, 10-11am. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6764929.

OUTDOOR

NATURALIST NIGHT: SANTA CRUZ HABITATS AND HISTORY Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History have partnered to bring you Naturalist Night! Join fellow nature enthusiasts for monthly explorations of the biodiversity of Santa Cruz County. Each month, Marisa Gomez from the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History will share the stories of a specific Santa Cruz habitat as we develop our skills as naturalists. This series will feature a presentation as well as an interactive session. This program occurs monthly on the fourth Tuesday from 6-7 pm, with upcoming events Aug. 25 and Sept. 22. Registration is required for Zoom access link. Your registration confirmation email will have the Zoom link in it. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6857442.

Things To Do in Santa Cruz: Aug. 19-25

COMMUNITY

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL Beginning Aug. 10, SCPL's early childhood literacy program, Virtual Tales to Tails, is moving to a new time slot: Mondays, 3:30-4:30pm. At the end of your school day, hop online and have fun reading at your own pace to an audience of therapy dogs, cats and other guest animals. Have math homework? Good news! Your furry audience would also love to learn how to count, add and subtract. Register online. Registrants receive reminders, links to the live program, and fun (educational) activities to complete and have showcased on future sessions. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6764938.

OUTDOOR

NATURALIST NIGHT: SANTA CRUZ HABITATS AND HISTORY Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History have partnered to bring you Naturalist Night! Join fellow nature enthusiasts for monthly explorations of the biodiversity of Santa Cruz County. Each month, Marisa Gomez from the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History will share the stories of a specific Santa Cruz habitat as we develop our skills as naturalists. This series will feature a presentation as well as an interactive session. This program occurs monthly on the fourth Tuesday from 6-7 pm, with upcoming events Aug. 25 and Sept. 22. Registration is required for Zoom access link. Your registration confirmation email will have the Zoom link in it. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6857442.

Santa Cruz County Rated Red: More Services Indoors OK'd

By Jondi Gumz September 9, 2020

On Tuesday, Santa Cruz County moved from the Purple Tier to the Red Tier of the state's COVID-19 monitoring system, allowing restaurants, movie theaters, gyms and fitness centers, nail salons,



massage and waxing studios, places of worship and museums to open indoors after a month of being limited to outdoor operations.

For restaurants, theaters, museums, places of worship and wedding ceremonies, indoor operations are limited to 25 percent capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer; for yoga studios, dance studios, gyms and fitness centers, the limit is 10 percent capacity.



The state allows libraries to reopen at 50 percent capacity but the Santa Cruz Public Libraries has been dealing with the aftermath of the CZU lightning fires, which prevented access to the Felton and Scotts Valley branches but spared the Boulder Creek branch.

Hair salons and barbershops have been allowed to operate indoors since the state unveiled the new monitoring system and Santa Cruz County was placed in the Purple Tier.

Regal opened its Cinema 9 in Santa Cruz Tuesday after being closed since mid-March.

In Santa Cruz County, the rate of new cases per 100,000 population is 5.3 percent, and the positivity rate is 3.8 percent. The positivity rate would have to fall to 4.9 percent and the new cases rate to 3.9 percent to move into the Orange Tier, allowing fewer restrictions and more activities indoors. Bars, breweries, card rooms and live theater, for example, remain closed; mini-golf, batting cages, bounce centers and laser tag are allowed only outdoors.

The pace of new COVID-19 cases has slowed locally, from 31 on Aug. 13, before the CZU fire forced thousands of San Lorenzo Valley residents to evacuate, to 21 on Aug. 21 when Scotts Valley was evacuated, 18 on Aug. 31, five on Sept. 2 and one on Sept. 3.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Santa Cruz County

As of Tuesday, Santa Cruz County had 1,931 cases overall, including 198 active cases, 10 people hospitalized, including three in intensive care.

Although there are fewer new cases, health officials expect another surge, in part due to the fire evacuations resulted in many people mixing with others from outside their household.

"If the case rate goes up, Santa Cruz County could return to the Purple Tier in 14 days," said Corinne Hyland, public health officer for the county Health Services Agency.

That would mean returning to outdoor operations for the restaurants, gyms and fitness centers, nail salons, massage and waxing

services, places of worship and museums.

School openings for in-person instruction can only be considered once a county has been in the Red Tier for 14 days and are subject to decisions by local school boards and administrators.

No county schools may open for in-person instruction at this time, Hyland said.

For information on the state monitoring system, visit covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy.

For local information on COVID-19, go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus, call 211 or text "COVID19" to 211211 or call (831) 454-4242 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Our Community Reads: Help Choose the Next Book

written by [See Below](#) September 9, 2020

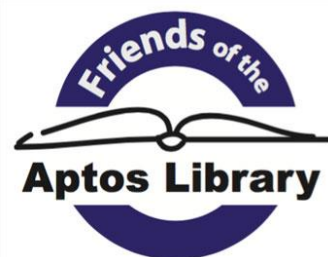


The Friends of the Aptos Library will choose the book for the 2021 "Our Community Reads" program with a vote in a Public Zoom Meeting from 5-5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Four books have been nominated. A brief description of each will precede the vote.

If you wish to participate in the voting event and did not already receive an invitation, e-mail at friendsoftheaptoslibrary@fscpl.org

Visit friendsoftheaptoslibrary.org for more information.





Should We House People or Cars?

Make no mistake. The next City Council elections for will determine our future.

By [reImagine Santa Cruz, Community Contributor](#)

Sep 10, 2020 12:49 pm PT



This post is sponsored and contributed by a Patch Community Partner. The views expressed in this post are the author's own, and the information presented has not been verified by Patch.

By Rick Longinotti

"When parking revenue can be used for affordable housing, the choice really is: House people or cars?"

The evolution of the Library-Garage-Mixed Use project says a lot about the City priorities regarding affordable housing. In December, 2016, City staff proposed a library and 640 space parking garage with no affordable housing. In September, 2018, the City Council approved the concept of a library with 600 space parking garage. Eliminating 40 parking spaces would leave space for a token amount of affordable housing. In June, 2020 the City Council approved a concept of a library and 400 space garage with minimum 50 units of low income housing. Fifty is more than a token, but far fewer affordable units than would be possible without the garage.

Designers tell us that the space needed for two parking spaces (including ramps) is equivalent to a one-bedroom apartment. If the proposed mixed-used project had 100 parking spaces instead of 400, there would be room for an additional 150 apartments.

Market rate units in this project compete with affordable units for space. The Council's concept includes market rate residential units that would provide an additional \$100,000/unit subsidy to raise \$3 million additional funds for a larger library. That's 30 market rate units that could otherwise be affordable units.

Worse than competition for space, parking competes with affordable housing for funds. Parking revenue can be used to build housing rather than parking. City staff estimate the bond debt on the garage at \$2.9 million per year for 30 years. That amount of money dwarfs the \$3 million that the City currently has in its Affordable Housing Trust Fund. When parking revenue can be used for affordable housing, the choice really is: House people or cars?

Promoters of the parking garage have claimed that it will enable new affordable housing

projects to be built, by allowing the City to waive requirements that affordable housing developers build parking onsite. However, recent state legislation relieves parking requirements for affordable housing developments within a half-mile of a transit station.

Residents of Downtown are allowed to purchase permits for overnight parking in City garages. Check out the Downtown garages at night. Overnight there are approximately 1500 empty parking spaces. We don't need to build another 400 spaces to allow residents to park overnight.

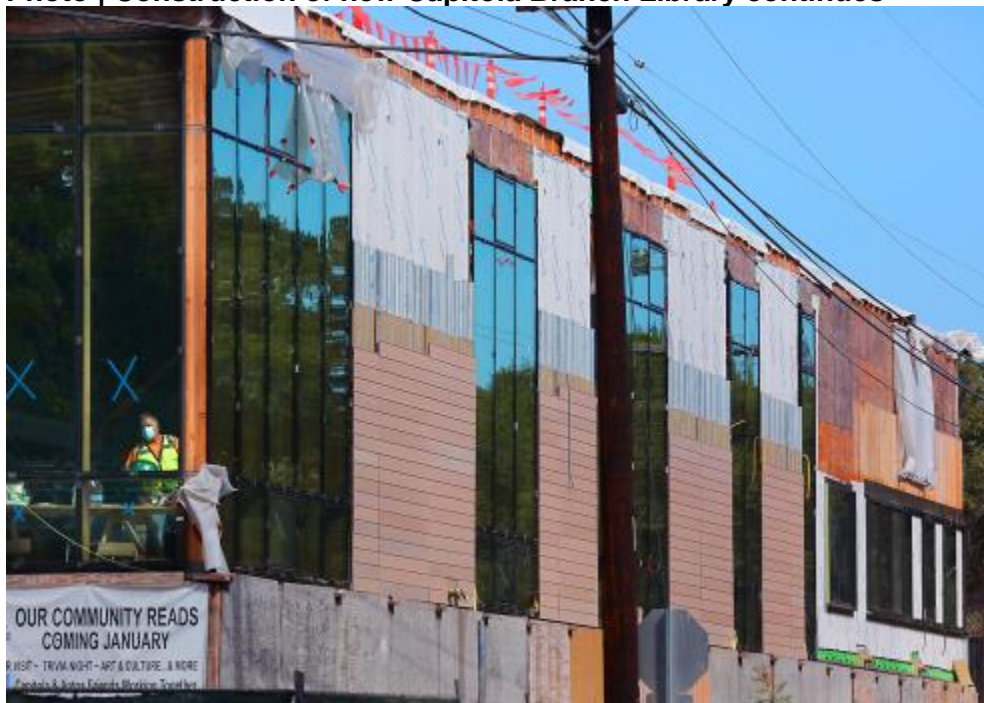
For years affordable housing developers such as First Community Housing in San Jose have been negotiating reduced parking requirements for their developments, while offering tenants free bus passes. According to their website, "A structured parking space costs approximately \$50,000. FCH spends less than \$65,000 for passes on our 13 properties in Santa Clara County!"

In the [July 7th Santa Cruz Sentinel](#), I described how City staff misled the Council about the conclusions of the consultant, Nelson\Nygaard, and how the consultant's final report has never been brought to the Council. In the [May 18th Santa Cruz Sentinel](#), I described how taking on a 30-year debt to finance the parking structure would put Downtown business owners at risk at the worst possible time. For more info, see [GarageAlternatives.org](#).

Do you want to bet whether the City Council will heed the consultants who recommend against garage construction, and the community members who are asking for fiscal responsibility, climate action, and letting the Farmers Market stay in place? I'm hedging my bet, working to re-elect Councilmember [Sandy Brown](#) and elect some inspiring women, [Kayla Kumar](#) and [Kelsey Hill](#).

Santa Cruz Sentinel News

Photo | Construction of new Capitola Branch Library continues



By [SHMUEL THALER](#) | sthaler@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel
August 10, 2020 at 4:26 p.m.

The new Capitola Branch Library rises above the corner of Wharf Road and Clares Street on Monday as work continues toward completion. The 11,700-square-foot branch, which replaces a 4,300-square-foot temporary structure, is designed to be a community hub featuring an expanded children's wing, study and reading rooms, reading "nooks," an outdoor reading deck, a fireplace and a space for teens. The library was funded with \$10 million from Measure S, which was passed by voters in 2016, in addition to funding from the city's general fund and redevelopment, as well as \$750,000 raised by Friends of the Capitola Branch.

Santa Cruz Sentinel Editorials

Stephen Kessler | Can council members think for themselves?

August 5, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

By Stephen Kessler

When the Santa Cruz City Council—after years of devious, deceptive and expensive manipulation of data by city staff and conflicted but interested councilwoman Cynthia Mathews—finally approved the much-disputed library-garage in June, my disappointment was mixed with a kind of admiration for Mayor Justin Cummings, who may not have made the best decision for the future of downtown but at least had the courage to change his mind. Cummings had been elected partly on the strength of his opposition to the project, but as a member of the council library subcommittee was persuaded to approve it, mainly for fiscal reasons and for the tacked-on promise of "affordable housing."

The city is, among other things, a business, and once candidates and activists find themselves elected officials, suddenly the spreadsheet rules: Positions and aspirations are one thing, but money makes government run, and that means taxes, which are the lifeblood not only of generous pensions for career staff but also of progressive social programs. So a lot of progressives, once in office, become more pragmatically liberal because the money they want to spend must come from somewhere, and often it is large developments—and businesses in general—that promise to shovel the most cash into municipal coffers.

In the case of the garage-library it was more a question of bangs for the bucks: a way of combining existing available funds to benefit two unrelated projects. From an accounting standpoint, this was a great idea; from a quality-of-life perspective, terrible. Not that this monstrosity is ever likely to be built. The pandemic-induced economic collapse will, I expect, change many best-laid plans, and even Mathews' backdoor dealings may not be enough to overcome an increasingly unyielding reality. But never underestimate the power of a politician, backed by enough institutional enablers, to get what she wants. So the tale of the Taj Garage is far from over.

Meanwhile a city council election is coming up in November. Mathews is termed out (not that she won't have an invisible hand in other campaigns); Katherine Beiers has said she won't run as a refill for Chris Krohn's former seat; Martine Watkins and Sandy Brown will presumably double down for another term. Brown cast a downright Solomonic vote against the garage-library-housing thing after voting for it as a member of the subcommittee. While trying to have it both ways, her contradictory votes were an admission of conflicting obligations: From a fiduciary standpoint, the mixed-use chimera made business sense, even if public opinion against was, as Brown put it, lopsided.

So while I disagreed with them, I had to respect both Brown and Cummings for their split decisions on this issue because they proved capable of thinking for themselves based on the evidence presented and, though their friends on the left might disapprove, drawing their own conclusions—even if those conclusions were at odds with their personal political preferences. Unlike some progressive politicians (Krohn was an example, and former councilman Drew Glover even more so), they were not captives of a predetermined position. This is an accomplishment when peer pressure and public opinion—including mine—were pushing hard for a different outcome.

Whether Watkins, Vice Mayor Donna Meyers or rookie councilwoman Renée Golder can operate as individuals and not as Mathews clones remains to be seen. In the unfortunately polarized dynamic of local politics it is often the progressive-left machine vs. the pro-business neoliberal

machine jousting for a 4-3 advantage. The fact that Cummings and Brown were able to change their minds proves at least that their minds were open. This is ironic because normally liberals like Mathews are the ones who are supposed to be openminded and capable of change. Let's hope some of her disciples will learn from Cummings' and Brown's example to think independently, not just follow some party line, and that the next crop of candidates includes some principled individuals who can break up the council's ideological blocs.

Stephen Kessler | Due diligence on city council contenders

September 16, 2020 at 6:00 a.m.

As part of my homework as your correspondent, and as a citizen trying to figure out who to vote for, I've begun to meet, virtually or in person, with each of the nine candidates for Santa Cruz City Council. My agenda is to get to know them a little as individuals more than as holders of positions or advocates of certain policies or speakers of one-minute spiels at superficial forums hosted by one local political interest group or another. What interests me more than how they can briefly simplify a complicated question or where they stand on this or that issue is what kind of person they are, which it's possible to get a glimpse of in an hour of conversation—their demeanor, their personality, character, intelligence, integrity, the groundedness of their thinking, their political sophistication. I ask myself who I'd trust running the city.

I'll let you know how that turns out in the next few weeks, once I've had a chance to speak with the whole field. For now, as background for my considerations, I'd like to share with you some thoughts on what this election is about, what's important to me in a council member, especially now, and what we're likely to be facing over the next four years regardless of who is elected. The pandemic-induced economic collapse has yet to play out, and the way things are going it appears that the local small-business landscape (including especially restaurants) is going to look like it was hit by a neutron bomb: The buildings may be standing, but the human enterprises that animated them are gone.

Downtown, post-plague, may in some ways resemble its leveling in the October 1989 earthquake—and in the aftermath of economic devastation there's an opportunity to take a fresh look at the city and to revisit visions of what and how we'd like it to be. Demand for housing is greater than ever, even before the fires wiped out hundreds of homes, but how will new fiscal considerations affect the big projects already in the pipeline: three or four massive mixed-use developments six or seven stories tall, mostly for market-rate apartments—rentals or condos—with maybe a few “affordable” or low-income units added to assuage popular demand.

The most fraught such mixed-use project of course is the Taj Garage, the supposedly much-needed parking facility anchored by the main branch of the public library and with a tacked-on façade of “affordable housing” (what everybody loves and nobody ever defines)—the block-long six-story structure to be built on the site of the downtown farmers market now shaded by about a dozen big, carbon-absorbing trees. As the Downtown Commons Advocates have suggested, the site, now a large city parking lot, might more affordably and beneficially be converted to an open plaza, saving the trees and creating a leafy, sunny, pedestrian-friendly public space between the increasingly high and shade-throwing concrete housing towers. The plaza would be a noncommercial and environmentally pleasant break in an otherwise densely built urban cityscape that would be a magnet for local shoppers and visitors both.

The new council may have to rethink some assumptions and reconsider some decisions made by its predecessor as the environmental, economic and existential realities of a post-pandemic world may have altered expectations and redefined possibilities. Who has the vision, the openmindedness, the judgment, the sensible arguments in plain language, the skills of democratic persuasion and negotiation, the civic imagination to think outside the box of the computer screen to the actual physical city we inhabit together as a community? It's a serious question for even the most seasoned professional politician let alone the volunteer public servants of a city council. But in my conversations with the candidates, that's the kind of person or persons I'll be looking for: sharp operators and cooperators with the creativity, courage, humility, organizational and diplomatic skills to lead, make good decisions and get things done.

I'll keep you posted in the weeks ahead.

Santa Cruz Sentinel *Letters to the Editor*

Letter | Let voters decide on using funding for library project

August 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

When the Santa Cruz City Council approved the mixed library/parking/housing facility in the downtown area, they were putting lipstick on a pig. If a ballot proposition had been submitted to the public for a parking structure, it almost certainly would have been defeated.

The public agreed to fund improvements to the main library, not a mixed use facility. The public should be allowed to decide whether to allow the funds allocated to the library for improvements to be used for this project.

— *Don Pearson, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Candidates wouldn't have approved library project

August 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Many of us were shocked to see the library/garage project voted in by City Council. Going from a bond to improve libraries to the destruction of our current library and of 30 or so legacy trees, the displacement of our downtown farmers market and the erection of a tall tower of gray parking spaces is a huge and unpleasant abuse of the voters' trust and intent.

It tells us that we should be careful about who we will vote into City Council in November. All of the candidates would have voted for the garage/library had they been on City Council except incumbent Sandy Brown, Kayla Kumar, Kelsey Hill and Alicia Kuhl.

If we want to take a stand against a city governance that slips monstrous projects through very doubtful cracks, we already know who we should vote for in November.

— *Erica Aitken, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Will a mix-use library be a sanctuary?

August 30, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

I have a question about the library-garage-housing project.

A library is a sanctuary. It is a place for quiet and peaceful relaxation, and for contemplative thought. It is a place where one can escape the fanfare of our daily lives.

How insulated will this new library be from sounds and odors coming from the rest of the building? Will the patrons hear auto alarms going off, engine backfires, or loud motorcycles? Will they hear kids screaming, domestic fights, loud TVs, or wild parties? How protected will the library be from exhaust fumes and carbon monoxide from the garage? Will one be able to smell the burning

dinner or the scent of marijuana smoke? Basically, I'm wondering how easy will it be to find sanctuary in the library.

— Jerry Cabak, Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Sentinel *Coastlines*

By [DONALD FUKUI](#) | dfukui@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: August 20, 2020 at 2:45 p.m. | UPDATED: August 20, 2020 at 3:27 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ

Libraries suspend curbside services

Due to the ongoing threat of evacuation and the need to keep the roads around Cal Fire staging sites clear, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries has suspended curbside pickup services at the Felton Library and the Scotts Valley for the remainder of this week.

The tentative restart dates are Monday for Scotts Valley and Tuesday for Felton.

Coast Line | County awards contract for Aptos library

September 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

APTOS

County awards library contract

The County of Santa Cruz announced the awarding of a contract for the new Aptos Public Library, according to a release from the county.

Funded by Measure S, the \$14 million project will rebuild the existing branch into a 21st-century library serving a range of community needs. Chosen by a selection committee, Santa Cruz-based Bogard Construction, along with Anderson Brule Architects, will lead the design and construction of a new library that includes more than 12,000 square feet of floor space, new features and improved circulation and driveway access, including a safer passenger drop-off area.

In addition to Measure S funding, the project has received a generous donation from community member Betty Leonard.

"This community-based effort will help transform Aptos Library into the crown jewel of the library system," said Supervisor Zach Friend in a prepared release. "This project will provide current and future generations a modern gathering place, resource, and community hub they deserve."

To learn and share comments about the project, sign up for a virtual Zoom community meeting by visiting [surveymonkey.com](https://survey.monkey.com).

The meeting will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 28.

Reviews

Yelp

Santa Cruz Public Libraries received a 4 Star Review on September 17

I normally love our santa cruz library system, but this week (sept 14th and 15th) all the libraries closed due to "bad air quality". Most people did not get to close their businesses or call off work due to "air quality". Can all the grocery stores close because the workers sanitizing the carts are working outside most of the day? Should all the restaurants close so that wait staff don't have to take food outside to their customers? People working in libraries spend most of their time IN the library going outside only periodically to place books on the table!! I think it is very ELITIST of the library staff to greatly inconvenience all the customers that love and support them when "bad air quality" is going to become a new normal!!

Google My Business

Scotts Valley received a 5 Star Review on August 5

Always great service. Very knowledgeable staff.

Branciforte received a 5 Star Review (even though they are closed!)

Excellent Service and Personal. Love The Public Library . Don't privatize the Public Library
Please. Thank you Peaceout

Email

On Tue, Sep 1, 2020 Mize Michele wrote:

Greetings,

I don't know who takes care of the library website but would like them to know how much I appreciated the listing of all the emergency references. It was so nice to have everything listed on one site.

Blessings from the heart.

Michele

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 1, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: 2020 Holiday Closure Proposal

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following holiday closure schedule for 2020 which is different than the holiday policy #108 adopted in 2019.

DISCUSSION

As we look forward to the upcoming holidays, given our current budget cuts that reduced staffing, we would like to propose closing the library system for the following dates.

Holiday Closure for 2020:

Wednesday, November 25, 2020 through Saturday, November 28, 2020

Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Saturday, January 2, 2021

We would also like to participate in the City's holiday pay back program where staff can take the holiday closure time off paid and pay back the time off taken in smaller increments over several pay periods.

The following language from the SEIU MOU explains the process/procedure:

SECTION 28.00 - HOLIDAY CLOSURE

If the City decides to close around the Christmas and New Years' holidays, the following will apply: Employee participation in the closure program is voluntary. During the closure, employees may use accrued vacation, compensatory time off, floating holidays, or excess holiday time.

Employees may also request leave without pay. To encourage the use of leave without pay, seniority, benefit and leave accruals will not be impacted if leave without pay is taken during the Holiday closure period. (Note: Unpaid leave is not credited towards PERS retirement.)

The City will allow leave without pay hours to be deducted over the same number of pay periods as the number of workdays the City was closed. Employees are not allowed to use unpaid closure time on holidays during the City's holiday closure.

If there are employees who do not wish to take either paid or unpaid leave time during the closure period the City will provide the opportunity to perform generally comparable work during the closure by finding appropriate assignments and/or work space.

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin,
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director



Library Holiday Closure Policy

JPAB Policy # 108
Approved: October 2019
Five-year Review Schedule: October 2024

Closure Schedule for the Santa Cruz Public Library System

April:	Spring Staff Training Day – TBD
October:	Autumn Staff Training Day – Columbus Day
November:	Veterans' Day
	Thanksgiving Day
	Day after Thanksgiving
December:	Christmas Eve – Close at 2 pm (if branch is scheduled to be open)
	Christmas Holiday
	New Year's Eve Holiday – Close at 2 pm (if branch is scheduled to be open)
January:	New Year's Day Holiday

Note per MOU: When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be observed.
When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be observed.

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 1, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Approve Additional Monies for Added Scope of Work for Capitola Branch
 Building Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve \$50,000 from the Friends of the Libraries for Solar Panels for the Capitola Branch Library.

DISCUSSION

The Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Library, Capitola Chapter has raised \$200,000 for Solar panels. At this time, they would like to allocate \$50,000 from the Friends of the Libraries for this enhancement. Because of timing issues the Friends should approve this gift on October 15, 2020. These funds will be paid directly to the City of Capitola.

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin,
 Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Carlos Palacios
Board Member Tina Friend



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 1, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan M. Nemitz, Library Director
RE: FY 2021 SCPL Budget Update #2

RECOMMENDATION

Review and discuss.

BACKGROUND

The LJPB adopted the FY 20/21 Budget back in June with unanimous approval. The LJPB voted to have updates brought to the Board monthly during this uncertain and unprecedented time.

This is the second review presented to the Board. The first was at the August meeting.

DISCUSSION

There are no changes to the revenue or expenditure updates that were made to the Board in August.

The first quarter sales tax revenue report will be ready in October. The early July and August sales tax monthly reports have come in with no declines which is positive news.

Although the recent fires will cause a reassessment of the value of many properties, this will not likely affect the MOE in FY2021 as the MOE agreement allocates a fixed amount to the Library and revenue has exceeded payments over the last several years.

At this time the Library proposes to continue with the FY 20/21 budget as adopted.

August Budget Update:
Revenue

The sales tax projections for FY 2020-21 remain unchanged. There is still so much uncertainty that the recommendation is to wait and see the first quarter sales tax results before making future predictions.

Personnel

As part of the adopted FY 20/21 budget the Library made the following cuts to its personnel budget.

Temporary workers were eliminated which consisted of all on-call substitutes and Library Aide staff. The savings from this cutback was estimated at \$776K. The Library also instituted a 10% furlough for all regular staff resulting in a savings of \$700K. In addition, the Library froze all hiring on vacant positions totaling an estimated \$500K.

In the FY 20/21 projections the Library had considered a retirement incentive and the Library did receive 9 interested applicants. After consultation with the Chair of the LJPB, the Library was unable to grant the retirement incentives since it would bring staffing levels to dangerously low levels in order to continue to provide services system-wide. The savings estimated through retirement savings was \$300K. The Library plans to make up for these savings through continued hiring freezes if more positions become vacant throughout the year.

The total estimated personnel savings adopted as part of the FY 20/21 budget were \$2,276,000.

Non-Personnel

As part of the adopted FY 20/21 operating budget the Library also cut \$150K in non-personnel expenditures.

The Library is poised to make further cuts in the non-personnel budget if revenues from sales tax continue to fall during this fiscal year. Cuts that the Library has identified as able to be made are in training, travel and professional services.

Reserves

The Library estimated ending FY 19/20 having used \$633K in reserves. In comparison, FY 19/20 ended with the Library using only \$431K.

The Library is also reporting ending FY 19/20 with its 20% reserve at \$2.96M and its unrestricted fund balance at 1.36M.

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 1, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Library Operational Recommendations under Covid-19

RECOMMENDATION

Review and Approve Library Operational Recommendations under Covid-19

DISCUSSION

“The coronavirus has really brought home the urgency of addressing the digital divide, particularly because of its impact on African Americans and other minorities who have been far more likely to lose their jobs, miss out on school’s online classes and fall ill. We need to work together to ensure that no one is left on the wrong side of the digital divide.”

— Mayor McKinley Price, Newport News, President, African American Mayors Association

Digital Inclusion

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries support the Digital Inclusion Statement created by the Urban Libraries Council.

- Digital equity is integral to race, economic, educational and social equity.
- High-speed internet is as essential to 21st century life as clean water and electricity.
- Achieving digital equity is a community responsibility which requires sustained collaboration among public, nonprofit, technology and private sector stakeholders.
- COVID-19 exposed the limitations of a digital inclusion service model that relies on physical spaces and loaned tools to meet daily needs.
- The good work of libraries on digital inclusion is, at best, a temporary fix for ensuring that everyone can participate fully in digital life.
- Affordable in-home broadband, computers and the skills and support needed for success are the path to achieving digital equity.
- Collaboration among top elected officials, school leaders and library executives provide a springboard for action on digital equity.
- The pandemic intensified what it means to be unconnected in a hyper-connected world and created a window for action.

In July, after surveying staff and community, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries created an Interim Digital Inclusion Plan to address disparities in public access to digital resources. The Library Advisory Commission endorsed an earlier version of the plan, which was subsequently endorsed by the Library Joint Powers Board in August. Library staff has worked diligently on the plan but many activities were interrupted by the recent fires.

1. Expand access to the internet

- The five curbside sites have all had their Wi-Fi signals boosted to reach 600 feet from designated buildings and the Wi-Fi service is available 24 hours a day.
- A social media campaign promoting the Libraries' free Wi-Fi has been created, Free Wi-Fi flags are at library sites and map of free Wi-Fi in the County is being distributed.
- Staff surveyed school districts to determine device/internet needs of students.
- Supervisor Zach Friend is spearheading a Cares grant of 50 plus, Wi-Fi hotspots for Library check out. Purchase has been delayed due to fire.

2. Expand access to computer hardware

- The purchase of 50 Chromebooks and 15 Kindle Readers for check out has been on back order for over a month as our vendor has been unable to fulfill contracts. Staff attempted switching to another vendor but they are back ordered as well.
- Provided 100 Endless OS computers (donation) to homeless shelters/underserved communities using our partners (CASA, AFC Faith Community Shelters, Santa Cruz HUD VASH Team, Mid-Pen Affordable Housing).
- Created pilot, outdoor, socially distanced space at the Downtown Branch to provide public computers. Pilot began September 21.
- Provided charging stations at evacuation centers.

3. Expand access to printing

- Implemented free On-the-Go Wireless Printing.
- Provided curbside pickup at one location, expanded to three on September 21.

4. Expand access to technology support

- Tripled staffing of Telephone Information support due to demand.
- Provided weekly Tech Talks to patrons to assist with the Virtual Library.
- Expanded K-12 Digital Concierge program to students for homework help on September 21.
- Developed a Raising a Reader pilot program at Live Oak.
- Provided library cards to SLV Middle School and DeLaveaga Elementary.
- Implementing SORA with Santa Cruz City Schools students can access Overdrive digital collections with student ID's.
- Assisting the Friends in raising 25,000 for digital resources through an event with Susan Orleans on October 1.

Reopening under Covid-19

In September, the State of California issued a Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The framework assigns California Counties to one of four tiers based upon the prevalence of the virus within a County.

- Tier 1 - Purple - Widespread Transmission
- Tier 2 - Red – Substantial Transmission
- Tier 3 - Orange – Moderate Transmission
- Tier 4 - Yellow – Minimal Transmission

The Blueprint helps organizations determine the speed of reopening services to the public. Counties can be more restrictive than the framework. Santa Cruz is currently in the Red Tier with most surrounding counties in the purple tier. To advance, a county must meet the criteria for two consecutive weeks. In this framework, libraries were included in the retailer's classification. That means, libraries in Tier 2 can open their buildings (with modifications) limited to 50% capacity (not defined).

In a quick survey of Bay area libraries and Monterey Bay area libraries, staff could find only one example of public libraries allowing patrons into their buildings. San Juan Batista allows one person to enter their building at a time subject to appointment. Internet research shows that San Luis Obispo library is also open to the public for browsing and limited public computing.

Library management has been meeting in retreat to evaluate library priorities in light of current conditions. Staff reviewed the current strategic plan and FY2021 workplan. Staff remain committed to the circulation of physical and digital materials, learning programs for adults and children, provision of free access to computers and internet, outreach to underserved populations, and the development of transformative physical spaces. Specifically, SCPL must maintain progress on its Equity and Internet improvement initiatives despite the loss of over 1/3 of staff work hours.

The retreat focused on the organization's capacity to slowly reopen and make progress on its strategic plan over the next six months. The group is evaluating a complete reorganization (temporary) of the administration of library services toward key objectives. This would require new work and shift assignments and would require consultation with affected unions and appropriate and timely notification of staff. The Management Team is also identifying initiatives and activities that will be delayed or ended.

Planning Concerns:

- The Pandemic - Public needing/wanting access while maintaining the safety of patrons and staff
- Funding cuts
- Reduction in staff to 67% of FY2020
- Staff with work limitations or on leave (6 FTE)
- Capitola, Boulder Creek and La Selva Beach branches closed for construction
- Need to close Branciforte and Garfield Park for construction (currently closed for pandemic)
- Need to open La Selva Beach and Capitola by March 2021
- Issues: equity, internet, workforce development
- Weather, fire and air quality

Goal:

Prioritize programs and services to align them with available resources.

Recommendations:

1. Realign the organization of the Santa Cruz Public libraries around organizational outcomes instead of geographic regions until the pandemic restrictions lessen. Move back to the regional structure in the future.

- Branch Services (Circulation and Public Computers)
- Adult Services (Adult programs, Outreach, Tel info)
- Youth Services (Children/teen programs, K-12 outreach)

2. Identify programming and outreach priorities.

Programming:

- Children – Early Literacy, Spanish Speakers, Summer Reading
- Youth – Student Success
- Adults – Tech Literacy, Community Conversations, Community-Led, Workforce

Outreach:

- Children – K-12 Outreach
- Youth – K-12 Outreach
- Adults – Homeless Populations, Jails, Isolated Seniors

3. Identified \$900k salary savings as required by the JPA budget agreement.

- Freeze 4.5 FTE Administration, Library IT, Collection Management Services
- Rescind 1 FTE librarian
- Freeze 3.5 LAll

4. Reconsider staff work assignment, location and schedule (may take up to a month to announce) using a consultation process with Branch Managers, Librarians, Work Units and Unions.

5. Provide greater organizational flexibility.

- Maintain closure of Garfield Park and Branciforte branches/take down contents for construction
- Request JPA approval of closures of branches over Thanksgiving and Winter holiday
- Close all services on Sundays
- Review all committees charge, membership and schedule – defer work to next year
- Identify tasks, activities that could be deferred or ended – (e.g. ILL, programs)
- Refine telecommuting/require City of Santa Cruz telecommuting agreements

6. Begin to pilot programs that expand public services into buildings and evaluate effects on staffing. Begin a Holds Pick Up/Scheduled Public Computing pilot by October 12.

7. Create a calendar of service changes and expansions and post on the staff intranet.